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 "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."
 TUESDAY, NOV. 16, 1954

Commonwealth Relations

Britons were told by a former ambassador to the United States that the regional interests of Commonwealth powers made it clear that "a policy of going it alone would split and destroy the Commonwealth if it was ever submitted seriously for decision. It would be unacceptable to both the Asian and Western members."

One of the reasons for Sir Oliver Franks' caution presumably is that in recent European developments Britain first avoided continental commitments because she felt that she had to consider members of the Commonwealth who might not take kindly to such undertakings in which they had little or no voice. Subsequently, rather than see the organization of Europe disintegrate, the United Kingdom entered into extensive and long-term engagements to participate in European defence and economy.

The fact is that Canada, South Africa, Pakistan, Australian and other Commonwealth nations have been entering into non-Commonwealth arrangements for trade and defence, both through the United Nations and its subordinate organizations and on a bilateral basis. Indeed whenever circumstances seemed to a Commonwealth country to require a special agreement it was made forthwith, often with little concern about the approval or disapproval of other members.

It seems only fair, under the circumstances, that Britain should consider herself free to do likewise. On the other hand, there is much to be gained by Commonwealth countries working closely together and while no one can object to the particular decisions reached by any other, it will be to the benefit of all that, whenever possible, the interests of other Commonwealth nations be regarded when bilateral agreements are being considered.

Fluoridation Report

A round-up of academic opinion on the subject of fluoridation of water supplies to prevent dental caries, has been compiled by the Fluoridation Committee of the Health League of Canada, and is being published in brochure form.

At the request of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities the Health League, Canada's voluntary association in the field of health education and preventive medicine, last spring formed a committee to investigate the pros and cons of fluoridation. This committee solicited the opinions of the heads of Departments of Preventive Medicine in every North American university and college having such a department. It was the only survey of its kind ever undertaken. The reason the league committee sought opinions from university authorities was that it believed academic sources would be the most likely to be free from political or economic pressure and still be thoroughly familiar with the subject of fluoridation.

The significant result of this round-up of opinion was that out of 81 department heads who responded not one expressed himself as being against fluoridation. Six pleaded insufficient knowledge of the subject, while the remaining 75 offered straightforward endorsements of the principle of fluoridation as a means of reducing the incidence of dental caries without doing any damage to the human organism.

The Canadian publication of the report contains a few revisions and additions to the original report. It consists largely of quotations from the letters of academic department heads on fluoridation. The Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities has undertaken to distribute 4,000 copies of the pamphlet.

Soviet Propaganda Backfires

The latest edition of the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia is causing a peck of trouble for Mr. Molotov. With this official reference work now available in foreign countries, people in neighboring India have been delving curiously into those articles which deal with India, Indian history and Indian personalities. The result is noted in the Winnipeg Free Press. Mr. Molotov would normally welcome such a display of interest; he has of late directed his best efforts towards attracting India into a benevolent and fraternal order of western-hating Asiatic states. It turns out, unfortunately, that the Moscow encyclopaedists, reared in the age of Stalin, are unreliable guides in the new Malenkov era of enlightenment. At the very time when it is most essential to win friends and influence Indians, a

work appears which describes India's late great leader as the "author of the reactionary teachings of Gandhism; hailing from the Banya caste, which engaged in trade and usury. . . . He actively helped British imperialism by organizing and leading an Indian sanitary unit which served the British army in its invasion in the land of the Zulul, destroying them with fire and sword."

The article goes on to say that Gandhi "betrayed the people and helped the imperialists" during the struggle for independence, and that Gandhism "widely exploits religious prejudices and the Hindu dogma about the unconditional subordination of the lower to the upper class. . . ."

Naturally it is most difficult to distinguish between the viewpoint of an official encyclopaedia and that of the Soviet government. The Indians, with full justice are very angry. The Hindu of Madras, recalling the disappearance of Mr. Beria from the pages of Russian history, notes moderately and accurately that "respect for objective truth is not one of the Communist virtues." According to reports from New Delhi, the government will voice its indignation officially to the Soviet ambassador, Mr. Mikhail Menshikov.

