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"Our Queen"

Reports from Paris indicate that French newspapers are still rejoicing over the recent visit of Queen Elizabeth. Two weeks after the spectacular event editors and columnists are regretting that "our Queen" could not stay longer. One particularly enthusiastic writer suggested that Her Majesty should visit France "at least once a year."

Relations between Britain and France have never been more cordial than they are at the present time. This fact, no doubt, contributed to the warmth with which the Queen and her husband were received by all classes of Frenchmen. Another contributing factor was the Queen's personal charm. As one writer put it, "majesty is stamped on her face." But the main reason probably goes deeper than either of these circumstances. Although France is a Republic, French people in general are extremely romantic by nature, much more so than the British people as a whole. And, while Republicanism may be an efficient and very democratic form of government, there is little in it to appeal to romantic fancies. Monarchy, on the other hand, is steeped in romance. That perhaps is its greatest strength.

It isn't likely that the French monarchy will ever be restored. But it is not entirely fanciful to surmise that perhaps a British-French union might come about in due course, that what English sovereigns of the past were unable to perpetuate by force of arms and intrigue might very well be achieved by a common devotion to an idea which has never been seriously damaged in Britain and which, even now, after more than a century of neglect, is very much alive across the channel.

It would be wrong to say that this could never be. A union of the two countries, with Elizabeth the sovereign head of both and with each carrying on its own customary parliamentary system, could easily be devised. Who knows? History often works in devious and unexpected ways.

The Battle Of Books

It is often said that the "cold war" that is being waged between the Soviet Union and the Free World is a battle for men's minds. How, then, is the battle shaping up? Well, a report issued by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is, to say the least, far from reassuring to free men. It states, first of all, that the Bible is no longer the most widely circulated book. From 1948 to 1955 it was published in 887 translations; and in 1955, the last year covered by the report, there were 99 translations. These figures were exceeded in the 8 year period by the writings of the Russian Revolutionary Lenin, which went through 968 translations. 371 translations took place in the year 1955.

As if this were not bad enough, third, fourth and fifth places were taken by Russian writers. Stalin's works received 689 translations since 1948 and 200 in 1955. In fourth and fifth places were the novelists Tolstoy and Gorki.

Nor is the picture any more encouraging with respect to number of books published. In 1955, 5 billion books of one kind and another came off the world's presses. Of these, Russian titles accounted for more than 1 billion, thus taking first place with 54,000 titles. Japan came second with 21,000 titles, the United Kingdom third with 20,000, West Germany fourth with 16,000. Surprisingly the United States produced a mere 12,000 titles.

It must not be supposed that all Russian books were printed in the Russian language. Far from it. In 1955, Russian publishing in English was 82% higher than the year before, in Spanish 32% higher and, most significant of all, in Arabic more than 300% higher. This last statistic is a good indication of the interest the Soviets are taking in

the Middle East. In all, 157 titles were published in languages not spoken anywhere in the Soviet bloc. There is some suspicion abroad that UNESCO is unduly influenced by Soviet propagandists. If that is so, the figures given in the report may have been stretched a little in favor of the Russians. Even so, and allowing for an exaggeration here and there, the figures certainly do not justify Western complacency in this highly important field.

A Fable

Circumstances alter cases. Some months ago the Lutheran Church of West Germany—the Republic's largest—was invited to hold its annual convention in Communist East Germany. This was seen by Church leaders as a conciliatory gesture; and after discussing it from all angles they decided to accept the invitation. After all, they probably reasoned, the Communists have souls just as other people do, and it would do them no harm to see 30 or 40 thousand Christians (these many usually attend Lutheran conventions) make a corporate witness of faith. It might even have some effect on the Soviet-controlled leaders of East Germany.

Alas, there is to be no Lutheran convention in East Germany. Just as plans were being completed, word came from the puppet government that several officials of the regime would expect to attend the convention and speak on "socialism" to the assembled delegates. Moreover, convention leaders would have to promise beforehand to do nothing "in support of NATO's 'anti-peace' policies."

In refusing the demands, Church leaders pointed out that the convention they had in mind was of a religious rather than a political nature and that, in any case, they knew enough already about East German "socialism" and weren't anxious to learn anything more.

It reminds one of the old fable about the fox and the rabbits. Reynard invited all the rabbits of the neighborhood to supper. But when they arrived there was no banquet prepared for them, as they had expected. They were merely given the privilege of watching the fox feast on one of their fellows who had been luckless enough to fall into his hands!

