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Double Talk

A lot of double talk is going on South of the border about what the President might or might not do in the event of an explosive situation in the Middle East, a development which, apparently, is being considered highly probable.

All this, of course, is pre-election strategy-building in the grand style. For obvious reasons neither the Republican administration nor the Democratic-controlled Senate wants to be held responsible for any kind of war, big or small, that might possibly develop from the Middle East situation.

Good Place To Start

The "Private Eye" TV, to enable the Postmaster-General's Department to do a bit of experimental snooping on postal officials at Peterborough, Ontario, is going to cost Canadian taxpayers \$50,092.

"A good place to start, if Government is sincerely interested in finding out whether public servants are earning their salaries," suggests the Letter Review, "might be the House of Commons in Ottawa. TV cameras focussed on empty seats in the House, which has difficulty in rounding up even corporal's guard of MPs except at midweek, would be revealing, particularly if carried over CBC television network.

"The fact is that those shirking their parliamentary duties, known in Press Gallery circles as the 'Thursday-to-Tuesday Brigade,' because of their habit of quitting the House on Thursday and not returning until the following Tuesday, merit the comment of one eminent authority on parliamentary practice, Professor Norman Ward, who says that 'a private business which paid its employees on such a basis might be expected to go bankrupt.'

applied in some cases, but not to our Island representatives who have a good record for conscientious attention to their parliamentary duties.

Mr. Banaranaike

While it is too early to suggest just what is likely to happen in Ceylon in the wake of last week's election, there are certain clear inferences to be drawn from the defeat of Sir John Kotelawala's government and its replacement by the People's United Front led by an extreme leftist, Solomon Banaranaike.

Just why the new Prime Minister bothered to declare that he wants to stay on good terms with Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth is a question for which there seems to be no logical answer.

Fines By Instalments

A member of the Nova Scotia Legislature has introduced a bill which, if enacted into law, would allow court fines to be paid on the instalment plan in cases where offenders lack the ready cash to meet the requirements of the court.

The fact is that, under present regulations, persons often go to jail not because they have broken the law but simply because they are short of ready money. This, obviously is discrimination, whatever the law books may call it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Modern hospital requirements have grown tremendously in recent years and the maintenance problem has become one of major concern. Attention is called to Mr. Robert L. Cotton's letter on this subject in which the problem is discussed from many pertinent angles.

Mr. J. Angus MacLean made a strong speech in support of Maritime fiscal requirements in the House of Commons on Thursday. In calling for a complete realignment of taxing powers between federal and provincial governments, he pointed out the many disadvantages under which we labour, and urged that, as a matter of right, the Maritimes should participate in the new wealth now being derived from Canada's Northern Lands.



HOW ONE'S THOUGHTS WILL WANDER

PUBLIC FORUM

HOSPITAL MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

Sir.—The business of operating the nation's hospitals becomes increasingly difficult. Except for a few who volunteer to serve on Boards and Auxiliaries, the rest of us know very little about the financial problem of maintaining a high type of service to our sick and injured.

If the most of us think about hospitals at all, it is usually when we or some member of the family suddenly becomes sick, and then despite the fine quality of the service, we are prone to be critical if we feel we have not had constant attention twenty-four hours a day, plus the services of a fully trained and integrated team of nurses, diagnosticians, surgeons, pathologists, roentgenologists, anesthesiologists, and highly trained technicians.

Our hospitals came into being through the beneficence of many warm hearted people who had a sincere interest in the well being of their fellow man. Hospitals form a part of our great tradition of brotherhood and a sense of responsibility for our neighbors.

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As a modern hospital is a highly scientific institution, it requires specially trained technicians, who because of experience, training and organization demand higher remuneration. A decreasing amount of space is used for hospital beds and rooms, and in many hospitals the amount of space required for special service departments is greater than the amount of space used by bed patients.