Basically Strong

Despite damaged crops, tighter world markets, surplus supply and other problems, Canada's estimated farm cash income for 1954 is still "a whacking two and a half billions", states Economist D. L. MacFarlane of McGill's Macdonald College in a lengthy article in the Financial Post. This estimate is less than the record income of last year, but better than in 1950 which was considered a very good year indeed.

"While farm industry is in the midst of adjustments to lower prices which will likely continue for the next few years," Mr. MacFarlane concludes, "the basic position of agriculture is strong. In the first place the downward adjustments in prices and incomes have been much slower and more orderly than experienced after World War I or after the 1929 crash. The chances are excellent that over the next few years adjustments will continue to be moderate."

"The long-run future of Canadian agriculture is pretty well assured by the very promising future of the Canadian economy as a whole. More and more our agriculture is being geared to the domestic market. Thus we may avoid the boom and bust cycles which in the past have been associated largely with the importance of foreign markets to Canadian farmers. On the other hand Canadian farmers have made rapid progress over the last 10 years in mechanizing and adjusting their production practices. These are all to the good. The Prairies, with the wheat price underwritten by the Federal Government, and with a modest crop insurance program, and with the growing industrialization of the region, have ceased to be Canada's number one economic problem."

EDITORIAL NOTES

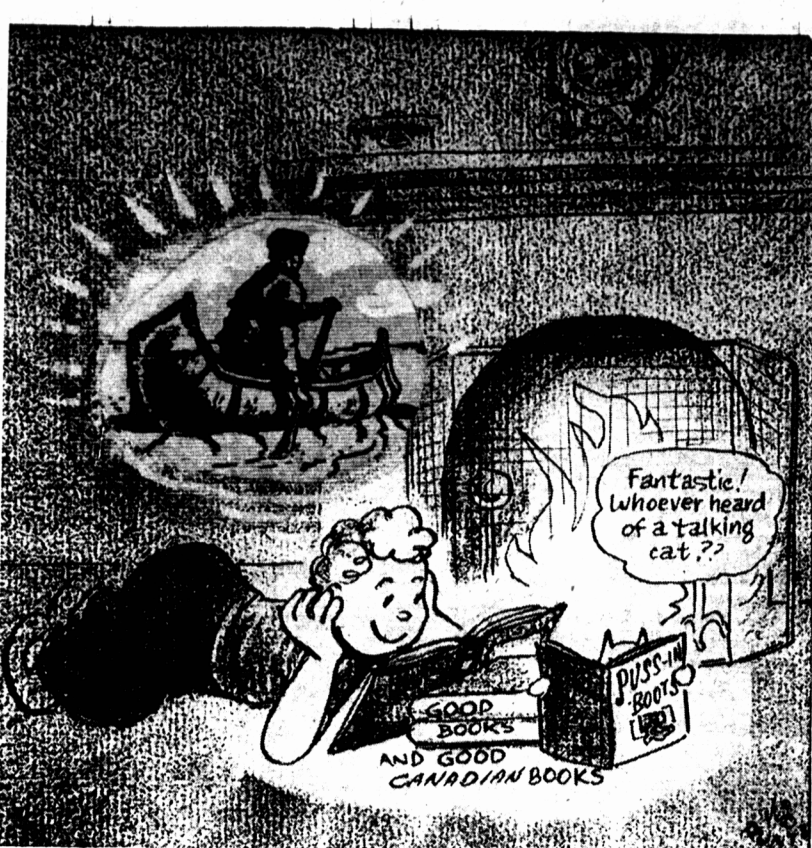
Charlottetown's reputation as a ship repair port will be enhanced by the speedy and satisfactory repair job on the Norwegian freighter "Germa" which made her way to the Island capital after suffering heavy sea damage.

