

Eleven Years Ago

This date, 1945, the first atomic bomb in the history of mankind was exploded at 5.30 a.m. at the Alamogordo air base in the desert 120 miles southeast of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The knowledge of atomic energy in 1945, which produced these world-shaking results, may be compared with the knowledge of electricity in the time of Benjamin Franklin.

Therein lies the best hope of harnessing atomic energy to the service of mankind, and of ushering in a golden age in which war will be unthinkable because, in the space of a few hours after its outbreak, nothing would remain of the principal cities of the contending powers but dust and ashes.

Press Legislation

There is no country in the world where the freedom of the press is more zealously guarded than it is in Great Britain. It, therefore, comes as a bit of a surprise to hear that the House of Lords is sponsoring legislation which, if enacted, conceivably might curb that essential freedom considerably.

In theory, of course, that prohibition, too, is fair enough. The legitimate business of a newspaper is to publish news of public interest, not to pry relentlessly into the private lives of citizens; and it is against the sort of newspaper that takes delight in doing the latter that the proposed legislation is directed.

Intrusion" begins. Even the most conscientious editor in the world could easily find himself entrapped by an arbitrary interpretation of that part of the bill; or, on the other hand, he might be tempted to err on the side of over-caution; and that, in turn, would render his paper unnecessarily insipid and dull.

Once the right of censorship is put into the hands of a quasi-judicial "Authority" — however wise in judgement the members of that authority may be — the way is opened to all sorts of abuses which might very well make the cure worse than the disease against which it was aimed.

Waste Of Time

One cannot help feeling a touch of pity for those Physical Education experts at the University of Florida who in their goodness of heart spent many months in devising a new kind of tennis for the benefit of elderly folk who — or so they thought — would appreciate something less strenuous than the orthodox game.

The few realistic souls who have tried the revised version say it is just the thing for men and women 50 years old or older; but on a broad front the psychological reaction is anything but favourable.

It was a sensible idea for young men to think up (they must be young or it would never have occurred to them), but unfortunately it is not by good sense that most of us travel the other side of middle age, but rather by the theory that "one is only as old as one feels" — which, incidentally, has neither medical nor psychological warrant.

