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

SATURDAY, FEB. 19, 1955

Secret vs. Open Diplomacy

Mr. St. Laurent's stated belief that a private meeting of interested parties in the Formosan crisis might be more effective than an international conference serves as a reminder that Conference diplomacy, with all its attendant publicity, is of comparatively recent origin; until First World War days it was the exception rather than the rule.

There were obvious advantages in this way of doing things. There is no denying that, other things being equal, two or three or half a dozen persons, sitting down together and concentrating on a single problem, are more likely to come to some understanding than are the many experts and their advisers, who make up present day conferences, and who must work under the pressure of publicity and the modern desire for quick decisions.

It is probably true that, even now, there are more things wrought by secret negotiations than this world dreams of; but, in the main, the demand is for wide open diplomacy, so much so that foreign secretaries, ambassadors, and all the practitioners of the diplomatic art, can scarcely call their souls their own.

United States farmers have a big stake in the export market. Percentage of that country's agricultural output sold abroad in 1951 was: wheat, 48; dried milk, 45; rice, 37; dried peas, 35; cotton, 34; soybeans, 28; lard, 24; tobacco and hops, 23; plums and prunes, 21.

Canadian seed potatoes have been purchased by the Agricultural Bank of Greece to distribute to farmer co-operatives there for the second consecutive year. The initial shipment last year of 430 tons proved so successful 1,580 tons were ordered for this year, in spite of this season's higher prices.

The third wheat crop failure since 1950 has been recorded in Yugoslavia because of adverse weather conditions. To help alleviate food shortages in that country, the U. S. Foreign Operations Administration has authorized the shipment of 150,000 tons of wheat, making a total of 435,000 tons supplied Yugoslavia this fiscal year.

Anthony Greenwood, Labour member of the British Parliament, is not numbered among the more fiery members of the Bevan group. This fact accounts, no doubt, for the mild language he used in a recent speech at Wimbledon when he declared that American Secretary of State Döles "has about as much sense as a water buffalo."

People who have persuaded themselves that the winters are getting milder and milder all the time are not going to be particularly happy about the report of British scientists who have been studying the habits of glaciers in Iceland and Greenland. They have discovered that, although glaciers have been melting slowly for almost a century, they are now taking a turn the other way; some of them have made noticeable gain in size in the last few years. The situation doesn't look good, they say.

Basically, comments The Country Guide, price difficulties arising from the production and marketing of troublesome numbers of hogs, cattle, and poultry are due to the planning and operations of farmers themselves. This is like saying, perhaps, that rain is caused by the weather. What may not be fully appreciated by many farmers, however, is that it is easier today to disturb the balance between prices and marketable quantities than it used to be. A ten-million-pound cheese surplus now presents a far more serious problem than 50 million pounds presented 30 years ago. International trade is more delicately balanced today for many products, than formerly.

Whatever the result of the inquiry into

the Matusow case may be, it is clear that, from now on, ex-Communists—including, unfortunately, those who are above reproach—are going to be under suspicion and watched very closely for possible volte-face propensities.

Face To Face Discussions

In addressing the annual meeting of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, President R. M. Fowler, in referring to trade relationships between this country and the United States, had this to say: "I think this is not a problem that can be left solely to government. I wish we could find some way for industries and industry organizations in the two countries to sit down together to determine the facts and lay the ghosts of past controversies."

This would appear to be good advice. Governments can and do help in many ways to iron out misunderstandings and correct misinterpretations that arise from time to time in commercial relationships between one country and another. In Canadian-American matters, negotiations, usually, are friendly, due to a common language and more or less compatible traditions, even if they do not always end in mutual satisfaction. But in all instances it is hard for governments to get away from the impersonal approach which fails to take into account new measures for new conditions. The ghosts of past controversies, in Mr. Fowler's phrase, have far too much influence in official dealings between governments, even the most enlightened ones. Nothing can take the place of face to face discussions by those who are intimately and constantly involved in the ups and downs of every day business activities in the same or related fields. It sometimes happens that circumstances and incidents which appear as facts to government representatives reveal themselves as nothing more than annoying incentives to useless controversy, when they are discussed freely and openly and frankly by those who have to live with them every day of the year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The milk cow population of Canada is approaching the 3,371,000 mark, having now regained much of the decrease which took place after the last war when numbers dropped from 3,998,000 in 1945 to a 30-year low of 2,903,000 in 1951.