The submission of the Charlottetown City Council to the Provincial Government presents detailed claims for additional revenue. The general picture, however, is that of a municipality finding it necessary to provide more and more expensive services without comparably expanding sources of tax revenue.

The Archbishop of York, Dr. Cyril Garrett, believes that newspapers still set the pace for creating and influencing public opinion. The press, he says, leaves a deeper impression than either radio or television. The written word which can be read and reread at leisure helps to form the opinion of the more intelligent citizens who will become leaders in their locality or in the nation.

The C. N. R. Hotel at Montreal, the Queen Elizabeth, will be managed by the Hilton Hotel group, according to a statement by President Donald Gordon. The 1,200-room hotel will be ready for occupancy in 1957 and by this agreement the railway makes available expert knowledge and important connections of this type of hotel while retaining ownership and a major proportion of the profits.

The Suez Canal was opened this date 1869. A similar canal, however, seems to have been constructed before 1380 B. C. Napoleon tried to have it built. Then in 1854, de Lesseps founded an Egyptian company which did the job with the approval of an International Commission. Britain and France are principal stockholders but the canal is international in the sense that ships of war of any nation may pass through at any time.



Ticket To Enchantment

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WHO DOES OUR THINKING?

Sir.—The people who do our thinking rule us. In the home, the wife sometimes it is the wife, sometimes the man. I knew a couple of missionaries, both well educated and good people. The wife made all the decisions. John would go to Mission Council and acquiesce in the decisions; next Council John would return with a changed mind and upset the decisions he had voted for. The madam did it.

"This state of affairs is not so serious as when it is carried into politics. Our country is governed by the minority who think. The grandfathers, dead and gone for many years, have done the thinking of a great many of our voters. "He was a good Liberal and so must I be." "These Tories" he mutters.

Political prejudice exerts great power in this country. Many people put up with all kinds of indignities and losses, not only from brewers and traffickers, but from manufacturers who pile up millions at the expense of poorer people. This is the class, it is said, who fill the chests of the old line parties in payment for favoured legislation, and this age-old political prejudice of the voter keeps such a government in power. It looks after all as though money rules this country. It certainly is not the struggling farmer who rules it. He pays the market price for what he buys and takes what he gets for his produce, and cannot ask any questions.

Prejudice is a bad state of mind, and may be very bad. Stalin was a very able man as a ruler, and might have helped to make Russia really great among the nations; but his prejudice ruined him. He was so obsessed with the Marxist idea that he did not hesitate to commit murder in its behalf; and this is the chief thing that is wrong with Communism. Their end justifies their means, and their means may be anything, lying, promise-breaking or murder. They have thrown morality to the winds. The rest are slaves of Russia. A prejudiced person is one who can't see the two sides of a question. He jumps to a conclusion regarding the point that suits him, and his mind is all at one side like the handle of a jug.

There are only about six million bona fide communists in Russia. The rest are slaves of the great idea, and within the accredited membership there is a small minority who rule. They do the thinking. This state of affairs is what makes it so very difficult to deal with Russia. The West has to deal, not with Russia but with that small body at the centre, filled to the ears with prejudice.

Prejudice in the church is perhaps worst of all. Many good people are more loyal to their denomination than they are to Jesus. They do not seem to realize how specific He was in regard to the relation that should exist between His followers. Again and again He comes back to that point in order that His people might feel its absolute necessity. "That ye might love one another as I have loved you." He says. Religion is the deepest principle in human life, and if we are right there, we will be right, most likely, all along the line.

