

Silence Is Better

External Affairs Minister Pearson has kept a prudent silence on reports of American proposals to warn off possible aggression in Indo-China. Not so Secretary of State Pickersgill! In response to questioning the junior minister told reporters that he sees no possibility of Canadian troops joining the fighting in Indo-China.

To say that the statement is unfortunate is to put it very mildly indeed. If taken seriously, and coming from a Cabinet Minister it will be taken seriously, it means that Canada has announced in advance that aggressors can write off this country's potential. They will thus feel that much more free to apply force and it is possible that the balance between prudence and daring will be upset.

There was no need to say anything at the present time. Canada's support of the United Nations and of the North Atlantic Pact are well known. This country's will to peace is also known. To pretend that our hands are tied in advance from taking any part in events in the Pacific is only to confuse both our friends and those whom we may come to regard as enemies. It weakens the hand of one and may give false assurance to the other.

Teachers' Forum

During the past months a great many people have been discussing the teaching profession, so that it comes most opportunely that the teachers themselves will have a chance to air their views at this time. The Prince Edward Island Teachers' Convention which opens today provides that opportunity.

They will be able to give the professional point of view on the status of the teacher, on developments in educational aims and methods, on the usefulness of teaching aids and on much else that the layman and the politician have been expounding from an outsider's point of view.

Because of their practical responsibilities, however, they may be expected to be much less ready to give simple answers to large questions. It is only the armchair expert who can give the simple and exact solution to problems which involve varied conditions and personalities. The teachers are more likely to content themselves with offering tentative advice which they humbly hope will prove useful to their fellows.

It is all to the good that they have this opportunity of getting together and reminding themselves that they are not plowing a lone furrow but that they are members of a great profession; that countless others are facing similar problems of their own; and that the world is very interested indeed in how they are getting along.

They are welcome to Charlottetown, whose citizens hope that their visitors will enjoy their stay as well as profit by the convention.

Tape Recording Ditched

An experiment with a tape-recording device in the Commons committee on External Affairs has been dropped hastily, reports the Ottawa Journal. This action was taken on a protest from Mr. Drew, and the experimental recording delivered to the Clerk of the House to be destroyed.

Mr. Drew's point, and a good one, was that a tape recording could be erased and sentences broken; and he argued that if committee recordings were to be made they should be on a disk, which could not be erased or altered. But the Leader of the Opposition feared recordings of committees might be followed by their broadcast and that the next step might be to put House committees on television.

"Parliament," comments The Journal, "for its own convenience and as a strictly internal measure has an amplifying system in the Commons chambers—beyond that it had better stick to the old way."

Locally our legislators now have their speeches tape-recorded for posterity, and it is taken for granted that they will be untampered with. Even so, it is questionable whether the benefit outweighs the expense. Years ago, practically verbatim reports of the Legislative debates were made and published in pamphlet form at the end of each session, after first appearing in the newspapers of the day. These provincial "Hansards", dating back to pre-Confederation times, are on file in the Public Library, but who reads them? They gather dust on the shelves reserved for out-

dated bluebooks, and few of our present-day members even know of their existence.

Perhaps the tape recordings will prove more interesting, although the time required to listen to them in unabridged form would tax the patience of Job himself. With proper editing a symposium of the speech-making of each session could be compiled, but the job would be an exacting and thankless one, subject to all kinds of criticism, and giving rise to more time-wasting discussions in the House. The fact is that while our lawmakers' functions remain as important as ever, political speeches no longer attract public interest except during election campaigns. There are exceptions, of course; but in general the demand is for unembellished factual statements, which can be more readily studied in summary press form than by any other means.

One In Step

"Everyone was out of step but my Johnnie." That is a claim that usually only a fond mother can make, but it is valid for this Province in the matter of swine breeding. In the nation generally the quality of hogs is declining. According to Federal agricultural officials in Ottawa the long, lean porker is gradually giving way to the fat unpopular pig and consumers are complaining.

Worse than that, lower hog quality "can have only one result—lower general prices for hogs." Many farmers, it is charged, are still reluctant to accept individual responsibility for the hog business and seem to think that it is the business of the packer or of the government. To some extent that is so, as witness the mere 32 cents a pound premium paid on grade dressed carcasses, a difference recently increased to one dollar.