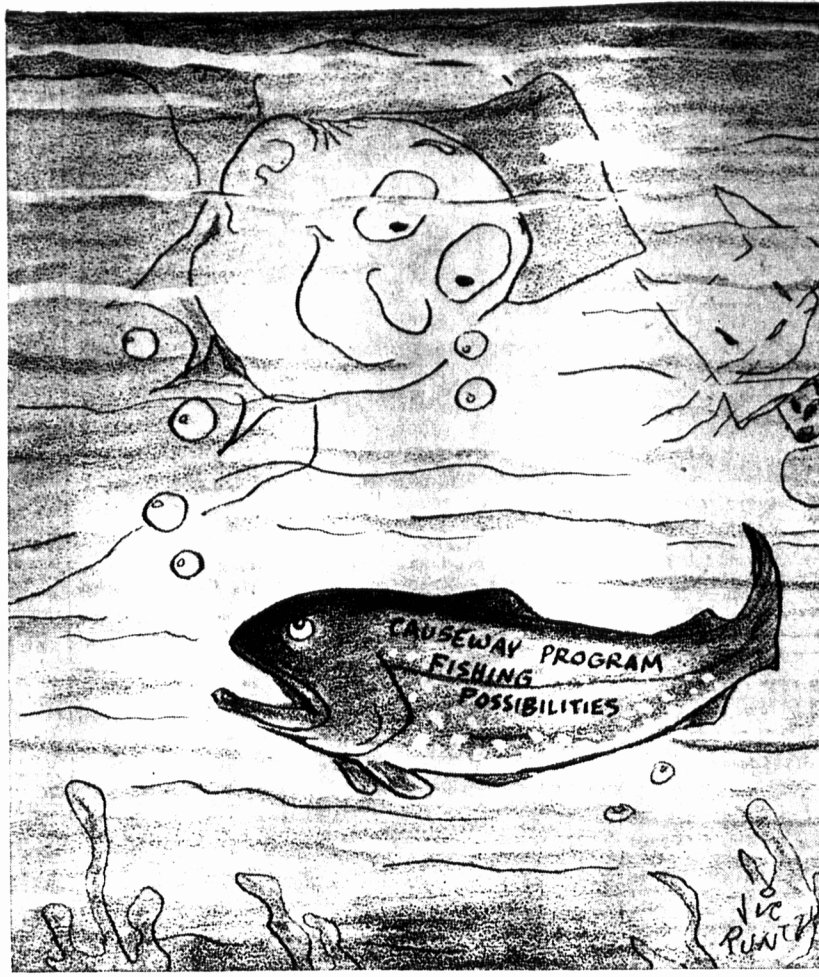
EDITORIAL NOTES

Commenting on the offer of the Soviet Government to help Greece develop her economy, the official newspaper Pravda stated that "true to its principles the Soviet Union does not present Greece with any terms that could affect her sovereignty and national dignity".

West Germans are not emigrating in as big numbers as formerly. In 1954, 60,000 left their homeland for foreign fields; last year only 50,000 left. Of these, according to a recent statistical report, 15,556 came to this country and slightly over 20,000 to the U. S. A. To offset the emigration to some extent, 20,000 foreigners came into the country, mostly from Balkan states.

The Ontario Department of Highways which maintains extensive facilities for the study of motor accidents, reveals that one out of every four mishaps can be attributed to driving on the wrong side of the road. Speeding and loss of control are other factors for accidents along with failure to yield the right-of-way, improper passing, improper care of intersections, disobeying of railway crossing signals and unsafe equipment.

Three young lads who appeared before a New York magistrate on a disorderly conduct charge were ordered to come back a few days later prepared to sing a song in court. The penalty being paid, in lieu of fines or imprisonment, the boys were dismissed. It probably wasn't as easy as it sounds; for singing in public is not a strong point of the type of teenager who is likely to get in trouble with the law.



Conference Results

By Fraser Wighton

LONDON (Reuters) — The nine Commonwealth prime ministers who ended a 10-day conference on world affairs here Friday felt it was one of the most useful held since the Second World War, authoritative sources said today.

Meanwhile, press comment by British papers called the conference everything from successful to the "most disappointing yet held."

The London Times calls the meeting "fruitful." It says the premiers spent much time discussing the Soviet Union's changed tactics and "in spite of their differing politics, varying from non-align, ect to close alliance for common defence, they reached broad agreement."

The Daily Telegraph says that if the Commonwealth was to retain its vigor "it needs more than an annual injection of good words. The problem of maintaining its unity will grow greater as new members add to its diversity."

The Manchester Guardian says "it looks as if this has been a humdrum conference. It has certainly ended with a humdrum statement."

The Daily Express says the conference "must rank as one of the most disappointing yet held. Little enough has come out of previous conferences but at least there was a measure of hope. Now there seems to be no longer even hope."

Fine Art Of Raising Family

Simone Stylites in the Christian Century

Yale University has announced a new degree to be given next year — doctor of fine arts. I hasten to offer some suggestions for conferring the new degree.

I would like to see a few parents get the degree of doctor of fine arts for the fine art of raising a family, and educating them, on a fixed salary which every year is getting nearer and nearer to the vanishing point.

Someone once asked Gen. A. W. Greely, the explorer, what he regarded as his greatest achievement. He said, "Raising and educating six children on an army officer's pay." If that is true of a general, how about a captain or a sergeant?

Some commencement day I would like to arise and solemnly intone: "Mr. president, I have the honor to present for the degree of doctor of fine arts, Mrs. John Doe. For 15 years, she has taught the class of young hoodlums in the corner of the Sunday school and lived through it. So did the hoodlums. Daniel in the lion's den was child's play compared to Mrs. Doe holding down the boys' class."

Gather Ye Rosebuds

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The end of the school term — the beginning of the summer holidays; the line that separates them is invisible but they are worlds apart, and 150,000 boys and girls in Manitoba have just accomplished the exhilarating leap.

Life is one long series of beginnings and ends; of doors that open into other rooms and close behind us. And surely few of these transitions are made with lighter hearts than is the one that translates the schoolboy from his weary desk to summer's joys. He is not likely, on his day of freedom, to cast a backward glance at the swinging door as it shuts him off forever from another year of youth.

He will look back later on, when the disappointments, frustrations and anxieties that loomed so ominously in his boyish eyes have, in the long perspective of the passing years, shrunk to manageable size and lost their edge. The poets may be right who call the days we spend in school life's golden days, but perhaps the lustre of that precious metal takes on a richer glow when seen in retrospect.

