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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

SATURDAY, MAR. 19, 1955

Need For Full Inquiry

Despite official attempts to hush them up, reports that radio-active fall-out from nuclear tests has reached serious, if not alarming, proportions, continue to be circulated. The latest report comes from two university scientists in Colorado, following a series of explosions in neighbouring Nevada. It says in part: "For the first time in the history of the tests the upsurge in radioactivity measured here within a matter of hours has been appreciable."

There is an even greater danger. The Colorado scientists are not the first to warn against the ill effects of radioactivity; and it is significant that in each instance the warning has come from some expert not connected with the Atomic Energy Commission. It would be a pity and a real cause for alarm if the public mind should get the impression that officials of the Commission are trying to cover up the ill effects of nuclear explosions in order that the tests—which, doubtless, are of great importance—should not come under widespread suspicion and condemnation.

Half-Forgotten Calendar

Long before Julius Caesar's time, March was the first month of the year. Its "Calends", first day of the month (whence the word "calendar"), came supposedly at the vernal equinox, now usually March 21. But so badly did the Roman calendar fit the seasons that only two years before Caesar died, March was arriving in mid-summer.

That old calendar, notes the National Geographic Society, was based on the moon. There were 12 lunar months—Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Iunius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, December, Ianuarius, and Februarius. They added up to only 355 days. But the seasons, then as now, took 365 1/4 days. Thus occasionally a 13th month had to be inserted. It followed the 23rd day of February which then was known as "terminalia."

Even under the workable new Julian calendar that went into effect on January 1, 45 B.C., the months still had Calends, Ides, and Nones. In the longer months of 31 days, the Ides fell on the 15th; in others, on the 13th. The Nones occurred on the ninth day before the Ides. Roman dates were calculated as so many days before the Calends, Nones, or Ides.

The Julian calendar has had significant changes only a few times since the days of Caesar. Its year actually was 11 minutes and 14 seconds too long for the true solar year that guides the seasons. Thus the calendar "clock" ran slow, and the spring equinox came earlier and earlier in March. In 1582 Pope Gregory

proposed dropping ten days to bring it back to March 21. The Gregorian calendar was only gradually adopted—not until 1752 in England and its American colonies, where even then the legal year began on March 25—but it remains the western world's standard to this day.

In China, Polynesia, Babylon and Egypt, the ancient names of the months signified changes of the seasons and work on the land. In the Roman calendar, however, only two of the months reflected the workings of Nature: Aprilis, the month of opening, when buds unfold and spring comes green in new leaves, and Maius, for Maia, a Goddess of growth.

March, or Martius, was the month of the God of War, Mars. By ancient tradition, it was Mars who fathered the twin foundlings Romulus and Remus, who were raised by a wolf and eventually founded the city by the Tiber.

Charlemagne And Churchill

So many honours and awards have come to Sir Winston Churchill that the bestowal of one more is not a matter of great moment. Yet, the announcement from Aachen, Germany, that he is to receive this year's international Charlemagne award for "his service in the cause of European understanding and unity" makes an interesting little news item. No one would call Sir Winston the Charlemagne of the 20th century; their lives and political ambitions ran in different channels, even if we discount the manifest discrepancies between the 8th century and the present time. None the less, there is a resemblance joining their personal traits and, especially, their respective imprints on the world's history.

Here are a few excerpts from a brief encyclopaedic biography of the illustrious King of the Franks: "He was the foremost historical figure, the greatest doer of things, in several centuries. He was a large man in every way. He fought like a lion, but it was to establish peace. He sought power, but it was to use it wisely and justly. He advocated education, not ignorance; art, not idle luxury; comfort and plain living, not extravagance. He was courageous, yet pacific; kindly, yet determined; industrious, yet scholarly; large-hearted and merciful."

There is a clear political resemblance, as well. Because he was instrumental in reviving a purely Western Empire, centered in Rome and freed from any Greek authority, Charlemagne might be said to have been the first architect of established European institutions. Without discounting the work of any other statesman of our times, it is, perhaps, not out of place to say that Sir Winston Churchill has done more than any other individual to unite the free peoples in a resolution to keep their freedom from being destroyed by any aggressive power. This suggests that he has taken the lead in building a new and, let us hope, a better world.

EDITORIAL NOTES

World wool production set a record last year with an estimated total of 4,430 million pounds. This is 70 million pounds more than 1953, and 500 million pounds above the pre-war level.