EDITORIAL NOTES

King Hussein of Jordan is reported to be a young man of some political sagacity. He will certainly need all he can muster if he is to save his throne or even his life. Never was head of state in a more precarious position. Whichever way he looks he is faced by intrigue.

The new Indian Cabinet includes a few names which are short and easy to pronounce, like that of Jag Ram who is Minister of Railways. Most of them, however, are long ones in the Indian tradition. The longest is that of Tirvullar Thattai Krishnamachari, Minister of Finance.

The Netherlands Government has submitted for parliamentary approval a revised farm policy designed to strengthen the farm sector of the economy and assure a reasonable level of farm income and wages. The new support measures provide for improved standards of remuneration to farm owners for their productive services, and investment in land and buildings, as well as an increase of five per cent in the wages of farm labor.

The number of farms recorded in the 1956 census was 575,015 for Canada as a whole, a drop of 48,076 or eight per cent, from the 1951 census count of 623,091. Among the provinces, Ontario had the largest number of farms in 1956 at 140,602 as against 149,920 in 1951. The number of farms in other provinces last year, with the 1951 comparison shown in brackets, was as follows: Quebec, 122,617 (134,336); Saskatchewan 103,391 (112,018); Alberta, 79,424 (84,315); Manitoba, 49,201 (52,383); British Columbia, 24,748 (26,406); New Brunswick, 22,116 (26,431); Nova Scotia, 21,075 (23,515); Prince Edward Island, 9,432 (10,137), and Newfoundland, 2,387 (3,626). Canada's total farm area in June last was about 174 million acres and showed only a slight reduction from the 1951 acreage. As a result, the average area per farm, for all Canada, increased from 279 acres in 1951 to 302 acres in 1956.



GOOD MORNING - - THERE'S MUSIC IN THE AIR!

Ave Atque Vale

Arthur Blakely in the Montreal Gazette

Since Parliament dissolved, departing M.P.'s have been saying farewell to friends and acquaintances in their own and rival Parliamentary groups. These farewells weren't uttered lightly. A good many of those who left at the end of this session were leaving Parliament for good, whether they knew it at the time or not.

Some have already announced their retirement from active politics. When they said their good-byes, they were saying them for good. For others, though, it was different. These are the M.P.'s who are seeking re-election. Their farewells were of a more tentative nature, more like an au revoir.

But you never know. Cold statistics should be enough to cause even the most optimistic Member of Parliament to think twice. Majorities, like chickens, shouldn't be counted before they are hatched.

10 PERCENT TURNOVER
The turnover in the membership of the House of Commons due to the forthcoming general election will likely approximate 40 per cent. That's what is averaged in the last half dozen elections or so.

It could be higher. In 1935, the turnover approximated 60 per cent. And it could be lower. In 1926, only one M.P. of every five elected was a new man. But the figure has rarely, since Confederation, gone as high as in 1935 or as low as in 1926.

By and large, in every general election the voters can be expected to elect four new M.P.'s for every six veterans they return to

office. And even the wildest veterans in the safest seats don't last forever. Up to the moment, there are some 15 M.P.'s (including two cabinet ministers) who know that they won't be back. And that regardless of the election outcome. These are the members who feel, for one reason or another or for a combination of several, that they have given enough time to Parliament and that the time has come for retirement from the federal arena.

IN ASSUNIBOIA
In addition, the constituency of Assiniboia will provide, in this election, for the compulsory retirement of at least one sitting M.P. That's where Ross Thatcher, CCF, or turned Independent-Liberal is battling it out with his erstwhile CCF colleague, Hazen Argue. At least one won't be back. And should the Conservative, So-called or independent candidates pull an election surprise, both might wind up on the sidelines. Defeated M.P.'s will have at least one source of comfort after the election. The Parliamentary retirement fund is in excellent shape to sustain any heavy drain which may result from the election.

A report tabled by Finance Minister Walter Harris shows that the fund is in very healthy condition, indeed. As of last March 31, receipts had exceeded disbursements by no less than \$1,600,000. Under this exceedingly generous pension scheme, M.P.'s become eligible for participation when they have served more than two Parliaments. And one way or another, a number of those who sat in the House of Commons this past session will be added to the list of recipients.

