

Slightly Disturbing

The news from Ghana, the newly created nation of the Commonwealth, is slightly disturbing to those of us who had hoped that it would become a strong bulwark of the Commonwealth principle in Africa.

A tentative agenda for the proposed meeting will include such subjects as foreign policy, economic cooperation, the future of African dependencies, the racial problem and ways and means of safeguarding the independence of those African states which already have achieved sovereignty.

There is nothing, of course, in any of these subjects to cause uneasiness in the Western world. Moreover, the fact that Mr. Nkrumah is summoning other African and Middle-East governments to talk on matters of common interest may indicate merely that he is anxious to do something to show that his country is totally free and independent.

Wise And Prudent

Someone has described an election campaign as "that strange period when politicians suddenly discover that 'the people' are very wise and prudent." Sure enough, no sooner had Prime Minister St. Laurent announced that the federal election will be held on June 10 than two prominent politicians, one a Liberal and the other a Conservative, expressed complete confidence in the good sense of the Canadian people, or some such honourable sentiment.

When the election is over and the results have been tabulated, one or the other will have to revise his pre-election faith in the public wisdom; and thereby hangs a tale. No one has told it better than that incomparable humourist of the early part of the century, Joel Chandler Harris, who made one of his characters, Billy Sanders, say to another, a politician: "The trouble with you fellers is that you talk one way when you're runnin' and another way when you get left. You get up and say the people can be trusted, that their hearts is in the right place, an' that they can see as fur thro' a mill-stone as the next one; an' then, after the people have made up their minds an' concluded for to put t'other side in, you fling back your head an' say the country is ruined. Now, what's the reason the people ain't got as much sense after the election as they have before? That's what I want to know, an' nobody won't tell me.

"Let me tell you, my friend, if any party was to take an' bury the Constitution a mile deep in the ground, the people would go to work an' dig it up an' put it back in the

old frame, an' you wouldn't hardly know it had been took out. That's the plain truth. You say you trust the people; well then trust 'em, by jing! Don't play at trustin' 'em.

"I reckon you've often noticed that the people trust themselves. They'll holler an' whoop when the politicians ax 'em for to stand up an' be men an' vote to save the government from teetotal ruin; but when they git off to themselves in the little knots and groups whar they settle all these questions, they make a joke of the whole business. They know mighty well that if one party goes wrong, they can make it pay a purty price for the spree; an' they've allers done it. More'n that, they ain't jackasses enough in the world to fool 'em all the time or even a good part of the time."

That was Mr. Harris' way of saying that the people are wise and prudent. For the next few weeks politicians of all stripes could do worse than ponder it.

Nasser's Victory

Any day now—if it has not already been done—American freighters will be given the signal by the State Department to proceed through the Suez Canal and pay the required tolls, in full, to Egyptian collectors en route. Thus, Colonel Nasser's victory will be made complete.

The Canal Users' Association, which Secretary Dulles was instrumental in creating in those days when the United States was making a pretense of opposing Egypt's seizure of the canal; the "6 points", also sponsored by the United States in the U.N. Security Council and under which Egypt agreed to keep the canal isolated from the politics of any country; the plan whereby a part of toll payments would be put into the World Reconstruction Bank or some such international agency; the insistence of the United States—and the U.N.—on freedom of passage for ships of all nations, including Israel—all these will go in the discard. As far as the United States is concerned, the only thing left will be "assumptions" which Mr. Dulles interprets to mean what he wants it to mean at any particular moment and which he is making increasingly clear to Israel do not mean anything that Colonel Nasser could possibly find disagreeable. He has even gone to the trouble of explaining that the American tanker which sailed through the Straits of Tiran to the Israeli port of Elath was not a "test case" after all, although that is how he described it before the ship went through and before Egypt and Saudi Arabia protested the description.

For all practical purposes, the United States has surrendered to Colonel Nasser on all points which were at issue and expects the other powers to do the same. Whether they will or not remains to be seen; but it is clear that the dispute between Britain, France and Israel, on the one hand, and the United States on the other, is still far from being resolved. Meanwhile, the dictator of Egypt and his Soviet counsellors can afford to be jubilant, for the time at any rate, over the way things have gone.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Nikita Khrushchev, head of Soviet Communism, recently celebrated his 63rd birthday anniversary. Strangely, according to a report from Moscow, it was a quiet affair, no mention of it having been made in the press. This may have been an oversight. On the other hand it may mean that Mr. Khrushchev's star is on the wane.