A higher pork output and resultant lower prices are forecast for a number of the principal hog-producing countries this year. In 1954, a total of 5,078,715 hogs were slaughtered in Canada—an increase of 75,901 over 1953.

Total Canadian honey crop for 1954 was 19.9 million pounds, a drop of 25 per cent over the previous year and the smallest crop since 1926. Ontario, Quebec, and the three prairie provinces accounted for 93 per cent of the total production.

Farm price supports in the United States will see the 1955 oat crop subsidized at 61 cents a bushel for Grade No. 3 or better; barley at 94 cents a bushel for Grade No. 2 or better; and rye at \$1.18 a bushel for Grade No. 2 or better.

Atomic energy developments herald a revolution in agriculture, according to the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. A rust-resistant strain of oats, new ways of fighting plant diseases and insects, and new fertilizers are among recent gains. One irradiation of tomato seedlings has been found to produce at least one generation of wilt-resistant plants.

No explorer has ever done so much for African geography as David Livingstone, Scottish missionary born this date, 1813, in the little village of Blantyre Works, Lanarkshire. His travels covered one-third of the Dark Continent, extending from the Cape to near the Equator, and from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.



Best Piece Of News

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. Opinions do not necessarily endorse the opinions of the editor.

TRANSPORTATION

Sir,—To-day, the transportation question is engaging the attention of not only the Department of Transport, but the merchant, the shipper and all who are interested in the shipment and import of goods to and from this Province. For short hauls, the motor truck is the principal means of transport, and for long hauls there is a growing demand for heavy trucks with a greater carrying capacity than the ones in use at the present time.

With the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway, more paved highways and improved secondary roads throughout this Province, Trans-Canada Highway and Canso Causeway open to motor traffic in our neighbouring Province, the new ferry boat to ply between North Sydney and Port a Basque, Newfoundland, it will be possible for motor trucks to carry, and deliver if necessary, produce and other goods destined for points along the route, or through to a destination in the Sydneys or Newfoundland, where highways for motor trucks are in fit condition over which to travel.

The matter of return cargo for trucks returning to P. E. I. will be taken up at a later date. In order to realize the successful accomplishment of this new venture in the field of transportation, it is necessary to have a suitable ferry boat to transport cars and trucks from Prince Edward Island to a point on the mainland of Nova Scotia. The design, specifications and carrying capacity of such a boat will not be gone into at this time; suffice it to say that it will be a boat that will give a satisfactory service to the travelling public, and will fill a long felt want by shippers, merchants and others interested in the venture, besides being a matter in which the Department of Defence might be interested.

The ferry boats are an important matter to consider. Looking at it in the light of reason, and having the unbiased opinions of many interested parties, Georgetown is the unanimous choice of Port for the P. E. I. terminal, and Pictou the Nova Scotia terminus.

I am, Sir, etc., C. M. FITZGERALD, Chairman of Committee on Proposed Georgetown-Pictou Ferry Service.

THE TEACHER PROBLEM

Sir,—Much was said during Education Week regarding the teachers, and the question of lack of teachers always arise and rightly. Why is it that the younger generation do not consider the teaching profession, or some other secondary education when the question of career arises? Having been a teacher for a considerable number of years, I have noticed several factors to support the claims of those who might consider teaching a career, as the neglected profession. In our present day there are any number of distractions, such as comic books, true story magazines, theatres, hockey matches, etc., all of which have a strong tendency to take the child's mind off what he should be studying and despite entreaties on the part of the teacher and the lack of co-operation on the part of the parents, the teacher becomes more or less discouraged.

The matter of suitable boarding accommodation is a problem also to be considered, besides the distance from larger centres, railway and bus lines, suitable entertainment and having to listen to any radio program and chatter of children are not conducive to teacher's liking. The teaching profession has been a stepping stone to better paying and more pleasant duties. Many young people with only primary education are drawing salaries double and even more than the average teacher's salary. When their seasonal employment is over, all they have to do is lie back and live on unemployment insurance benefits for several months. The teacher gets paid for two hundred days but has to eat, dress and live the remainder of the year. If the teacher did not do extra work on the side, as farm, sell insurance, or some

The Formosa Problem

By W. N. Ewer, United Kingdom Information Office

When Sir Anthony Eden outlined to the House of Commons the British Government's views as "the lines along which progress is to be sought," in what we usually call the Formosa problem, he did not expect that those views would be immediately and warmly welcomed either in Washington or in Peking in the Taipei.

That was not to be expected. And indeed, the Foreign Secretary himself was careful to say that as a result of his talks during the recent tour and of the information which has reached him from Peking, he had "come reluctantly to the conclusion that the necessary conditions for progress do not yet exist."