Conference Results

By Fraser Wighton

wealth once it became a republic like India and Pakistan. Britain also agreed to hand over her naval and air force bases in Ceylon to the Ceylonese government.

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The Poets Corner

MORE THAN A HOUSE

More than a house is this, Do you remember

How wood was chosen and stones lifted and laid; How it was planned the home would be half in sunlight, Half in the ancient maple's shade? Many a one stops by, half journey done.

The bare ground rolls now green in panned borders; Nasturtiums march straight down from the opened door. Remember the plan? Though the handful's bloom to callers The sturdy glens would grow the more.

Here on the top of this little hillside, masons, Carpenters, growers made all for a view. Here it was planned that friends would be brought nearer; Seeing their houses, we are part of them, too.

Many a hand waves greetings over one land.

Joseph Joel Keith in the Christian Science Monitor.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of general interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

LOW FLYING PLANE

Sir,—There is a duty our newspapers owe to their subscribers which no other organizations can readily fulfill. It is to protect them against serious dangers that are evident. Any sound reasoner who reads the news of this time and sees the destruction of life and property by the explosion of aeroplanes can realize the danger which we here in Charlottetown are exposed by low flying planes night and day. It will be too late to warn of this menace after it has occurred and we will be left to bury our dead and take our loss of property.

I am, Sir, etc. JAMES P. KELLY

How Rude Of Nowlan

(Sydney Post-Record)

The opposition at Ottawa made a series of suggestions as to means of aiding the coal industry. The Government struck the suggestions down. Mines Minister Prudham was adept in explaining why the Government doesn't want to do anything about coal.

Government is exhausted from its exertions in behalf of crippling natural gas from the high plains of Alberta to the industries of Central Canada.

It is obvious that the fuel debate in the Commons was as an annoying buzz in the Prudham ears. Progressive Conservative and CCF spokesmen pleaded in vain for a national policy about coal—that would have some benevolent concern for coal as well as oil and gas.

How rude of Nova Scotia's George Nowlan, to suggest that the Government "stop horsing around" with the experiment to produce a coal-fired gas turbine engine, take it out of the university laboratory, and give it an honest try at goodness tryout on rails.

Heavens, it might prove to be a success, and think of the dismay that would be to the fuel oil people, and of the embarrassment to Charlie Gillig who doesn't believe the engine would require enough coal to make it worth while. But many coal-fired gas turbine engines would be decidedly worth while to the coal industry.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

CURRENT FAD MAY HAMPER MEDICAL USE OF HYPNOSIS

All this talk about Bridie Murphy has a lot of doctors worried. They fear that the craze it has created might set back the understanding of hypnosis as a valuable therapeutic tool.

The melodramatic haze which has arisen around hypnosis—and it's happened before—tends to obscure the serious efforts being made to evaluate the medical potential of this phenomenon.

MEDICAL AID

Hypnosis has been used in the field of medicine for a long time. It was used in surgery as far back as 1821. With the aid of hypnosis, patients' teeth extract.

In the following years, interest dwindled but recently it has been increasing. Today hypnosis is being used by various doctors in a variety of cases. And they generally report that it is being used successfully.

CAESAREAN SECTION

Only a short time ago a young Chicago mother delivered a child by Caesarean section with hypnosis as her only anesthetic. She says she didn't feel a thing.

A group of Texas doctors recently reported that they used hypnosis to help keep alive severely burned patients.

They say that hypnotherapy served not only as an anesthetic but through it they were able to stimulate tremendous appetites in their patients and to get them to exercise painful areas.

In another field the New England Journal of Medicine tells how hypnosis was used to stop a cough which had persisted for eight days and which was bringing a 14-year-old girl near death.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Hypnotherapy also is being used in treating multiple sclerosis patients.

This September, Tufts University plans to sponsor a postdoctoral course in hypnodontics.

Hypnosis is proving a valuable scientific aid. We are just beginning to discover its possibilities so let's not hamper the work.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

H.P.: What causes hiccup in a baby?