Each sect believes it has some essential doctrine that must be preserved, and that is most likely true; but we all have enough essential truth in common upon which to build a church that would have the spiritual power that she does not now have, and then she could bear effective testimony before the world. Jesus was thinking seriously of this when he said, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, that ye love one another." I am, Sir, etc., W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

The Age Old Story

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou

Attack On Mr. Massey

(Ottawa Journal)

Saturday Night, a Toronto weekly periodical, distinguishes itself in its current issue by a savage criticism of the Governor General, Mr. Massey, it agrees in a long and bitter leading editorial, performs his social duties "with proper grim dignity", as "a speech-maker" has some success "at gathering on a rarified intellectual level", but he is "grey and remote" and as the Queen's representative in Canada is "a dismal flop".

In sporting terms a verbal assault on the Governor General is the equivalent of shooting a sitting duck, because neither the Sovereign nor a representative of the Sovereign is free to indulge in public argument and controversy. In these circumstances The Journal ventures to say a word or two, not as speaking for His Excellency, of course, but as a matter of elementary fairness.

It is simply not true that Mr. Massey has proved a failure at Rideau Hall.

On the contrary The Journal is convinced that most of those who looked upon his appointment with something short of enthusiasm have been won over by the tact he has displayed, by his broad and vigilant Canadianism, by the grace and dignity with which he has met the social obligations of his office, by the interest he has displayed in and the aid he has given to a great variety of movements, causes, organizations and aspects in our national life. And most Canadians, we are quite sure, take it as a compliment, and a right and proper thing, that the Governor General should speak to them from that intellectual level which irritates Saturday Night into its display of bad manners.

Mr. Massey is by no means "remote". Quietly bashful, he goes out of his way to meet and talk with men and women in all walks of life; they find that he can "speak their language" and that he understands their problems; they discover as individuals that he is "a good Canadian", who knows and is proud of his native land.

To supplement this important qualification for his office Mr. Massey's long experience in London as Canadian High Commissioner has richly equipped him to interpret the Crown to our people, to understand and expound its vital role as the Commonwealth and Empire, to unite the best of the Old World with the hopes and ambitions of the New.

That is the case of Mr. Massey as a personality. Beyond it is the broader issue: whether a presumably responsible publication can justify itself to its own and the public conscience for sharp criticism of the official head of the state on such trivial grounds. No-body questions the right of Saturday Night to criticize the Queen or Mr. Massey or anybody—but the use it makes of that right is something else.

Let none think Mr. Massey's task was an easy one, as the first Canadian to fill an office so delicately adjusted between the government and people of Canada and their Sovereign—a post largely ceremonial but capable too, as some of his predecessors found, of a lofty quality of public service.

It is no more than justice to His Excellency to say that he has not failed; that on the contrary those of his regime as an outstanding personal success.

The Poet's Corner

TO AN ATHLETE DYING YOUNG

The time you won your town the race
 We chaired you through the market-place;
 Man and boy stood cheering by,
 And home we brought you shoulder-high.

Today, the road all runners come,
 Shoulder-high we bring you home,
 And set you at your threshold down,
 Townsman of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away
 From fields where glory does not stay,
 And early though the laurel grows
 It withers quicker than the rose.

So set, before its echoes fade,
 The fleet foot on the sill of shade,
 And hold to the low lintel up
 The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laured head
 Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,
 And find unwithered on its curls
 The garland brier that a girl's

—A. E. HOUSMAN

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

NEW SKATING RINK

"Messrs. Taylor Bros., having completed their contracts promptly on time, the new rink building on Fitzroy Street was handed over to the directors on the 10th inst. The rink will be open for skating (if the weather permits) on Christmas Day. The extras are now being put in. The building will be furnished throughout with every regard for the comfort and convenience of its patrons. The fine Band of the 62nd Battalion has been secured for the season, and will discourse sweet music on Monday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday afternoons of each week. The price of tickets has been fixed at \$3 for ladies and \$5 for gentlemen; family of three or more will be allowed a discount of 7 1/2 per cent."

—The Examiner, Dec. 12, 1888.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

A DISTURBING REPORT

A report recently released in the United States will be disturbing, to say the least, to the leaders, and indeed to all citizens, of the free nations. The report is the result of an extensive survey conducted by the New York Times of the relative scientific strength of the Soviet Union and the United States.