The British Government is considering undertaking an investigation into the price of newsprint which is now \$168 a ton compared to \$28 before World War Two. A United States Congressional committee is in the process of making a similar inquiry. The Canadian Government apparently takes the view that it would be a waste of time and effort.

President Eisenhower told reporters the other day "my brother Edgar has been a critic of mine ever since I was five years old." Edgar is a year older than the President, and that, of course, gives him the right to be critical. He is not satisfied, however, with criticising the President. Another brother, Milton, who is head of John Hopkins University, has come in for censure for being "too liberal".



THE SEARCH CONTINUES

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

WHOSE MONEY IS IT?

Sir.—We are glad to hear that there are three members of our Provincial Legislature who are intelligent enough to know right from wrong and have moral integrity enough to refuse money that was never meant for them. This refers to a vote taken in the House and carried, that the yearly indemnity with expenses be increased from \$1,500 per each private member to \$1,950. We would understand that this raise was embodied in a separate cheque to each, which three have refused to accept. The reason for refusing good money is explained by R.R. Bell who states: "that in view of the admitted serious financial position of the Province at the present time and in view of the Government's inability to increase salaries of teachers and other deserving civil servants, that members should not seek, ask for or accept, any increased remuneration."

Province stands in need of many things, first of all, education, down to repairing the dirt roads. But judging by all the tears that were shed a few weeks ago, for the teachers who were quitting the profession and so many small rural schools unable to carry on, the investment in education in the Province would have been now on the priority, but to our surprise a "raise" amounting to \$9,450,000 was voted on the 17th of April, to give every private member another cheque of \$450,000 each.

So now we suggest that these three members accept their cheques and endorse them now on the P.E.I. Island Teachers Federation. The writer being independent in politics and never having seen the inside of a Progressive/Conservative convention, has surely a right to speak.

I am, Sir, etc., Kensington, P.E.I. MacKENZIE

HOSPITAL INSURANCE

Sir.—For many years I understood that China was the only country on the globe that practised "brain washing," but to my surprise Ottawa is very clever at this new art. Had not the case at hand been for the benefit of our people and the cleansing away of antique ideas I would not pen my approval, as I ever wish to live as an optimist and offer constructive criticism. Only in this case it has to do with a National Hospital Insurance plan—a plan that will materially assist every citizen on P.E.I. including our hospitals.

Nevertheless our Premier was strongly opposed to this plan and said so in words of disdain right in our own Provincial House, and few or none of our members spoke in favor of this new social security program, that we dreamed of for many years and is now about to blossom under the leadership of Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of Health and Welfare.

I am safe in saying that not over seven or eight per cent of our Island people have any hospital coverage in any form, compared to Ontario which has over seventy-two per cent of its people protected under different plans including the Blue Cross. And yet their Premier, Mr. Frost, has joined up in order that they should have a complete coverage. Now what has happened since our delegation of Premier Martin, Hon. Mr. Clark, and Hon. Mr. Cullen visited Ottawa? A complete change of mind in regard to the National Hospital Plan. We know there is an election coming up the 16th of June, and we Islanders are not all asleep. We, too, are human beings needing hospital care—and that without notice very often. So, a platform with a missing plank for Prince Edward Island wouldn't be very acceptable. As I said before a true socialist worries little about the source of social reform, so I close congratulating those three gentlemen that went to Ottawa, for accepting Ottawa's Hospital plan, and I trust that our Government will find no particular handicap in financing this plan. I am, Sir, etc., HARRY PRIDHAM, Alberton, P.E.I., April 20th, 1957.

U. S. Farm Situation

By Ovid Martin, Associated Press, Washington

Time is becoming a vital element in efforts of the Eisenhower administration to leave the farm situation in better shape than it found it in 1953.

Certainly, what the administration does between now and the elections in 1960 may have a lot to do with the chances of holding out the White House that year.

Moving into its fifth year in office, the administration is faced by three hard facts:

1. Farm prices are 13 per cent below the level prevailing when Eisenhower took office.

2. Farm surpluses are nearly three times as large as they were at that same time.

3. The government has spent more on agriculture during the first four years of the administration than in the preceding 20 years.

As these facts clearly indicate, the administration has a big job getting agriculture back where it was four years ago.

It is a recognition of this task—and the relative shortness of time remaining—that is leading Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson to say that present programs need drastic overhauling. Otherwise, he says, surpluses at the end of the administration may be as large as they are now.

HUGE INVESTMENT The government now has \$8,360,000,000 invested in farm surpluses. The investment four years ago was \$2,912,000,000. This big increase was made in the face of broad use of crop production control programs and expenditure of upwards of \$4,000,000,000 in subsidizing exports.