In this Province, too, the government, particularly the Federal Government, has given invaluable leadership in the pursuit of higher grades. In the final analysis, however, the remarkable showing by the Prince Edward Island Yorkshires has been because our farmers were prepared to take expert advice and put themselves to no inconsiderable trouble to achieve a first rate product.

As a result this Province is in a position to help the rest of the country raise the general standard of bacon production in a much shorter time than would otherwise be possible. To all intents and purposes we have become the source of swine breeding stock for the nation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Saint John is preparing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's discovery of the St. John River June 24, 1604. The event is, indeed, of national and even international interest rather than merely local.

Canadians will invade Normandy on the 10th anniversary of D-Day but by Channel steamer rather than from landing craft as originally planned. The risk from storms is just too great to take for a commemorative pilgrimage although it had to be faced for the wartime landings.

During the next few days meetings will be held in St. John's, Halifax and Saint John by the foreign trade committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to let businessmen air their views on foreign trade. Unlike their opposite numbers in the Central Provinces they will undoubtedly be "for" it.

A party of 32 from the National Defence College of Canada is touring the U. K. Led by Air Vice-Marshal C. R. Dunlap, C.B.E., C.D., the party is now engaged in a series of lectures dealing particularly with the political, economic and military aspects of defence. Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Minister of Defence, and Canada's former Governor-General, is one of the lecturers.

London extended the Freedom of the City to Giuseppe Garibaldi this date 1864. The great Italian patriot, liberator and guerrilla leader was a sailor's son and had commanded a brig by the time he was 23. He was fired with enthusiasm for the Italian national movement but had to go into exile for a time. He joined the revolt against the Emperor of Brazil and aided the Montevideans against the Argentine dictator. He resumed his campaign to unite Italy, his most famous exploit being an expedition against Sicily.

Planning Canada's Resources for the Future will be the subject of a representative national conference to be held at Ottawa, April 22-23 under the sponsorship of five national organizations: The Agricultural Institute of Canada, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, The Canadian Forestry Association, The Canadian Institute of Forestry, and the Engineering Institute of Canada. Delegates from about 100 other national organizations have been invited to attend.



Lots Of Spotlight This Year

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.

PRODUCTION PLUS

Sir, When any one put Herbert Spencer "on the spot" his familiar ipse dixit was, "My dear friend, I can supply you with facts, but I cannot give you the brains to understand them." Had the philosopher Thomas Edison been alive today, ten to one they would have been toying with the idea of a mechanical brain, a mechanical dairy cow, or a new Frankenstein. What though old timers are apt to think that a lot of industrial and social heterodoxies are losing their heads; at least the peasant and the proletariat—that is, where they have not already become zombies or automatons—are asking, "what is scientific research doing to us?"

Is there "some soul of good in things evil would men observingly distil it out?" Within the last generation a NEW industrial revolution has instituted a mad production race. In the next generation it will be exploiting the nation's resources of the oceans. If I don't hurry up I won't have time to figure out why there is less time for leisure and still more mouths to feed. Since every thing that appears on the industrial horizon is NEW, I guess we shall soon be in the NEW limeless age.

The hitched chariot has acquired a tremendous tempo; the heavens and the earth are taking on a new look. The industrial war-torn mountains are being moved and valleys are being filled up. Don Quixote in his wildest abandon never dreamed of changing river and stream beds into such mammoth power projects as are contemplated today. It makes me dizzy to conjure up what man's grey matter will be doing tomorrow.

A man with clay feet may after all get down to grass roots. But, what a surprise awaits him! Big fleets of bulldozers have invaded them the Midas touch. The farmer belongs to the tractor brigade; makes three blades of grass grow where only one grew before; with his tractor lights turning he does more plowing and harrowing in a few hours after dark than his grand dad did in a week. Today if you stand in your field or sit down on your door step the world goes by at such a clip you'll begin to think it has left you so far behind you're back in the dark ages. It would take a Millet or a Markham to portray your dazed look as you wonder "where's it going?"