It is generally believed—at least, it has been believed all along—that, while the Russians might be able to build up bigger armies than the free nations, they would remain much weaker in technological and industrial potential. The Times report indicates that this represents very dangerous thinking; in fact, if something is not done about it very soon, it will not be long before the free world will find itself far in the rear, scientifically.

The facts show that, while in the Soviet Union the number of qualified technicians and engineers is increasing by leaps and bounds every year, an exactly opposite situation is developing, or has already developed in the United States. (The situation in some other free nations, notably Britain and Canada, is a little better, but not good enough to overcome the Soviet advantage.)

Here are a few figures: In 1950 American universities graduated approximately 50,000 engineers in all categories; this year the number was only 20,000. In the Soviet Union on the other hand, 28,000 qualified engineers came from the schools in 1950; this year the number was almost doubled—55,000. This means that the Soviet Union is currently producing more than 2 1/2 times as many engineers as the United States. In addition, Red China is graduating more than 25,000 annually, and has 14 universities and 39 industrial schools which stress scientific studies almost exclusively.

As for engineering students now in various phases of training the figures are: United States, 150,000; Soviet Union, 300,000. There are now approximately 1,000 intermediate technical training schools in the United States with an enrollment of 50,000; the Soviet Union has 3,700 with about 1,600,000 technicians in intermediate training.

In the Soviet Union scientific instruction begins very early in the elementary schools; mathematics, chemistry, physics, and other related subjects, are required in every phase of education. In the United States they are often optional. There, the High Schools, which of course are the chief sources of supply for advanced training in engineering and all other scientific subjects, are becoming less and less helpful all the time. In the last two or three years, the report indicates, there was a drop of almost 60% in the number of college graduates qualified to teach High School science. Part of the explanation, at any rate, for this great upsurge in technical education in the Soviet

Union is to be found in the latest Soviet Encyclopaedia under the heading, "Purpose of Higher Education." It reads this way: "To prepare highly qualified 'politically-trained' engineering personnel with well rounded education, cultured, whole-hearted devoted to the Motherland and to the course of Lenin-Stalin, capable of completely mastering and using the newest accomplishments of advanced science and technology and of merging scientific theory with the practical work of building a Communist society."

Of course, the goal of all this is clear enough. The Soviet Union is out to pass the United States and the other free nations in scientific achievement. Whether that ambition can be frustrated is a question. Dr. John R. Running, atomic physicist and lecturer in engineering at Columbia, is doubtful that it can be. This is his opinion: "We have almost lost the battle for scientific manpower. Russia has nearly as many engineers and scientists as we have and is producing them at a much faster rate."

It is not too difficult to understand how this unhappy situation came about. Chiefly, of course, it goes back to the fundamental difference between a Democracy and a dictatorship. In the free nations young people pick their own trades or professions, sometimes with the guidance of counselors, but never under any kind of political direction. In the Soviet Union they take whatever courses some central authority decides would best serve the convenience of the State. So with teachers. In the United States, the Times report says—and, doubtless, in the other free nations—qualified science teachers are leaving the colleges and universities all the time for better paid positions in industry. In the Soviet Union, needless to say, that would be quite impossible. Teachers, like all other citizens, do as they are told and stay where they are required.

Then, of course, in a democratic society education can never be looked upon as a mere political weapon. The study of the humanities is considered just as important to the life of the individual, and indeed to society as a whole, as technical or professional training.

It is going to be distasteful for the free nations to have to forego their traditional emphasis on the liberal arts—at any rate until some measure of sanity can be brought to bear on Soviet ambitions—and concentrate more and more on technical training with, perhaps, some measure of Government control. But, apparently, it will have to be done if the free nations are to hold their own in competition with the Soviet Union.

GREAT ARTIST

William Hogarth, the 18th century British painter, was appreciated to a silver-plate engraver in his youth.

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