Unless the patient has some special knowledge of what it costs in education and training to produce a real team to serve him in every type of sickness, and has some idea of the expensive equipment at his disposal plus the very expensive drugs, he is prone to complain that he is being overcharged.

Common for many people to make comparisons between the cost of their visit to a hotel and their stay in the hospital. Apart from the expensive equipment and the highly trained specialists required for his service in the hospital, most of his meals are served to him in bed. He is not required to tip the attendants, and instead of one change of linen in his bedroom daily, he may require as many as ten changes. In fact, combined with the many special services immediately available to him, he has to be constantly supervised and will have some one available every time he believes he needs attention.

The average ratio of hotel personnel to guests is six to one, while the average personnel per hospital patient is one and a half. Strange as it may seem, the price paid for the hotel room, plus the extra amount paid for three meals a day in a hotel with the tips added, is about the same as the average patient pays for his stay in a hospital bed.



OZYMANDIAS

I met a traveller from an antique land. Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand, A shattered visage lies, whose frown, And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command, Tell that its sculptor well those passions read Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things, The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed; And on the pedestal these words appear: 'My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings; Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair.' Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare The lone and level sands stretch far away.

—P.B. Shelley (1792-1822).

fellowsman. Possibly the reason why we are more inclined to be critical concerning the hospital bill is that we did not want to be there in the first place. We enjoy the hotel because we wanted to be there as a place for relaxation and pleasure.

Most of us, if we think about hospitals at all, are inclined to think that they are places for our friends and neighbors but not for us. The truth is that that one out of every eight of our people spent and any of our people spent some time in a hospital last year and any of our people spent some time without the services of a hospital, must be considered extremely fortunate and healthy.

I am Sir, etc., ROBERT L. COTTON, Charlottetown

Fish-Killing Tide

National Geographic Society

United States Government scientists armed with a \$162,000 grant, are poised for battle with the "Red Tide," a periodic coastal scourge.

The Red Tide can appear anywhere in the world, in both tropical and temperate waters. It last "bloomed" in 1954 off the west coast of Florida. Plane observers at sea reported mile-long rafts of floating dead fish.

The misnomer, Red Tide, is the popular name for the brownish-amber discoloration of sea water caused by a microscopic organism called Gymnodinium brevis. Under certain conditions, G. brevis multiplies at a fantastic rate giving the water an oily, viscous consistency. Sixty million of them have been counted in a single quart.

The organism exudes a toxic substance that is fatal to fish of all sizes from fingerlings to such large specimens as grouper and tarpon. The poison affects sea reptiles and mammals too.

The tiny pest also releases an airborne "poison gas" which irritates the human respiratory system and may cause coughing, sneezing and shortness of breath.

Working continuously since 1947, after the worst outbreak in history, Fish and Wildlife Service experts and scientists of the University of Miami's Marine Laboratory have managed to cultivate

G. brevis artificially. Its feeding breeding and other characteristics have been explored, and effects of light, heat and reaction to chemicals have been examined. Although the scientists are not prepared to say exactly what causes a G. brevis cluster to explode into hyperproduction, they have created blooms under laboratory conditions and have evolved weapons to combat them. Copper sulphate has been found successful in killing the organism. Spraying the chemical has broken up small oceanic blooms.

As it is impossible to treat miles of ocean in this way, teams of observers are constantly on guard watching the normal G. brevis population. They hope to catch incipient blooms in the early stages and "nip them in the bud."

Blooms of plankton similar to G. brevis have been reported in many latitudes.

Charles Darwin, on the voyage of HMS Beagle, reported red water off the coast of Chile as early as 1821. Destruction of oysters and mussels was recorded at Port Jackson, Australia, in 1891. Between 1899 and 1934 there were 24 outbreaks in Japanese waters.