Of course, Benson says that programs of the Truman administration, which by law he was required to use through 1954, contributed heavily to the buildup of surpluses.

Two years of programs patterned largely after Benson's recommendations have cut the investment in surpluses about \$500,000,000. This is not fast enough.

DAYLIGHT TIME

Sir.—Being a former Islander, I am interested in the daylight saving question on P.E.I. A few years ago I was farming there myself, and I'll admit, I wasn't for it, but since coming here and taking up an eight-hour job, I can see both sides of the question.

A lot of people claim daylight saving is only for the so-called "big shots" in town, but, believe me, the majority of workers in Charlottetown, or any other city or town, are definitely not "big shots" but hard-working, and not so highly paid, men and women. It doesn't make so much difference to the "big shots", as they can quit most any time they feel like it, but the little fellow has to keep plugging for the full eight hours, and very often longer, and it does mean a lot to them to have the extra hour of daylight in the evening.

Also, when you have visitors and travelling men that have occasion to go to the Island, complaining and wisecracking about the confusion of the different time zones, one can't help but come to the conclusion that the Islanders should do the same as the rest of the country. How about it? I am, Sir, etc., STILL AN ISLANDER, Sydney, N.S.

PLUNGED TO DEATH ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—Michael Morel, 15, plunged to his death down an 800-foot sheer granite side of nearby Stone Mountain Monday while spectators watched helplessly. Witnesses said the youth slipped about on the mountain crest for nearly five minutes, grasping pieces of moss and brush to slow his fall, before plunging over a ledge to his death. His parents were in their car at the foot of the mountain.

SMALL FIRMS Only three per cent of West Germany's 18,400,000 industrial employees work in companies employing more than 200 workers.

however. It would take an annual reduction of more than three times that amount—or about \$1,316,000,000—to get the investment down to the pre-Eisenhower level by election time in 1960.

The secretary is counting some on the new soil bank program to help reduce surpluses. Under this program, the department is authorized to pay farmers up to \$1,200,000,000 a year to retire land from production of surplus crops. MANY STAY OUT

But there is serious doubt among farm leaders that it will do the job. In the first place, many farmers are staying out of the program, preferring to take their chances on producing all that is possible under whatever federal limitations that may be in effect.

In the second place, reports show that poorest-producing land is being retired and that extra heavy use of fertilizers is being made on the remainder of the land in an attempt to keep total production as close as possible to previous levels.

During the last three years, the administration has had the benefit of a much broader export subsidy program than it is likely to have during the next three. In 1954 Congress authorized the department to sell \$3,000,000,000 worth of farm surpluses to friendly countries not only at cut-rate prices, but for currencies of those countries.

This \$3,000,000,000 authorization has been used up and the president has requested an addition of only \$1,000,000,000 for the period ahead.

The things that worry Benson most are provisions of present crop control and price support laws. Under these laws, he is required to raise price support rates and to liberalize planting allotments as surpluses decline.

Benson says that higher supports and larger planting allotments would encourage uneeded increases in production which could only rebuild new surplus stocks.

OLD AGE Tell me of rapture, hope, and love's decision / O poet of the secrets of my soul, Give an answer that will solve my vision. Not ancient teachings and austere control. Alas, sweet singer to a vanished lover. You strike false chords in tones of bitter-sweet. Forgetting love and all strange hours are over. Lost in swift streams where youth and passion meet. And now we move in gardens of pale flowers, While roses of remembrance in our hair. And answers to the questions that were ours Dissolve in bleakness of their own despair. For us in this low ground the stars are mute, Neither is there honey nor forbidden fruit. Susan Fort Redfern, In the New York Times.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Budeses, M.D.

BABY NOT "FULLY BORN" UNTIL FOUR WEEKS OLD

IT has been said that, in a sense, a baby is not fully born until he is about four weeks old. About the only sound he can make during the first month of life is to cry. Along about the end of this period, he begins to make low throaty noises. Because portions of his system are not yet organized completely, he'll wake fitfully, sneeze and choke occasionally.

SUDDEN NOISES

Sudden noises will startle him. Upon hearing them he may cry, his body may become rigid and he may move his arms outward with fingers outstretched and clenched.

Yet, this is entirely a reflex action. A lot of this tender age doesn't reach with his hands. Rather, he reaches with his eyes. The most active and adept muscles he has at this stage of life are the 12 tiny muscles of his eyes.

