

International Seed Testing

Protocol does not exclusively concern either the uniformed or striped pants sets. A recent international agreement, in fact, is of very special significance to the amateur and professional gardener whose favorite attire is apt to be more utilitarian than smart.

New rules of the International Seed Testing Association came into effect on July 1st. Official seed testing stations of member countries are entitled to issue international seed analysis certificates when their analyses have been carried out in accordance with international rules. These international seed analysis certificates form the basis for commerce between many countries and have made international seed trade easier.

Canada is, of course, interested in the seed trade and sent the chief of laboratory services of the Plant Production Division of the Department of Agriculture and his deputy to a course at Cambridge recently on the practical interpretation of the new rules. Some twenty countries were represented and the meeting resulted in the clearing up of a number of points which would have been difficult to get agreement upon without meeting personally. It had no power, of course, to vary the rules.

The senior Canadian delegate, Dr. C. W. Legatt, made a substantial contribution to the conference by delivering papers on sampling techniques and on homogeneity.

Baths For Terascon

Any well-to-do person who would like to have a town square called by his name and who would be willing to do a little philanthropy to earn the distinction should get in touch with the Mayor of Terascon, France. In many ways, according to the mayor, Terascon is an attractive little town, but its citizens lack one very important facility—shower baths. The mayor explains it this way: "Our citizens are very poor because they have been wrecked economically and haven't yet found a fairy godmother to restore their economy." He feels that somewhere in the United States or Canada there might be a rich man or woman who would wish to contribute the necessary funds. "In return," he promises, "the town naturally would designate its main square by the name of the generous giver."

The mayor does not say how much money all this new plumbing would cost. Perhaps he figures that any person of affluence vain enough to wish his name on a town square in France, or anywhere else for that matter, would not be likely to quibble about a few thousand dollars one way or the other; in that he is probably right. News of the offer got around a week or so ago, and it is possible that by now the money has been raised. However, if there is anyone in these parts with the right amount of ambition and philanthropy, in addition to hard cash, to qualify for the honour, it would do him no harm to put in a bid. If that place is looked after there may be another with a similar need.

Guatemala

The importance of strife-torn Guatemala in world affairs today lies in its geographic position, says the National Geographic Society. Its northwest corner is only 690 miles from Brownsville, Texas, the northeast corner only 670 miles from Key West, Florida, and the southern border only 720 miles from the Panama Canal, vital to the security of the Free Nations.

The country divides into three regions: hot lowlands along both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, an extensive interior tableland ranging from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in altitude, and a mountainous backbone paralleling the Pacific coast 40 miles inland. Most of the 3,000,000 population inhabits the mountain area. In its midst is the city of Guatemala, whose 225,000 people compose the largest capital between Mexico and South America. The main range consists of an extension of the Sierra Madre of Mexico and rises to a height of 13,812 feet on Volcano de Tajumulco. The range is also toothed with other quiescent volcanoes, bold upstanding cones of cinders and ash rather than lava.

Guatemala's terrain is marked by one of the richest valleys on earth, that of the Motagua River, long the home of the ancient Mayans. Close to the Honduran boundary, the river flows through a vast plantation area. Chief among the country's products is coffee, accounting for 80 per cent of its exports. Other products are

sugar, grains, bananas and hardwoods. Corn provides the subsistence crop for the Indians, the largest segment of the population. The basic ingredient of chewing gum, chicle, also comes from the country's sapote trees. Guatemala, too, is the land of the marimba, the instrument whose tones, often soft, often wild, suggest primitive emotion.

The city of Guatemala rests 5,000 feet above sea level, enjoying a springlike climate the year around. Founded in 1527, it was destroyed by floods and rebuilt in 1776, only to be severely damaged in 1917-18 by earthquake. The capital is surrounded by fertile farmlands and maintains an Old World air which contrasts strikingly with plate glass windows displaying modern machines and finery. The city boasts busy stores, hotels, banks, and theaters where the latest Hollywood movies are shown.

Railroads link the city of Guatemala to the other major centers, with the exception of Antigua, less than 15 miles to the southwest, an old town of splendid patios, pastel walls, and tiled roofs. Its Palace of the Captains General is one of the finest Spanish colonial structures on the continent. The railroad connects Puerto Barrios, the northern seaport, and the two main Pacific ports, San Jose and Champerico.

From The Caribbean

Britain faces a new and strange immigration problem, reports the Hamilton Spectator. Every week for months past there has been a growing influx of coloured people from the Caribbean, particularly Jamaica. They troop down the gangways at the principal ports with their few possessions in cheap fibre suitcases, little or no money in their pockets, and carrying in their hands their most treasured possession, a British passport.