California, Washington and Oregon have experienced blooms. Others have been reported off the coasts of New England and Mexico. The Malabar Coast of India has been plagued.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TEN YEARS AGO (April 14, 1946)

Rev. Eugene J. McGuinness, coadjutor Bishop of Oklahoma City, acting for the Most Rev. F. C. Kelly, Bishop of Oklahoma, announced that Rev. Richard R. St. John a former native of Souris, P.E.I., has been appointed Domestic Prelate to His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Premier Angus L. MacDonald said in the Nova Scotia Legislature that new sources of revenue might have to be found to provide increases in teachers' salaries totalling \$350,000 this year and to be increased later.

Dr. F.C. Dougan, Charlottetown, one of the outstanding starters in the Maritime Provinces, will be asked to officiate at all light harness meets at the Cape Breton Sports Centre this season. It was announced tonight after a week-end meeting of officials of the centre.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 14, 1931)

If ice conditions permit the S.S. Harland will commence the different services on Monday the 20. This season the steamer will dock at Pickard's Wharf.

It is reported that wild geese have never been so plentiful in Glenwood and vicinity for many years as they are at present around the shores and in the Bay.

It was announced today that service between Montreal, Charlottetown, P.E.I. and St. John's, Newfoundland, will be maintained throughout the St. Lawrence season by the S.S. Silvia, a new steamer to this route.

Crossroads Of World At Gander, Nfld.

By Gerald Freeman, Canadian Press Staff, Nfld.

An air-borne cross-section of the western world comes streaming past tables in the international terminal here at Gander, Newfoundland, usually delayed travellers themselves — sit to drink coffee and gaze.

To the left is the doorway where Europeans file past customs officers on their first arrival in Canada, and through which Canadians emerge on the last leg of their air journey to Europe.

To the right is the internationally famous big dipper bar, where the legal combination of boarding passes, return tickets and change can produce concoctions that react admirably on the airborn nerves of travellers. Beside it is a restaurant.

A BUSY SPOT

And past the tables the people go, pausing often at counters along the way to send telegrams, buy souvenirs and check with airlines representatives or the transport department.

The coffee drinkers, served by a canteen in the centre of the big stark terminal, reflect on the human race.

They watch international beauty wearing sunglasses so beautiful they think they're travelling incognito. Or slightly bewildered immigrants sending off their first post cards from the new world. Or mothers from a dozen nations riding herd on their young.

Young men who appear to be students wander about nervously in leather topcoats with cameras suspended from their necks. Portly businessmen with time unexpectedly on their hands try to look businesslike. Diplomats lounge about in dark suits.

Everyone looks a little uneasy. "After a year they all look alike," says a department of transport agent who gazes out on the passing crowd from his stall eight hours a day.

PRINCESS AND GUARDS

An eastern princess is said to have provided one of the most splendid displays ever seen at Gander. A guard of warriors, complete with ceremonial spears, escorted the veiled young lady from the plane.

The man who saw it says they marched through the terminal to the dining room, ate, and proceeded back toward the plane, the princess between the ranks of warriors. She whispered a word to the leader and the troops marched to a certain door. They halted for a moment on either side of the door and the princess passed within.

They barred all admittance until she reappeared. Then she marched back to her plane between her protectors.

Most dignitaries, however, including Prime Minister Eden and President Gronchi of Italy most recently, remain on their plane during refuelling stopovers at Gander.

Gander lives up to its title of "crossroads of the world," especially in summer months when as many as 400 planes a week land on the 10,000-foot runways. At the peak an airliner arrives on the average of every 20 minutes during the day and night. A top week sees 20,000 passengers representing every major Canadian, American and European city passing through Gander terminal.

150 PLANES A WEEK

A rough year-round average for arrivals would be 150 planes a week, 20-odd a day. But during a foggy spell in January only one plane landed in a whole week.

Passengers held over at Gander by weather or other reasons find rooms at the Jupiter or Saturn hotels. Like the terminal the hotels were built hastily when Gander was opened as a RCAF base during the Second World War, and are due to be replaced sometime soon.

Gander airport was opened for civilian aviation under the transport department after the war. The flying trade now supports a community of nearly 5,000, the first town in Canada to be born of the air age.