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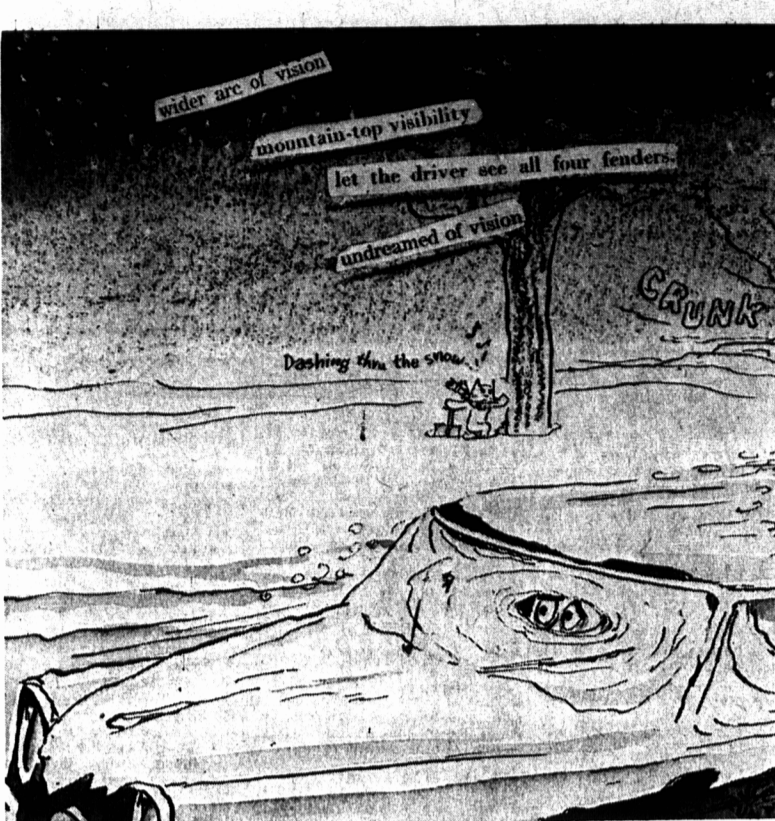
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How's That Again?

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.

SATURDAY CLOSING

Sir.—Mr. O'Brien's letter in yesterday's Guardian on the matter of a decision by vote of 17 to 13 in favor of closing Charlottetown's stores on Saturday afternoons and evenings no doubt gives him some evidence that the wishes of the Charlottetown merchants have been expressed and represented by the above vote. There are at least 90 odd grocers in business in Charlottetown who have their own association. Two or three grocers were in attendance at the meeting referred to. It is told by members of the Grocers Association that they are nearly all against closing the stores on Saturdays.

The thirteen votes registered against stores closing at the above meeting only represents a small portion of the stores doing business in Charlottetown, but before anyone can claim the above vote of 19 stores as representative of the total opinion on this matter it will very properly concern the City Council when and if it comes to their attention for consideration of this matter to enquire if these 19 votes express the opinion of the majority of the merchants concerned. All are taxpayers to the City's upkeep and revenues, and the City Council will no doubt be very careful of legislation that is not for the good and the welfare of these taxpayers.

For the attention of the City Council may it be pointed out that Charlottetown is still a country town (expanded no doubt) but still with all its obligations to its source of revenue, i.e., the people from the surrounding country. Many merchants state that nearly half their week's business is done on Saturdays. Wednesday afternoon closing has already demonstrated a lost day's business. Try it on Saturdays and see the result. We are soon to have the stiff competition from a large incoming department store. Are we agreeable to throw away Saturday's business which we will all too well need?

Again has anyone consulted the wishes and convenience of the country people who bring our groceries on Saturday and Saturday night? The 19 registered votes above mentioned do not seem to consider the convenience of our principal source of revenue, our Saturday visitors. However there is a sufficient majority of Charlottetown merchants who value the trade of our Saturday visitors to demonstrate to the City Council the wisdom of caution in securing a proper and accurate opinion of all the merchants concerned.

Mr. O'Brien cites the example of the chartered banks in closing on Saturdays. No greater disservice has been done the merchants or the public in general than this action on the part of the banks. At present the merchant has to act as the banker on Saturdays to cash the cheques which the bank should be responsible for, in the case of large cheques, using up his surplus cash.

A personal opinion is that no by-law enforcing the closing of Charlottetown stores on Saturdays will be passed by our City Council until they are assured that this is the desire of a really large majority of the merchants concerned.

I am, Sir, etc. A. L. WRIGHT Charlottetown.

WATER FLUORIDATION

Sir.—The controversy that has prevailed in the past number of years between scientific and non-scientific knowledge in regard to the fluoridation of water has been endless.

It might be advisable for the Mayor of Yarmouth and some, or all, of our Water Commissioners to attend the Dental Hygienic Clinics that are held weekly in our City.

I should feel that the eyeopener that they would get in regard to the enormous loss of teeth, and on top of this, the gross dental caries that is present in our children, would have a tendency to have them at least try fluoridation of water.

If you have space available in your paper, I would appreciate it very much if you would

The Age Old Story

The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

ed their enamel formation on fluoride-free water. Another point made in the latest report is that the six to eight-year-olds in Brantford have now a caries rate comparable to that of their Stratford counterparts drinking naturally fluoridated water.

"No Brantford medical practitioner has observed any ill-effects which might have been attributed to artificial fluoridation. One curious finding is that, although careful examination revealed a slight mottling of teeth in certain Brantford children—an effect usually attributed to fluoride—similar mottling was also occasionally found in fluoride-free Sarnia. Since the amount of mottling was negligible, the finding is of no practical significance."