Because they are British subjects there is no restriction on their entry. Usually, they are not long finding work, but the new way of life and the climate often have unfortunate effects and they soon are unemployed and looking for work again. When they fail to find it, they drift to the poorer sections of the big industrial cities and live communally. Social problems soon arise and city authorities have to solve them.

In April and May this year the total number of passage bookings from Kingston, Jamaica, to Britain exceeded 1,800. For the natives of the sunny Caribbean Islands the future is dark. Unemployment, low living standards, few industries and booming populations discourage ambitious youth. So Britain has become their land of promise. It may not welcome them enthusiastically, but its door stands open and all they have to do is to find the fare to get there. This they do by saving.

Because of the unhappy social problems created and because the country's welfare services have often to provide for these coloured immigrants who are so soon out of work, Britain is considering the introduction of regulations that will insist upon Jamaican residents proving that they are able to support themselves for a period before they are admitted to the country.

EDITORIAL NOTES

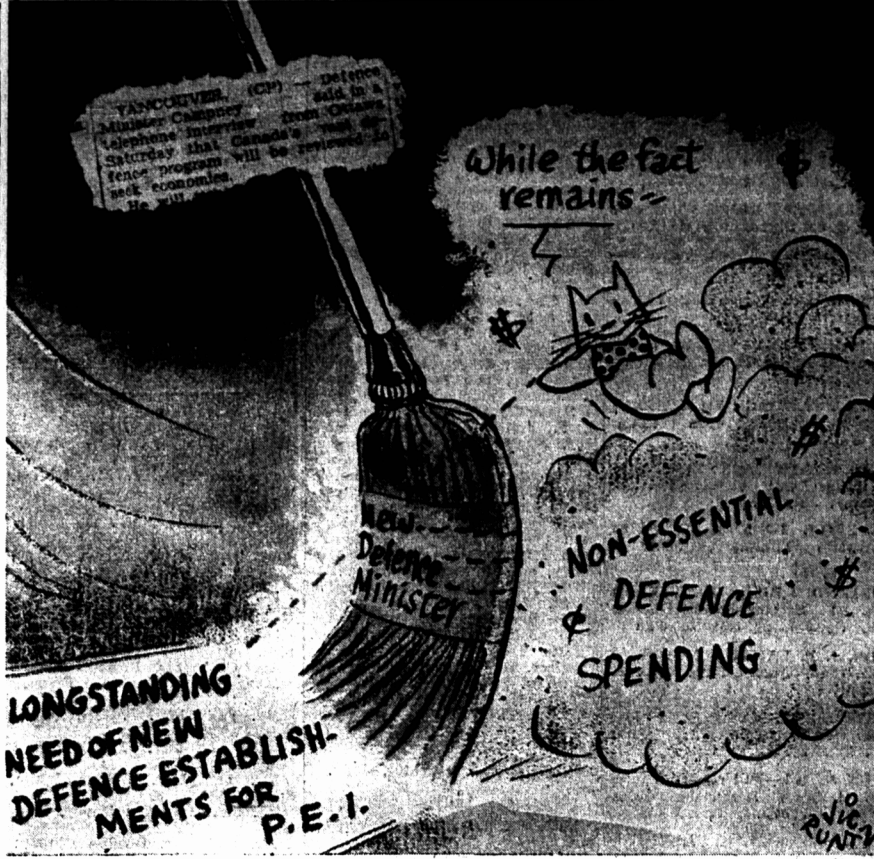
Breach of the Food and Drugs Act or regulations will bring a maximum of \$1000 fine for the first offence instead of \$200 as formerly. The Act, passed in 1953, was proclaimed in force Saturday.

Charlottetown welcomes the French frigate L'Aventure visiting this port from the 6th to the 12th. We are always glad when Commander Hiribarren, his officers and crew, can take a few days off from looking after the fishing fleet to pay a call.

Russia's offer to release and repatriate nationals of Iran and Yugoslavia who have been held in some cases since the Revolution is embarrassing to their countries of origin. They welcome the release of political prisoners, of course, but wonder how many of them are graduates of schools of espionage.

A Squadron of Sunderland flying boats of RAF Coastal Command, led by S/L E. C. Bennett, DFM, will fly to the Arctic Circle at the end of July for the final operation to assist the British North Greenland Expedition. The Expedition is undertaking a geophysical, geological and glaciological survey of hitherto unexplored areas of Northern Greenland.

Reginald McKenna, British financier, was born this date 1863. First elected to Parliament in 1895, he attained cabinet rank in 1905. From 1908-1911 he was First Lord of the Admiralty, during which time he caused eight ships of Dreadnought type to be built. He is best known, however, for the part he played in war financing. Loans, an excessive-profits tax and the so-called McKenna duties raised funds on a hitherto unimagined scale. He signed the report on finance and industry in 1931, just before the abandonment of the gold standard.