Sir Anthony was in a way thinking aloud, with hope that his thoughts may seriously though not laboriously be considered by the "parties immediately concerned." He was throwing out ideas for such consideration. That and no more. It could not be more at the moment.

The basic fact is that sooner or later in one way or another there has to be a settlement of the Formosa problem. It might come as a result of or at any rate after armed conflict, or it might come peacefully without any serious clash.

Secondly, it is surely obvious that any attempt to reach a solution by arms must involve unspeakable dangers—not only for those directly and immediately involved. Therefore in one way or another, an effort must be made to find a basis for peaceful settlement. What is the most hopeful line of approach? This was the question to which our Foreign Secretary was seeking the answer.

DUAL PROBLEM

The problem is a dual one—short-term and long-term. The immediate and urgent need is to reduce or remove the immediate risks of war or of some local collision which, however unintentionally on either side, might "touch off" a wider war. That would only be a temporary relief. Real peace requires a real settlement, but the one is necessary before the other is possible. There could be no profitable negotiation unless the present tension is first relaxed.

What can be done to relax it? The immediate need is to reduce the risks of "off-shore islands." A serious Chinese Communist attack on Formosa itself across a hundred miles of notoriously stormy sea is probably a logistical impossibility, would, besides, have a laboratory supply, besides the Matsu Islands lying, as they do, within gunshot of the mainland. Here, as everyone is very aware, is the immediate danger. How can it be averted?

Sir Anthony Eden noted—and other line of work, when he should be able to take a short course each year, if he were getting enough salary, in order to improve his chosen lot, there would be a still greater scarcity of teachers. A member of the local Legislature in a recent address spoke of the large increases in the teachers' salaries. The government manages to eke out a small raise now and then just to say they have increased the salaries in the solution to much of the trouble is in their hands, and if they would make the necessary adjustments, I think they would be doing a great deal in making the profession one to attract the young people to qualify as teachers to fill the gaps.

I am, Sir, etc., RURAL TEACHER

Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D. DON'T GIVE YOUR BABY "HOTHOUSE" TREATMENT

Are you giving your baby the "hot-house" treatment? Are you keeping that "delicate" little tot of yours from the fresh air he needs? So many mothers, and fathers, too, believe they must keep their infants in hot, stuffy rooms to protect them from the cold air outside. They couldn't be more wrong.

If you are one who shares this belief, let me set you straight right now. Your youngster needs fresh air the year around. It helps his circulation, improves the color of his skin, gives him a better appetite and generally promotes good health.

Morever, a baby kept in a very warm room is likely to catch cold when taken outside in cold weather. The abrupt change from extreme heat to outdoor cold is bad for him.

What, then, should you do? Regardless of the weather, your baby's room should have a continual supply of fresh, free-flowing air. The only exception is when he is taking a bath.

Raise the lower sash and lower the upper sash of a window in your baby's room. A cloth pinned over the open lower window, also will help keep the air from blowing on the tot.

Depends on Weather

How far should the windows be opened? That, of course, depends on the weather. Don't let the room get too cold. If the weather is chilly, open the window just an inch or two from the top and the bottom.

If it's really cold and blowing outside, keep the baby's windows closed. But leave his door open, and open a window in an adjoining room.

During warm weather, you can open the windows in your youngster's room as wide as you wish. But whatever the temperature, make sure he gets fresh air. He needs it!

QUESTION AND ANSWER

C. L. A.: What causes hives, and there a cure for them? Answer: Hives are usually due to a sensitive skin which reacts either to some food in the diet or to something with which an individual comes in contact.

The only way to bring about a cure of the condition is to have a thorough study made to determine the substance to which the person is sensitive.

The Poet's Corner

SONNET

What are you, World? Why do you roll, Earth—on a sea of light? And float forever in a sea of light? Why spin among the stars and never fall? Or deviate in your predestined flight? What are you, Time? What is the master-clock That regulates the space of night and day? How long has surf dissolved the stubborn rock, And licked the rim of continent away? I witness sunlight overflow the dark, And wonder at the Truth I cannot find, Like some night-moth attracted by a spark, Bewildered by the flame that leaves her blind. These marvels are so far beyond our skill That Man seems blind as moth, or blinder still.

—Herbert Elliott in the New York Times.

The Age Old Story

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand is going to send a pair of Siamese twins to the United States for examination and possible separation, the government announced Monday. The 20-month old twin girls are joined from chest to abdomen and have a common liver. They will be sent to the Albert Merritt Ellings Hospital in Chicago.