Men who love the soil are beginning to ask themselves whether this thing called rural life should be called rural experiment. In Saskatchewan at the present time a Royal Commission is studying agriculture and rural life. Prof. W. B. Baker is chairman. In a speech before the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce Prof. Baker is reported to have submitted the following statistics for Sask.: 1936, occupied farms 142,000; 1951, ditto 112,000; 1954, probable estimate 100,000 occupied farms. And notwithstanding this decrease in number of farms and the progress of farm mechanization the total cultivated acreage of Sask. has increased by 100%.

This is a small part of the overall picture of world production. The Most Rev. Gerald Berry, Archbishop of Halifax, in a recent address emphasized the fact that within the last 50 years "the natural resources of the universe have been exploited in new ways" and on such "an unbelievably vast a scale...that more wealth has been produced...than in the 500 years that have preceded."

The NEW stream-lined train as it glides smoothly into the future has passed my horse and buggy on the road, I wonder where I'll be tenting tonight.
I am, Sir, etc.
MINOR SAXON
Including Niagara falls, the Niagara river drops 32 feet in 36 miles from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Trouble is that when we start evaluating this city in a civil defence strategy no one will be sure whether bombs have fallen on the streets or not. —Hamilton Spectator.

New York correspondent claims to have found a man with a million dollars he can't spend. And how have they ever kept him out of politics? —Hamilton Spectator.

Statistics show that professional sword swallows lead a comparatively safe life. After all, they don't have to worry about eating peas with a knife. —Hamilton Spectator.

Knots Vs.

(New York Herald Tribune)
"Knot" is a very old nautical term, deriving from a process of measuring speed at sea that is now virtually obsolete. Yet, curiously enough, it has been found practical and precise for modern air transportation. All the armed services are already using knots for this purpose; after Oct. 1, according to a Civil Aeronautics Board ruling, air lines must do the same. Private flyers may, if they wish, stick to the "miles per hour", or "m.p.h.", which are standard for land travel.

Among the reasons for the general adoption of the knot is that it is a single, convenient word with which to express speed. What is more important, however, is that the knot is based on the nautical mile, of 6,080.26 feet, which is far more satisfactory for navigation at sea and in the air than the statute mile, of 5,280 feet. The latter was derived from the "thousand paces" of Roman times, good enough to measure the advance of Caesar's legions over a tiny fragment of the earth's surface, where landmarks abounded. In the wastes of sea and air, however, a mile which represents a minute of arc of a meridian, and thus has a definite relationship to the basic measurements of the earth, makes better sense.

The word knot comes from the ancient practice at sea of heaving the log: dropping a heavy piece of wood over the stern, attached to a line knotted at intervals of 47 feet 3 inches. A 28-second sand glass gave the time; the number of knots that slipped overboard while the sand was running out showed the ship's rate of speed in nautical miles an hour. This hand log system had to measure speeds over ten knots; it is odd to think what a quartermaster in the old days would have said if he had known that the knots of this simple contrivance would one day be used to express the rate of jet planes travelling 60 times as fast. Nevertheless, there is a certain appropriateness in the fact that the measure which early seamen used to count their progress in unknown seas is still useful in the vastness of the air. Although the first meaning of "knot" is an "interlacement," the word has acquired a spaciousness that "m.p.h." can never convey.

Time has a different meaning for almost every one. For one person it can be expressed as money, for another wisdom, for still another happiness, according to the temperament of the person concerned. Unfortunately, for far too many, time seen only as a barrier separating them from a desirable event and it therefore merely wasted in passing. The full enjoyment of life comes when time is spent pleasantly, whether it be on work or play, for the secret of life is to be happy—from an editorial for young people.—Hamilton Spectator.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

A GOOD YIELD

"Mr. John Newton, of the Warren Farm, planted two pounds of Ladoga wheat on May 9th, which ripened ten days earlier than his White Russian. The product was eleven stooks, which yielded 195 pounds—twice through the fanners—of nearly three and one-third bushels. This lot was over-ripe when cut, shelling very much, besides being tangled and having to be cut with the scythe. Quite a lot of ears remained on the field, and from one-seventh to one-eighth had to be cut out, being smut."

—The Examiner, Nov. 30, 1888.