To Sweep Clean

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

THE SCHOOL BELL'S CALL

Sir,—Attending the school closing a few days ago and listening to the valedictory, I thought of those who are leaving school for the last time, some to college, others to universities and still others no place, just drifters. As one who has drifted on the stormy sea of life for many a month, tossed hither and thither along the way and beaten on the rocky shore, it was with a tinge of sorrow that I saw those young folks going out the school door for the last time.

Sad it is that so many of every class will look back from middle life and grasp at the strings of youth and want to go back to school again, especially in this age of broken homes and families. Those who are educated can turn to what they want but the uneducated one must be a drifter, go with the tide and take what we get.

We have come to the cross roads of time now and the man with the long beard and a hoe on his back is gone forever. There is no place anymore for drifters. We must be educated, and the proof of this is when the school bell rings again. Those who are educated can turn to what they want but the uneducated one must be a drifter, go with the tide and take what we get.

Think of the happiness education has brought to this one family while others just drifted along. When the school bell rings again there will be too many boys and girls who will laugh and say, "I am past that now; the door will close behind me no more. I know enough to get along." But no, you don't know enough. No matter what occupation we choose, farmer, fisherman or what-not, we don't know enough. So I would say to young people, when the school bell rings again in the fall and you are just drifting, go back for at least another year. Open again the door that was closed behind you; remember life may linger long and that extra year at school will pay its dividends time and time again. You will then thank heaven that you went back after the bell had rung for the last time.

W. A. O'BRIEN

Morell, P.E.I.

The Poets Corner

FROM THE LOTUS EATERS

Lo! in the middle of the wood The folded leaf is wood from out the bud With winds upon the branch, and there Grows green and broad, and takes Sun-steep'd at noon, and in the moon Nightly dew-fed; and turning yellow Falls, and floats adown the air. Lo! sweeten'd with the summer light, The full-juiced apple, waxing over-mellow Drops in a silent autumn night. All its allotted length of days, The flower ripens in its place, Ripens and fades and falls, and hath no toil, Fast-rooted in the fruitful soil.

—Lord Tennyson.

The Age Old Story

Ye are my witness, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am his: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

The Big Issue In China

Drew Middleton in the New York Times

The immediate objective of the British Government is to arrange the cessation of Chinese Communist expansion in Southeast Asia and elsewhere. This is what Mr. Eden has been trying to do in Geneva. If he succeeds, Britain will be one step further toward her ultimate objective. This is the delicate, hazardous and prolonged process of establishing conditions under which the Western world can attempt to detach Communist China from the Soviet Union.

That policy was arrived at almost by instinct. But it is no less a policy even if it lacks a declaration to explain it. As the history of the last five years has shown, it is as much a Conservative policy as it is a Labor policy. Given the exposed situation of these islands in a third world war, it is almost inconceivable to expose any other approach to the Chinese problem.

The British Government thinks the Communist Government in Peking is there to stay. It is not eager to repeat the mistakes made there. After World War I the British accepted the word of Communist Moscow could be driven out if someone would provide the money and men.

One result was that in Russia, after World War I, the conflict, half-forgotten save in the Soviet Union, probably did as much as any other factor to solidify the Russian's distrust of the West from 1925 to the present.

The British believe that the United States, in supporting Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and Dr. Syngman Rhee, in withholding diplomatic recognition of the Chinese Communist Government and opposing its entry into the United Nations, is making a mistake that may be as serious to world harmony as the one they made with the Russian's thirty years ago. For, they believe this is the time, perhaps the only time, when some impression can be made on the Chinese Communist leaders.

Throughout that leadership are scattered many educated and able men. They are all Communist party members. But because of their education and because they have a standard of comparison, they are more amenable to argument than the next generation of Communist leaders will be, even though you hope to convert him.

How do the British intend to achieve their immediate and ultimate objectives? The basis is that an approach to the question of relations with Communist China does not weaken Britain, as Mr. Eden pointed out in the foreign affairs debate, "unless we have no faith in ourselves."

In the British Government's view, the regularization of diplomatic relations between Britain and Communist China, arranged by Mr. Eden and Mr. Chou in Geneva, establishes the conditions for a settlement of other pressing problems, large and small, between the two countries. The British contended that although the presence of a British mission in Peking might not get them much on the basis of results obtained it was infinitely better than no mission at all.

The British Government does not now support the admission of Communist China to the United Nations. But there is a growing body of opinion in Parliament and in Government departments that holds that a settlement of the East-West problems in Asia will be extremely difficult and, in the case of Korea, impossible as long as the Chinese Communists are kept out of the United Nations.

