

A Peace Department?

A member of the United States Congress, Representative Harley O. Staggers of West Virginia, has come up with a proposal to create a Department of Peace in the Federal Government.

For all that, it seems unlikely that the United States Congress will act favourably on the proposal at this time, although Mr. Staggers seems to think that it has a good chance of being accorded a good hearing.

There is no doubt that anti-United Nations sentiment has been growing in the United States for some time; perhaps Mr. Staggers' proposal—however commendable it may be in principle—is just one more phase in the process.

A Serious Charge

In a book recently published in France, author Richard Aldington says that the late T. E. Lawrence was "a fake and a humbug." This is a serious charge to lay against a man who during the First Great War and in the years immediately following it was numbered among Britain's outstanding soldiers.

Lawrence's place in military history was the subject of considerable controversy a few years back; evidently, it has not died down completely. It seems, however—Mr. Aldington's views notwithstanding—that the consensus of informed opinion is that he was a heroic and sagacious leader, although allowances have to be made for certain exaggerated stories which his Arab admirers—following their traditional imaginative thinking—circulated about him, probably without his knowledge, certainly without his consent.

significant that the book containing the "fake and humbug" charge has not been produced in either Britain or the United States.

Exploring Mars

Everybody is interested in the "outer world" these days; it could not be otherwise when the scientists and their engineers are already talking about interplanetary travel, anchored and revolving air bases in space, and all the other great expectations and whimsical speculations of the new atomic-rocket age.

In this connection a little book entitled "Exploring Mars" and recently published by McGraw-Hill is of special interest and usefulness. Its author, Robert S. Richardson, is no mere fictionist, depending on a lively imagination, but an astronomer of note and a writer of experience.

From these and related facts Mr. Richardson goes on to certain plausible speculations. He points out that the Martian year contains 687 days which, possibly, could have considerable effect on seasonal changes, which, in turn, could very well make possible the growth of simple plants.

EDITORIAL NOTES

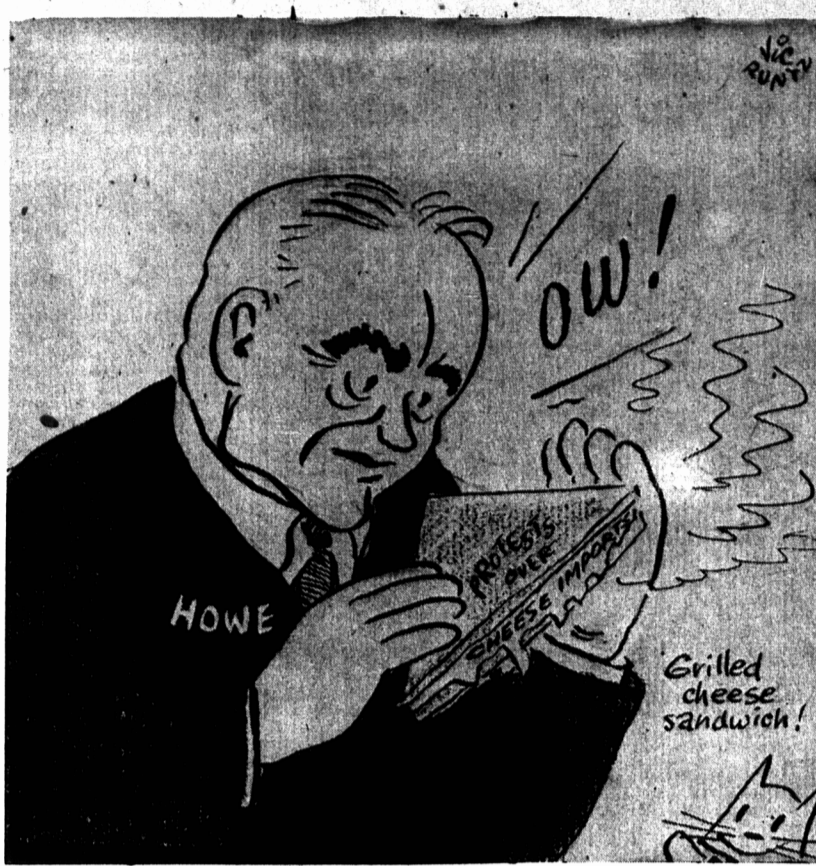
Queen Victoria died this date, 1901.