New Farm University

The Country Guide, Winnipeg

Widespread interest was no doubt created throughout Ontario last month, and to a lesser extent in other parts of Canada, by the announcement that a new university may be established at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph.

The Hon. W.A. Goodfellow, Minister of Agriculture, announced that considerable benefits would be given by the Government to this idea. The Government is reported to feel that having in mind the general university situation, and in view of the \$20 million university expansion program under way by the Province, the facilities at the College site could be used more fully if other facilities were added. Courses in forestry and engineering have been mentioned, as well

as a faculty of arts and perhaps a teachers' college.

The intention appears to be to keep Guelph a predominantly agricultural institution. No doubt the general university idea seems especially encouraging now, in view of the \$50 million available for university building expansion over the next few years, from the Federal Government.

Some move, such as the one now under consideration, has been overdue for years. The College is now 83 years old. It has always been a part of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and responsible to the Minister, which in ordinary matters really means the Deputy Minister. The Ontario Agricultural College is too old and too important an institution for this

Ghana's Rich Soil

National Geographic Society

Washington—Ghana, the world's newest nation, takes its name from a mighty African empire that flourished for some 600 years before Europeans came to the Dark Continent.

Although the new state is not situated within the ancient borders of Ghana, the tribesmen of the former Gold Coast Colony trace their ancestry to Ghanaian refugees who were driven to the coast by 9th-century Moslem invaders, says the National Geographic Society.

PORTUGUESE BESTOWED
Portuguese traders bestowed the name Gold Coast on a narrow strip of land on the underside of Africa's hump just north of the Equator. Later the name was extended to a rectangular area stretching some 230 miles along the coast and 400 miles into the interior. Thus the former colony's boundaries embrace the Gold Coast proper as well as Ashanti, British Togoland, and the Northern Territories. Ghana, approximately twice as large as the state of Mississippi, has a population of 4,500,000, all but 7,000 are Africans. Accra, the capital, is a European-type city of 136,000 residents. Ghana's Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah, who was educated in the United States and England has

worked hard to raise the living standards of his countrymen. In the past five years alone, the number of schools has tripled.

However, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories, still in the grip of old tribal customs, have resisted modernization. Most of Nkrumah's political opposition is concentrated there. The chiefs fear that a strong central government will infringe upon their prerogatives.

While a plentiful gold supply gave the tropical country its former name, the precious metal has long been supplanted as a source of wealth by the cacao bean, from which cocoa and chocolate are made. Ghana leads the world in cacao production. In fact, so close is the economy geared to cacao that a steadily sliding price for the beans on the world market already presents the new government with a fiscal headache.

RICH MINERAL RESOURCES
Ghana is particularly rich in untapped mineral resources. The "closed forest"—a humid region stretching from the barren coastal strip deep into Ashanti country—boasts one of the world's biggest deposits of bauxite, an estimated 225,000,000 tons. If properly developed, engineers believe it capable of producing 210,000 tons of aluminum annually.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

DON'T CLUTTER CABINET WITH OLD USELESS DRUGS

I've repeatedly urged you to get rid of all the old medicines you may have about the house, for it is important that you do. Some drugs become stronger with age others lose much or all of their potency.

But, chances are, many of you are holding on to those assorted bottles stuffed in your medicine chest while trying to remember just how long you have had them. GET RID OF IT!

If you don't remember, when you get a specific medicine, get rid of it right away. But if you are wondering whether a fairly recent purchase might have lost its effectiveness, there are a few ways of determining how potent it is simply by its appearance.

Tablets which have started to crumble should be tossed out. Salves and ointments are ready for the discard when they become dark, separate or acquire watery spots. Keep solutions only as long as they remain clear. Get rid of them when they change color or you can see residue in the bottle.

Some germicidal disinfectants retain their strength as long as the bottle lasts; other types deteriorate each time the bottle is opened.

But weather a certain drug looks good or not, if there is no label on the bottle or container, throw it away. Don't trust your memory. While you're cleaning out the medicine cabinet, I suggest you disinfect it at the same time. You can clean and disinfect in a single operation by using a mixture of 2½ tablespoons of a germicidal disinfectant, such as lysol, in one gallon of water.

One more thing before you leave the medicine cabinet.

On the inside of the door tape the name, address and phone number of your doctor and your druggist. They'll always be handy when you need them.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

V.L.W.: Could an allergy be the cause for pus in the stool?