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HERMINA RICHARDS

Sir.—When first I met Hermina Richards she was a mature artist and I was a boy of fifteen. I shall never forget the night of her first public programme in Charlottetown. How eloquently she performed the works of the masters, and with what a command of her audience. From classic to folksong, all was done with a sensitivity to the inner message and spirit, and interpreted with dynamic verve. How gracious too was her encouragement of the young and uninitiated aspirant! What a kindly interest she took in the fledgling with a modicum of talent!

She was not one to be known overnight. In fact four or five years rolled by before I could know the inner soul at all. A certain air of mystery characterized her. Perhaps it was because of the exile element within that never could quite settle down to the environment of an Anglo-Saxon-Celtic solidarity. The down-to-earth attitude did not suit her soaring spirit, which must crave release in the physical and metaphysical. The sunny skies and milder climate of south Germany and France were her native realm, and the exuberant "gemutlichkeit" of that land of music filled the more primitive and backward northern quarters of the new land. Yet to those who knew her there was a correspondence of soul to soul, of mutual minds dedicated to the high enterprise of the world of musical worlds. An intense spirit of devotion characterized all her motion; here, this too expressed itself in her social relations as apart from music; for these she lived, she liked, but those she did not share a similar treatment in the opposite sense.

When I was nineteen I was invited to her home at Inkerman, where amidst choice surroundings she initiated me into the master works of German song. How rare indeed did the writings of Schubert, Schumann and Brahms appear! How she could pour out her heart, soul and intellect in the singing of the Winter Journey Cycle of Schubert. Oh the aching void of the poet's lonely heart! Oh the dramatic insight of the musician's settings! And all so forthrightly given in that large living room with only perhaps a solitary listener besides our two selves. Or it might be a review of the heavier idiom of Bach, Beethoven or Wagner. Always the deep passionate utterance and interpretation of the composer's inner leit-motif was to the fore.

I am, Sir, etc. SYDNEY, N.S.

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D. A SPECIAL EXERCISE FOR BUERGER'S DISEASE

Even a slight burn can mean serious trouble. If you've got Buerger's disease, and a serious burn on the affected limb might lead to gangrene and eventual amputation. Yet heat is good for your feet and legs. What, then, should you do? As I advised yesterday, don't use hot water bottles, sun lamps or electric pads to warm your feet if you've got Buerger's disease. Instead, get into a chamber full of water heated to precisely 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Get all the way in. Don't just dangle your feet or legs in the water. I think you'll find this about the safest method of applying that needed heat to your affected limb.

Exercise Helps Proper exercise probably will be good for your legs, too. Buerger's exercise is a fairly simple one which you can do at home without any special equipment. Here's how: Raise your affected leg about 60 degrees above a horizontal line. Let it rest there on a table, chair back or some other support, until the blood drains and it becomes blanched, or whitened. Usually, this will take from one-half minute to three minutes. Then, let your foot dangle straight down for from two to five minutes, until it assumes a natural reddish color, after which allow it to rest in a horizontal position for five minutes or so. Now, repeat the cycle. Do this exercise for an hour at a time several times during the day. Its purpose, of course, is to aid circulation in your affected limb.

There are mechanical devices which also might do you some good. These are usually found at hospitals. One is a boot-like contraption which encases your leg in an airtight chamber and subjects it alternately to pressure and suction. Another is an oscillating bed which

alternately tilts your feet higher and then lower than your head. While there have been cases of spontaneous cures, these instances, unfortunately, are rare.

QUESTION AND ANSWER A. T.: Is multiple sclerosis inherited? Answer: There is sometimes a tendency for several cases of multiple sclerosis to occur in the same family. However, it is not usually hereditary.

Value of all livestock on Canadian farms was estimated in 1954 at more than \$2,000,000,000.

Noise control in schools is being tried out at Glencoe, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. Glencoe has quieted tile on the ceilings of corridors and classrooms. And the report is that it has a quieting effect on the students. Might be useful in the home!—St. Catharines Standard.

Do you know why an engine is called "she"? Well here are a few of the reasons: because it fires up quickly, likes to spark, its fond of rings, can make the dust fly, blows off a great deal, requires a pilot and considerable attention, and is always on the chew, drags mails after her, makes many excursions, gets of the track, runs along matrimonial lines, takes kindly to curves, and frequently needs a switch.

Invest more of their surplus funds in South America, the Near East and Far East, and other parts of the world. The two World Wars compelled the British to liquidate many investments on this continent to raise dollars for war purchases. The tightened exchange situations resulting from both wars prevented them from returning Canada as rapidly and as largely as could have been wished. Canceled investments from our own sources and from the United States, but it will benefit Canada and the United Kingdom mutually if more overseas funds can come here. A few years back some British investments in Western oil areas were sold out, the money being diverted to oil development elsewhere. That was too bad because the British then dealt themselves out of one of the world's finest oil resources. They can't easily miss on uranium, as it will be in greater and ever greater demand. — Windsor Star.

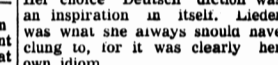
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