The Age Old Story

Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. . . And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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MALPEQUE ROAD, P. E. I.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

A LOOK BACK

Often, when I have a spare moment (usually after midnight, especially when the fishing season is on), I like to browse through some periodical of the past and it is surprising to find that many of the things which were written fifty years ago or more are re-written or discussed, under slightly different names and titles, in our own time. On the first page of the May 1903 edition of a certain magazine printed in the United States there appeared this item: "Show as the large tasks are, and perhaps impossible as some of them are within any measurable period, it is significant that the work of some of the governments and of many of the foremost minds of our time is the work of developing backward populations. It is the most straightforward effort that civilization has ever made to extend itself. Evidently the work did not go along as well as it had been expected for the 'backward populations' of the world are still that way and 'foremost minds of our time' are still engaged in trying to find some way of improving their lot."

1903, although only 11 years before the outbreak of the First Great War, was a year in which the world theme was "Peace". There were even indications that war was a thing of the past. So, at least, one would gather from this choice leading article: "The mood of the world—even the ideals of mankind—are changing with this conception of duty (the effort to build up backward nations). The thought of war is gone from all men's minds—except the Turks."

Venezuela and China had been potential danger spots for some time. The article takes note of this as it continues: "The public sentiment of the world would not brook even a little war by any nation against Venezuela, just as it would not permit open hostilities about China. For there is now a definite and in some ways a united public sentiment of the world which may be freely called a new force; and it regards these practical tasks of bringing up inefficient populations to efficiency as the separate nations once regarded the acquisition of new territory. Economic efficiency is more desirable and more necessary than military glory." All this proves that the years bring very few essential changes. Those words might have been in yesterday's newspaper instead of in a fifty year old magazine.

What was causing all this grand public sentiment in 1903? The article explains: "The industrial age is making this change in the world's thought, and this change may turn out to be its chief contribution to civilization. It is worth noting, too, that this is not a movement of theorists, not a millennial plan of dreams. It is the work of practical men; for their thought is built up out of action, and they have no utopian schemes manufactured out of dreams universal peace. It is the statesmanship of the industrial type of man whose imagination deals with the concrete products of well-directed labor in a world filled with men who have hands to work with." What wonderful things were expected from this industrial age!

Nicholas the Second had been on the throne of Holy Russia for about nine years and for some time had been disturbed by rumblings of discontent which had been reaching him in all sorts of roundabout ways. Communism was still a text-book theory but there were indications that it was being discussed incertain radical groups and Nicholas, who from all reports was a kindly soul and well-disposed towards all classes of the people, was anxious to save the nation from what he called "designs hostile to the State". He, therefore, had issued a decree which, theoretically at any rate, would have the effect of increasing the personal freedom of the peasantry (his father had technically freed them from serfdom) and of assuring religious freedom which hitherto the all-powerful Orthodox Church had reserved to itself.

He issued the decree, so he said, "because on ascending the throne of our ancestors by the Providence of God we made a solemn vow before the Almighty to guard sacredly the centuries-old pillars of Russian power and to dedicate our life to the service of our beloved fatherland in indefatigable solicitude for our subjects". This, it will be noted, was only fourteen years before the Revolution which was to do away with all reference to the Almighty in Russia's affairs.

The magazine expresses scepticism over any good immediate effect of this decree, chiefly because of what it calls "the virtual omnipotence of Russian bureaucracy which is opposed to change." The good intentions of the Czar were acknowledged but "since he is at heart more liberal than most of his subjects," it wasn't likely that the reforms would be put into practice.

The article ends with a paragraph which is especially interesting at this time. "But the desire has shaken the stolid state of mind of immobile Russian thought. It puts an ideal before thinking men. It moves all Russia, by a little at least, further toward Europe. The one certain result (of the decree) is the agitation of Russian thought."

The Poet's Corner

SPRING WINDING

Somebody is going around through Spring Winding things up. Beneath the stars Heifers, let out to the first green hills, Bawl their joy to the pasture bars.

Someone has wound the young frogs up: The water-meadows all night long Are filled with silver crying brighter Than the growing moon. And song

Of birds, with wound-up music frogs up: For thrush, shake opening lilac blooms. Somebody is going around through Spring Winding up hearts in sunrise rooms.

—Frances Frost.

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CITY TAX APPEALS

The adjourned meeting for the hearing of Civic Appeals will be resumed at 10:00 A.M. today in the City Police Court.

J. A. FULLERTON,

City Clerk.