NEW YORK (CP)—W. G. Crisp, Vancouver author, has won the Dodd, Mead-Boyer Life prize for his manuscript, "White Gold in the Cassiar," a story of a young boy's vacation on the Cassiar mountains of the Alaskan peninsula. Presented annually for the best story for boys 12 to 16 years old, the award is \$2,000.

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LENENT MEDITATIONS

Betrayal Or Wisdom

The Times, London

In one of the less familiar books of the Old Testament, that of Haggai, the story is told of how the second temple was built. The first years after the return of the exiles from Babylon had been difficult in the extreme, so that the little community needed all its energies to establish itself and was not disposed to attempt the restoration of the sanctuary. When, however, under the encouragement of Haggai, they addressed themselves to the task, their resources were so limited that the result was incommensurate with the hopes that had been raised. They were thus brought face to face with one of the major problems that life raises, whether for the community or for the individual, the problem of the second best. Two things may be said about this. The first is that where the best is possible, to be content with the second best is betrayal. Few men, faced with the alternatives of good and evil, would deliberately choose evil. But many, when the decision is between the best they can do and something inferior to it, are not ashamed to prefer the second.

It is a common complaint to-day that pride of craftsmanship is lacking, that men are too easily satisfied with something less than the best. A scientific oversight or inaccuracy, and a generation that benefits so richly from the applications of science ought also to learn from it the moral qualities without which it could achieve nothing.

But it is equally true that where the best is no longer possible, it is wisdom to avail oneself of the second best. Many a man has found himself deprived by circumstances of the opportunity on which he had set his heart; he is then tempted to give up all effort. The right course is rather to use to the full what has been given without repining over what has been denied. Sometimes, indeed, the redemption of the second best has been more fruitful than the enjoyment of what was thought the best would ever have been. The re-birth of Denmark in the mid-nineteenth century, with the vigorous Folk High School movement, was largely due to the courageous acceptance of the new situation created by defeat at the hands of Prussia and the need to surrender any dream of Great Power status. The watchword "We must gain inwardly what we have lost outwardly" was one that expresses admirably the spirit in which the second best is accepted and enabled.

It is part of the open secret of the Christian faith that God himself is not exempt from the choice of the second best. He has not been refused him. He is not to be thought of as carrying out everything according to some prearranged scheme. Rather does he accept in patience and redemptive love the considerable perils of what human freedom is capable. The language of a divine regret, "If only they had known," runs through the Bible. The cross can be the redemption of all human failures only because it was the point at which God transmuted into a fresh appearance of his love to men their worst rejection of that love.

The acceptance of the second best when the best is refused had its place even within the divine wisdom; and he who learns from this source how to be capable of himself becomes thereby a partner with that wisdom.

NOTES BY THE WAY

How do you pronounce the name of the Prime Minister of Australia, who is now visiting Ottawa? It is a Scottish name, and in Scotland they pronounce it as spelled Menzies. But in England they pronounce it Mengies—the g hard. Like the difference over the name of the late Premier Hepburn. The Scots pronounce it as spelled Hep-burn. But many people dropped the p and pronounced it He-burn. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

One of the most dangerous illusions a country can develop is to imagine that it has always been completely victorious in the past. It tends to breed pride and over-confidence, and a feeling that the national honor can never be satisfied by anything less than the unconditional surrender of its opponents. In actual fact, however, the record of triumph and humiliations in its time. It is well for a people to remember its defeats as well as its victories; it helps to preserve an attitude of moderation and common sense in today's crises. —Edmonton Journal.

Back in 1931—14 years before the first atomic bomb—a free-lance British journalist wrote in "The Strand" magazine of London: "The coal a man can get in a day can easily do 500 times as much work as the man himself. Nuclear energy is at least one million times more powerful still." What is lacking in the match to set the bonfire alight, or it may be, the detonator to cause the dynamite to explode." That free-lance journalist indulged in the pleasure of quoting his own previous writing of 1931 in the "London Commons" recently. "I hope that the House will not prove me for vanity or conceit," said Sir Winston Churchill. —New York Herald-Tribune.

Two English students are living in a cave in the southern countries in order to get first-hand experience for use in a debate on "Should man return to his original state?" The way things are in the world today the debate in might well have been on such a theme as "When the men return to his original state?" However, a little cave-living would be suitable preparation. They could install a few modern comforts, lay in a stock of comestibles and the waters of Lethe. —London Free Press.

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