This doesn't mean that he can see in any real sense. A newborn baby is almost blind. An infant has only 20-2000 vision. This means he can see at a distance of 20 feet what a person with normal, fully developed eyesight can see at 2,000 feet.

Even if he could read, an infant would not be able to recognize a letter on the nearby wall unless it was 2 1/2 feet tall. Gradually, a baby's vision becomes better and better. By the time he is one year old, he has 20-150 vision. At the age of two he has progressed to 20-40, still short of the 20-20 standard.

SPOTS NOT TEETH

Only rarely are babies born with teeth. Some mothers mistakenly identify little white pearl-like spots which appear on the gums as teeth. These spots are simply small hard collections of cells that will cause no harm and will disappear naturally in time.

An infant has a lot of developing to do during his early life. QUESTION AND ANSWER Mrs. S.S.: Is liquor injurious to a person who has hardening of the arteries? ANSWER: Whether or not alcoholic beverages should be used by a person with hardening of the arteries could only be determined by the physician who after making a careful examination, will decide whether their use might be harmful.

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The Age Old Story

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OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 23, 1932)

The work of loading the steamer "Thyra" at Georgetown is nearing completion and it is expected that she will sail for New York early next week. This is the first steamer to load at Georgetown for the season and took on a cargo of some eighty cars of potatoes for Great Britain.

Inspector J. Fripps, who is here in connection with the organization of the Provincial Police under the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, has been appointed Inspector-in-charge. Inspector Fripps, who came to the Magillites from Vancouver, last served as second in command at Moncton, N.B.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 23, 1947)

A bill respecting the production, processing and distribution of fluid milk read in the Legislature yesterday provides that milk containers shall be properly labelled, regularly inspected and analyzed, and that certificates must be obtained by all operators of dairy farms. The bill also provides for grading milk according to bacteriological, chemical and physical conditions.

A well-attended and enthusiastic organization meeting to launch the Charlottetown drive in the cancer campaign was held at the Charlottetown Hotel last evening. Mr. L. F. Macdonald, chairman of the Charlottetown campaign, presided and stated that the campaign was a worthy one and should be supported by all.

NEHRU TO VISIT SWEDEN

NEW DELHI (AP)—Prime Minister Nehru will visit Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland before attending the British Commonwealth conference opening June 26 in London.

MAXIMS

Nothing can be great which is not right.

NOTES BY THE WAY

After a woman has parked her new car, her big problem is which of the three meters to put the nickel in.—Brandon Sun

The Daily Indiagram says Mr. Krishna Menon dealt exhaustively with the Kashmir dispute. Exhaustive is right. He delivered a 7 1/2-hour speech.—Toronto Star

A jewel among wives is the one who is happy when leaving a party because her cloth coat is so easy to pick out among all the minks on the bed.—Hamilton Spectator

A potato bug is an insect which looks over the shoulder of seed store salesmen to see who is buying potatoes for planting.—Sarnia Canadian Observer

The Prime Minister doesn't know and doesn't want to know anything about Liberal campaign funds and their origin. Fortunately for him and his party there are those among his associates with a keen interest in such mundane affairs.—Ottawa Journal

One of the oldest movie actors still alive who will be remembered by those who recall the days of the silent screen is Sydney Blackmer who first rose to fame in the noted serial, "Perils of Pauline" more than 40 years ago. He has just signed to appear in his 214th screen role.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

No wonder our nation is getting soft. Now you can get \$64,000 just for knowing Shakespeare by heart. In our pioneer days you had to guess the number of books in a five-gallon jar, and then you only get five bucks in merchandise.—Minneapolis Tribune

Pedestrians who have been scared half to death by an unexpected blast from an automobile horn should take warning. They haven't heard anything yet. The motor industry is making horns louder. And there one plunk model will sound off with four.—Renfrew Mercury

There are more memories in the family's medicine chest than in any photograph album.—Hamilton Spectator

Among occupational groups, a survey discloses, farmers have the fewest headaches. Either that or they have so many other problems they don't notice them.—Winnipeg Tribune

Man is the only creature endowed with the power of laughter; you can often laugh at him, too.—Toronto Telegram

In Baltimore there's a chimpanzee named Betsy that's winning fame as a finger painter, and it may explain some of this abstract art that's hanging around in saloons.—T.D.F., in Ottawa Citizen

All Canadian infantry units are expected to be issued with the new FN automatic .300-calibre rifle this year. So farewells to the old .303 single-action Lee-Enfield, so long a standby for Canadian troops.—Brandon Examiner

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