As long as Communist China is outside the world organization, that organization will be useless as a medium for settling disputes in Asia, this British group believes. Diplomatic relations must be supplemented by trade relations in the view of the Government. These, of course, serve an end in themselves since the British probably are more conscious today than ever before in their history that they live by trade.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

REPUBLICAN CENTENNIAL

July is an important month for our American neighbours, not only because it is the birth month of the Republic but also because it is the birth month of the Republican Party in its present form. Just one hundred years ago—July 6, 1854—the Party began its political career. (Curiously, the present Democratic Party was originally called Republican; later it became Republican-Democratic and, finally, Democratic.)

The name was adopted at a convention, made up of a miscellaneous collection of Whigs, Free-Soilers, Abolitionists, and a curious group calling themselves Know-Nothings, held in Jackson, Michigan. (This means, incidentally, that Jackson is a mecca for Republicans and some of the least venerable for Democrats.) The name was suggested by Horace Greeley, the distinguished American journalist and co-founder and first editor of the New York Tribune. ("Go West, young man, go west, and grow up with the country.")

At the time, Missouri, an area where slavery was accepted, and Maine, an area where it was not, were applying for admission into the Union as free and independent States. Up to then Missouri had been a part of the vast Louisiana Territory and Maine a part of Massachusetts. Considerable effort was being made by Northern and Eastern political interests to admit as States only those territories which would guarantee absolute freedom for all their inhabitants. Maine, of course, was prepared to give that guarantee, but Missouri was not.

To confuse matters the majority of the members of the Senate would have to decide for or against admission, favoured slavery, and insisted on dealing with the two applications as one package. After much wrangling it was decided to admit Maine as a free State and Missouri as a State where slavery would be permitted, on the understanding that all the rest of the Louisiana Territory should be "ever free". This decision came to be known as the "Missouri Compromise" and widespread protest concerning it formed the historical setting for the establishment of the Republican Party, as an organization pledged to work for the abolition of slavery and for the granting of civil rights to all citizens.

This is why the Republican Party has never been very popular in the South; in politics, as in all other human relationships, enemies remain long after their original causes have been removed. It is true that in the last Presidential election the Republicans did receive some support from Southern States, a fact which in some quarters was taken to indicate a political change of heart. It should be noted, however, that the change, what there was of it, coincided with the strengthening of anti-segregation opinion among Southerners. If and when the time comes that negroes are accorded full rights of citizenship, in fact, by the Southern States, it will not be merely by virtue of judicial edicts the Republican Party may be expected to compete seriously with the Democrats in those States, for it will mean that the old enemies have disappeared. This will not come tomorrow or next week, but there are signs of it on the distant horizon.

The greatest of Republican Presidents was, of course, Abraham Lincoln. Yet, Democrats say that the Great Emancipator was as much a Democrat as a Republican. Indeed, when one comes to think of it, it is singular that all the great names in early American history are claimed with equal zeal by both Parties. This helps to prove that in America, as elsewhere, only the mediocre are remembered for their partisan labels; the great are remembered for the indelible imprints they left on the national life.

The late President Roosevelt exercised such a tremendous influence on the political life of the United States—and of the world—that many people have received the impression that the Republican Party has never been as deeply entrenched in American public opinion as the Democrats have been. This is not so. Following the Civil War the Republicans were dominant for a great many years, and what has been called "the most difficult reconstruction job of the ages" (perhaps, considering the tools available at that time, the description is not overdrawn) was carried out under the guidance of a Republican administration.

The chief Republican handicap during the years has been its frequent inability to control Congress when a Republican President has been in office. Even now, despite the Eisenhower landslide in 1952, the administration must depend almost altogether on the goodwill of a Democratic Congress. Nothing is as it used to be. Institutions, like manners and customs, change from one era to another. The Republican Party, once noted for its isolationist outlook in international affairs, is now in the position of having to provide leadership in the tackling of world problems. It was not a Republican President who inaugurated the plan to give economic aid to underdeveloped countries, but a Republican administration is carrying out the plan with vigor and resolution.

The old line Republican policy of high protective tariff gradually, though not without difficulty, is giving way to the principle of easier and less fettered trade among friendly nations. On its 100th birthday anniversary the Republican Party finds itself enmeshed in problems and questions which have at least a passing resemblance to those which brought the Party into existence. Then, the question was, "Can America remain half-free and half-slave?" Now, it is, "Can freedom be safe anywhere in the world so long as any country in the world is not free?"

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

EIGHTY-FOUR FROM SKYE

"Eighty-four immigrants (including women and children) from the Isle of Skye, arrived here on Sunday. They left their native place about six weeks ago, in a ship for Cape Breton, along with a number of settlers for that Island. They seem all to be in high health, and, judging from appearances, in easy circumstances. With a prudent foresight characteristic of their race, they came provided with twelve months' provisions, and an ample stock of warm clothing. They have all relatives already settled in the Island, chiefly about Belfast, and with the exception of one family, it is, we understand, their intention also to locate in that thriving settlement."

—P. E. Island Register, June 2, 1829.

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