High on the list of our Nominations for Extermination, says an exchange, are the motorists who stop on the pedestrian's cross-walk, thereby forcing the foot-passengers out into the path of oncoming traffic.

Statistics compiled by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce from government sources indicate that not only is the industrial worker keeping up with the cost of living but he has more than passed it. In 1939 when the consumer price index was 63.2 the industrial composite weekly earnings was \$23.44.

The United States may have most of the world's gold; but that fact, apparently, doesn't have much softening effect on its national debt which at the moment amounts to approximately \$275 billion, about \$1700 for each man, woman, and child in the country.

In reprimanding a crown attorney for advising police not to allow two prisoners to see "anyone" until an investigation into their alleged offences had been completed, Mr. Justice Roach of the Ontario Supreme Court noted that "it is fundamental to our way of life that the freedom of the individual must not be restricted except in so far as may be absolutely necessary."



A Little On The Hot Side

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.

WEST RIVER BRIDGE

Sir—After many years of waiting, a bridge is to be built across the West River to serve the people of Rocky Point and the South Shore. The site selected is not approved by a great number of the people it is intended to serve.

On what basis the site was selected, is not known. Whether it was to suit the ideas and plans of our engineers or whether the government deferred to other pressure, is not apparent. It is apparent, however, that many South Shore people object to present plans, and these are the people most concerned that is the people who must at present use the Rocky Point Ferry to reach Charlottetown.

Would it not be well to introduce a little bit of realism into the planning of the bridge. It would not be impossible or costly to have a plebiscite in the two or three polls involved, and get the opinion of the people to whom the bridge means so much.

Perhaps another site would involve greater costs, but the bridge will be in service for fifty years, and once it is built, no government will feel like rectifying the mistake of placing it in the wrong location.

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PLANNED MEDIOCRITY

Sir—The latitude allowed students in the choice of subjects to be studied under the progressive dispensation is turning into a boomerang in the U. S. Basing his opinion on a study of 104 public school systems in 44 of the 48 states, Professor Latimer of George Washington U., says that less than half the students study mathematics; the percentage of students taking algebra has dropped from 55 to 20 since 1900; and only 1 in 20 takes physics.

Commenting on the results of his survey, Latimer says: "We have gotten away from individual effort. By permitting the high schools to become the vocational bargain basements of education, we have insulted the student's intelligence and encouraged mediocrity by prescribing mediocre subject matter as an incentive for mediocre minds."

In a recent letter on the subject of reading, I quoted a critic of the new method. His views were airily dismissed as the opinion of an individual. Another proof of progressivist inability to make proper distinctions. The person I quoted happens to be head of a theological institution; a man who has daily proof of the inadequacy of the new

The Age Old Story

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

New Zealand Volcano

By J. C. Graham Canadian Press

Mount Egmont, a volcano 8,260 feet high on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island, is supposed to be extinct. But queer things have been happening recently.

Residents hear thunder from a clear sky. They feel jolts, thumpings and shock waves which stop clocks but do not register on seismographs. They find fish washed up on the shore as though dynamited and patches of muddy water in a calm sea.

Some say the growls and rumblings that disturb their sleep come from the mountain; others say from the ocean. A group of geophysicists engaged in a survey for oil heard three distinct explosions from the mountain, yet no sign of volcanic activity has been found.

The natives of New Zealand, the Maoris, declare there is nothing queer about it. The whole thing can be explained from their legends.

The Maori story is that Mount Egmont once dwelt with other volcanoes in the centre of North Island. But there was rivalry for the love of the female mountain, Ruapehu. Egmont was defeated and fled to the coast where he

method of teaching reading; a man who had to devise ways and means to help his charges overcome a handicap that is retarding their progress in their specialized studies.

My contention that some parents do their children's homework as well as read for them is not disproved in the least by the hectic tempo of modern social life.

The late hour at which people nowadays have to go to dances, parties, etc., gives them ample time to do the little home-work demanded by the up-to-date school. An odd mother who went through a progressive school herself may be a few minutes late at her bridge club, that's all.

Reading is a stumbling-block to many in more ways than one. I knew of a self-made man who, because he could not read the blue prints, concluded prematurely that he had finished the job.