The expectancy of Gander's present prosperity is expected to be at least 10 years, until Atlantic travellers fly non-stop from New York to Rome, or from Toronto to London. Then Gander will exist as an emergency airport and a stopover for air freighters. Some observers say the next few years will see Gander thrive as prosperously as at present.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Lots of auto accidents with teenagers are caused by soft shoulders etc.—The Albertan

About the only thing not affected by inflation these days is the individual's sense of financial obligation to church and charity.—Belleville Intelligencer

Now that warmer days are coming and car windows can be kept rolled down we shall soon be seeing the season's first monkey drivers, those who hold the steering wheel with one hand and clutch the car roof with the other, like a monkey hanging from a tree.—Brantford Expositor

A former big band leader says the band business in the United States now consists largely of Laurence Kaye. Guy Lombardo and Sammy Kaye. These bands which have survived are called "sweet" bands. Most of the "hot" bands have folded up. There must be an explanation for this, but none should expect to find it among the younger folk.—Port William Times-Journal

The old cowhand of 1966, in the rangelands of Canada and the U.S., may sing cheerily as he works: "I'm back in the cockpit again." The airplane has been adapted to some strange but practical uses. It is an efficient vehicle for dusting crops, seeding clouds, searching for survivors, and hunting some forms of wild life. Lately it has been used for couchpunching, apparently with good results. One U.S. authority predicts it will supplant the cowboy.—Windsor Star

Amid the spate of news reports on such varied matters as disarmament, Cyprus, the gas pipeline and Mr. Harris' second budget, little attention seems to have been given to one outstanding international incident that occurred recently. This was the smashing victory of Australia over the United States in a pumpkin contest. After the usual local and regional preliminaries, the grand finale took place at Melbourne, with the U. S. consul-general as judge. He had no trouble reaching a decision. The best the Americans could do was to offer a pumpkin weighing sixty-seven pounds. This was pea-size alongside a 160-pound beauty from Queensland. The awed judge remarked this was the biggest vegetable of its kind he had seen in any part of the world.—Ottawa Citizen

Television writers, it seems are subject to nervous breakdowns and ulcers. Which should establish a bond of sympathy between them and a lot of people who see their shows.—Stratford Beacon-Herald

A youth of sixteen charged with shooting his air pistol at a stooping store-attendant pleaded in defence that he found the target "irresistible". It is a good thing this fellow has been caught young. There is now just the faint chance that he can be saved from a career as practical joker, from becoming the sort of chap who peddles explosive cigars and squirts water from a lapel button.—Ottawa Journal

Alberta motorists will welcome Highways Minister Taylor's announcement that his department is considering issuing driver's licenses on a five-year basis instead of annually as at present. The annual renewal of these licenses is an annoyance to drivers, and it serves no useful purpose beyond bringing the government a harvest of \$1 fees. The five-year system is established if it would be wise to have each motorist take a driver's test when he applies for a renewal of his license.—Edmonton Journal

In Leeds, England, an industrial city with its full share of smog, a man can raise his bedroom window at 6 a.m., cock and attenuate ear, and hear the birds coughing in the trees. At least Joseph Trantner of Pittsburgh University, a visitor to Leeds, says so. If this is so in Leeds, it would reinforce the opinion that it also is the case in Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, and even down in London. It might be so in salubrious Glasgow, Britain has, as we all know, been experiencing a monstrous winter but we did not realize that it had come to avian bronchitis.—London Free Press



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Children's Passbooks To promote savings among school children, The Canadian Bank of Commerce has designed a special junior depositor's savings account passbook. In addition to the usual entry columns, the passbook features pictures showing the things that can be bought with the savings; a camera, baseball, skates, typewriter, bicycle, etc. A short foreword in the passbook tells the importance of regular savings, what can be purchased with such savings, and how the savings deposits earn interest and help Canadian business.

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