Answer: It is unlikely that an allergy would be responsible for this condition. It is more apt to be due to the presence of some infection.

You should, of course, consult a physician about this matter.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(April 24, 1932)

The new car ferry Charlottetown will probably be taken to Lauzon, Quebec, about May 1, for her first overhauling in drydock of the shipyards in which she was constructed. During the absence of the Charlottetown, passengers and other traffic will be accommodated on the car ferry steamer Prince Edward Island.

Mr. E. A. Large, for the past twelve years ticket agent at Summerside station, has been promoted to the position of freight agent at the C.N.R. Depot in Charlottetown. Mr. and Mrs. Large will leave Summerside shortly to take up residence in Charlottetown.

TEN YEARS AGO

(April 24, 1947)

Four ocean going steamers are on their way from Trans-Atlantic ports to P.E.I. to load potatoes for Great Britain. Ships due to arrive shortly are the "Benny Skou" to load 130,000 bags; the "Sig Gorthon" to load 70,000 bags and the "Rita Mersk" to load 70,000 bags. Loading will take place at Charlottetown, Summerside and Georgetown.

Claiming that the Island's ability to maintain public services will be raised from 65 per cent of Canada's average to 85 per cent as a result of the tax agreement negotiated with the Dominion Government, Premier J. Walter Jones last night devoted much of his time in the Budget Debate to this issue.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The clubs a golfer belongs to are sometimes more important than the clubs that belong to him.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

The output of autos will run into millions this year." Hope we are not one of them.—Brandon Sun

Hand-painted flowers will adorn some of this year's bathing suits. The sunflower will be out for lack of space.—Brandon Sun

When asked to comment on a situation he doesn't understand, the safest thing a statesman can say is that it is fraught with significance.—Edmonton Journal

Residents of a Johannesburg suburb in South Africa were rightly upset at the prospect of a hostel for bagpipe players being established in their midst. How would the local civil defence authorities even get them to pay any attention to air raid sirens in case of an emergency?—Sherbrooke Record

"Maybe it's wrong to go around asking for money," observes Cousin Willy, "but they jail you for taking it without asking.—Calgary Herald

During 1956 a total of 70,034 Canadians were trained by St. John Ambulance. The vast majority (67,894) received instruction in first aid, while home nursing and child welfare accounted for the remainder. The figure, which is 18.5 per cent greater than that of five years ago, reflects the increasing consciousness in industry—and among the general public—of the value of first aid and home nursing training.—St. John Ambulance Teller

Twenty-nine years from the time it was started a 720-mile railway in Iran has finally been completed. If you've wondered what Iranians have been doing since 1928—they've been working on the railroad!—St. Catherines Standard

Toronto is considering passage of a by-law preventing the blowing of automobile horns, except to warn of actual danger. The proposed legislation is a measure intended to deal with hurried and frustrated drivers who blast away on their horns in the hope that they can thus clear a way through congested traffic. New York and Paris already have such a law. Paris, where hornblowing was a traditional discord, has cut its accident rate in half.—London Free Press

A Minnesota burglar asked the cops for a quick sentence so he could make the prison's baseball team at shortstop this year. He got it—in fact, he'll be a 10-year man when he graduates.—Guelph Mercury

No Clues

On a rainy day two years ago, a pretty young housewife left a beauty shop and headed for her car. Three days later her nude body was found in a pasture. There were no clues.

In May Reader's Digest read the thrilling true story of how police throughout the country and the FBI joined forces to solve a brutal murder mystery. Get your May Reader's Digest today: 38 articles of lasting interest, including the best from current magazines and books, condensed to save your time.

The Age Old Story

And when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

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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.

SUGGESTED SCHOOL HOURS

Sir,—I would like to suggest a way that should make public education more attractive and efficient to the teachers and pupils of this Province. My plan is this. Open the schools at eleven o'clock in the morning, and close them at four in the afternoon; no hour for lunch at noon, but a half-hour recess period at two o'clock.

I think that there are many advantages to this plan. (1) It makes a shorter day but the teaching hours are the same; (2) it saves travelling; (3) it gives pupils a chance to do their home work in the morning; (4) it should help to cut down traffic accidents. What do your readers think?

I am, Sir, etc.

Peakes Station A. JONES

MAXIMS

There is no greater folly in the world than for a man to despair.

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