I am, Sir, etc., W. J. ENRIGHT St. John, N. B.

paused to lick his wounds for several centuries. Some day, the Maoris say, Egmont will strike back at his hated rival in a fiery eruption. That rival, the volcano Ngauruhoe, has been shouting defiance for several months in its most violent eruption in living memory. Egmont, the Maoris declare, is at last beginning to stir in preparation for a devastating counter-blow.

This could all be dismissed as a fable except that scientists have proved that the greater part of one of the volcanoes in the centre of the island was in fact blown away in a colossal upheaval some time in the past. And geologists have found that the river which runs from the centre of the island to Mount Egmont follows the line of a distinct volcanic rift.

And to this day the Maoris, who usually had a practical reason behind their legends, are opposed to living along the line between the central volcanoes and Egmont. While not accepting the Maori version, the government is nevertheless concerned at the possibility of an eruption of Egmont, once believed to have been extinct for thousands of years.

The Auditor-General Watson Sellar's repeated criticisms of Government accounts and accounting methods have reached the stage where they imply a criticism of Parliament. For years he has been hammering away at the failure of the Government to use its so-called cash accounts for strictly cash transactions. Time and again he has pointed to the irregularity of expenditures without authority from Parliament, and to wasteful practices in the purchase and use of supplies.

As an officer responsible only to the House of Commons, his reports are addressed to that body. The necessity for the repetition of these complaints would not arise if Parliament took as serious a view of them—and of the underlying principles involved—as the Auditor-General does.

But because members on both sides of the House fail to make use of this information, the salary paid the Auditor-General, and the costs of his office, themselves become an additional waste for which Parliament, and not the Government, is responsible.

Toronto Globe and Mail. —Lord Tennyson.

By shaping some august decree, Which kept her throne unshaken still, Broad-based upon her people's will, And compassed by the inviolate sea.

Her court was pure; her life serene; God gave her peace; her land repose; A thousand claims to reverence closed In her as Mother, Wife, and Queen; And statesmen at her council met Who knew the seasons when to take Occasion by the hand, and make The bounds of freedom wider yet.

BOOK SALE

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A man may be so totally lost to hope that he will refuse to believe he can ever do or be anything, but few ever get so far down that they can't imagine a woman might be in love with them. —Brandon Sun.

The city of the future will not grow haphazardly. Its transportation problem and that of its water supply will be in running order before there is a passenger within miles. It streets will be wide enough for parking at both curbs and for parking in the middle. —Sherbrooke Record.

Birds and small animals seem to realize that persons who put out food for them are acting as friends. They don't seem nearly so timid in the presence of human beings at this time of year and come within a few feet of people who are tossing crumbs, grain or pine cones. While nature has a way of preserving her wild life—it makes a big difference if human beings do what they can to help during the stormier seasons of the year. —Brookville Recorder and Times.

From Vienna comes the report that 2500 Viennese wives have voted on the characteristics that make a perfect husband. Efficiency in his job won the most votes. Following efficiency were such homely and wholesome virtues as faithfulness, being good provider, intelligence, having a sense of humor, strength, sobriety and so on. Regarding this report a Baltimore Sun writer comments: Nowhere a word for the ability to drape the waist. Nowhere the requirement of appearing in the dining uniform of the hussar. These we would have imagined were the prerequisites of any desirable man in Vienna. Could there be better evidence that romance is dead and that the job of being a husband is as prosaic there as in other parts of the world? —Galt Reporter.

The importance of science in the fisheries industry ought to be reflected upon more by the youth of B.C., just as in the case of science and the forestry industry, science and mining, science and chemistry and electricity and so on. There is scope and opportunity in all these intriguing fields for ambitious young men and women. And our own province abounds in all these resources. Why should young men want to drift into idle, fruitless, aimless lives where by self-application they can qualify themselves for permanent and profitable employment in such spheres? —Nanaimo Free Press.

The hazards of a common language have been demonstrated again. Some congressional secretaries from Washington, on a cooperative vacation tour of England, were started to find themselves described in a London newspaper as "homely." Before all had written letters of protest to their congressmen, however, a thoughtful diplomat explained to the ladies that they had been paid a high compliment. In England "homely" doesn't mean ugly or unappealing. To say a woman seems homely is to describe her as the domestic type, as distinguished from the women who demand to be taken to night clubs. She's the sort an Englishman would like to marry. Upon learning that the secretaries concluded that the English are indeed a people of great discernment. —Cleveland Press.

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