Answer: Hiccup is a spasm of the diaphragm muscle that separates the chest and the abdomen. In babies, hiccup usually comes on right after feeding and, in most cases, lasts only a few moments.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(July 16, 1931)

The new Canadian National Railways car ferry, "Charlottetown", will arrive Thursday at Borden, where she will shortly be placed in service between Borden and Cape Tormentine.

His Honor Lieutenant Governor Dalton and Mrs. Dalton yesterday afternoon entertained the visiting delegates of the Women's Institute at a tea at Government House. There were present 350 guests.

The first Gilwell Scoutmasters' camp ever to be held on Prince Edward Island will have an attendance of about 32, according to deputy camp chief F. L. Coombs of Ottawa, Ont.

TEN YEARS AGO

(July 16, 1946)

The appointment of Lieutenant Colonel W. W. Reid, D.S.O., ED to command the 17th Recce. P.E.I. Regiment, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (Reserve Force) has been announced by Headquarters M.D. 6.

Two blistered tubes which finally cracked to throw gallons of water on the boiler fires necessitated the partial shutting off of electrical power throughout the City on Saturday.

The appointment to command the 28th L. AA. Regiment, RCA (Reserve Force) of Lieut. Col. G. K. Peake, D.S.O., ED, of Charlottetown has been announced by military authorities at M.D. 6, Halifax.

Scots Abroad

GLASGOW (R. S. P.) — Scots have fanned out so freely across the world that today there are about four times as many people overseas with Scots blood as there are still in Scotland.

The continuing drift south of the border to England and abroad is causing official concern here.

A former Scottish registrar-general, J. G. K. K. K., forecasts a Scotland of the future inhabited by the aged and infirm, and without an adequate industrial system.

In the first six post-war years Scotland lost 181,000 people by emigration, and the outward flow continues at a high level.

"She is fast losing the trained young personnel so necessary for the future prosperity of her industry," observed K. K. K.

ALL OVER 'WORLD In the last 50 years 1,000,000 Scots have left their native land to seek fortunes elsewhere. It is estimated that the number of people with Scots blood living in other parts of the earth must number more than 20,000,000.

According to the last report by the registrar - general, Scotland, with a population today of 5,123,000 is aging rapidly. If the rate continues unchanged, by 1974 there will be one in every eight Scots who is a pensioner.

K. K. K. commented: "The complacency with which the spectacle of this sapping of the life-blood of Scotland is accepted is nothing short of tragic."

The chief of the clan MacKintosh, Vice - Admiral Lachlan MacKintosh, said recently that the Highlands are in sad need of repair.

"The bald facts are that the Highlands today are little better than a waste land and are furnishing only a meagre living for their hardy souls," he said.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Of course, "freedom from want" is not to be taken in an absolute sense. When we're through wanting, we're through growing.—Vancouver Herald

It's too bad the old-time horse-hair sofa went out of fashion. It could have done a lot to discourage the children from sitting too long in front of television.—Nainaimo Free Press

A prominent Canadian police officer is quoted as saying: "Bad boys don't come from good homes." Merely another way of saying that parents are responsible.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle

The man who is thinking about getting married should bear in mind that it is very difficult, especially in these days, to support a girl in the luxurious manner to which she expects to become quickly accustomed.—Kitchen-Waterloo Record

In a recent Manitoba case a youth who had not reached his 18th birthday pleaded guilty to a holdup and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. He had no previous criminal record. Under similar circumstances elsewhere, particularly in England under the Borstal system, he might have been given a new chance in life. But in Manitoba he is put into contact with hardened criminals.—Winnipeg Tribune

There is every reason to believe that sunshine is healthful. But there is no reason to think that hours of broiling can give anything but discomfort and possibly actual harm. Start your sunbathing program carefully. You may not become a bronzed statue figure over night. But neither will you suddenly get to look like something fresh out of the frying pan!—Owen Sound Sun Times

If all the men who sleep in church were laid end to end, they would be more comfortable.—Gait Reporter

One of Britain's strangest speed records, the linking of the three highest peaks in England, Scotland, and Wales by a combination of mountaineering and fast car driving has been broken by four members of the RAF mountain rescue team from Valley, Anglesey. They lowered by six minutes the previous best time of 16 hours 25 minutes recorded last month for the journey from the summit of Ben Nevis (4,066 feet) to the summit of Snowdon (3,560 feet), taking in the summit of Scafell Pike (3,210 feet) en route.—London Times

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