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"The strongest member is weaker than the weakest ink"

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Co-operation Essential

No better way of coming to grips with transportation problems has been devised than the current practice of holding, from time to time, joint meetings between our railway and provincial government officials. Last Friday's meeting at Borden was productive of good results, as indicated by Hon. J.D. Stewart on behalf of the government. Mr. Stewart's statement that full co-operation would exist between the railway and the government is reassuring, for without this the prospects of handling the heavy traffic expected this year on the Borden-Tormentine service would be truly frightening.

As it is, government officials report the ferry service situation to be approaching the proportions of an emergency. The problem involves the removal of the MV Abegweit to drydock for repairs and the lateness of the expected completion of wharf facilities at Borden. Complicating the heavy summer traffic predicted for this centennial year is the scheduled traffic of some 20,000 refrigerator and box cars which the ferries will have to handle in the next three months.

We expect the railway management to meet every possible effort to meet the extra demands which this year's tourist traffic to the province will involve. This is of national importance, as CNR President Gordon himself implied in his address before the Canadian Club, when he spoke of the value of our centennial celebrations in bringing Canadians here from coast to coast and strengthening the bonds of Confederation. We all have duties in the spirit of these words.

In the meantime, with the Abegweit going into drydock and the prospect of it being tied up for six weeks, there is logic in the argument of our government officials that truck traffic should be facilitated by having the MV Confederation make an extra daily run, as was done for several weeks last year under less pressing conditions. This matter, we gather, is under consideration, and an announcement can be expected early this week.

It is also intimated that other matters are scheduled for discussion at further joint meetings, to be held shortly. It would be a good idea to continue them regularly all through this busy year.

Webster's Unsound?

In an unstable world, we have always regarded Webster's New International Dictionary as something which we could lean upon with unshaken confidence. But now the president of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters has come out with a blast against the third edition of this standard reference work, which he says is based on an unsound theory, namely that correctness rests upon usage, and that all usage is relative.

Its editors, says our critic, have let this theory distort their viewpoint. They have been too busy watching a word's popularity polls, "following the count of numbers rather than the meaning that counts," to tell us what we need to know about a word's precise social standing, so intricately a part of its volatile shades of meaning.

The theory that usage is relative, says the Michigan professor, is "a contradiction and impossibility, an excuse to avoid the agony

of thinking." The linguists claim an inability to make distinctions that the ordinary man on the street can make as a matter of course. They have confused effective communication with good English, whereas effective communication may not be good English at all. If correctness rests upon usage, whose usage is used to determine this correctness?

Actually, argues the professor, we always choose our words for some reason other than "usage." If we choose the popular usage, we do so for reasons of ease, intimacy, camaraderie, naturalness, and so forth. If we choose the less popular, we do so for reasons of logic or clarity or economy—or to impress those who respect. To proclaim usage supreme "is indeed part of the anti-intellectual syndrome at the centre of modern society. . . . The individual is lost in the crowd he must mimic for his only identity."

So there! And to make sure that the linguists get his point, our critic concludes: "I say that the written language is far more valuable than the spoken. Our books hold man's intellect and spirit more durably than stone, as Shakespeare and many another observed."

For The Record

After 16 years of study, the Federal Department of Health has come out strongly in support of water fluoridation as a public health measure. In his statement to the House of Commons on the subject, Mr. John Munro, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister, said:

"It is an established fact, by very extensive research, that the adjustment of the fluoride content of a water supply, whereby there is a concentration of one part fluoride to one million parts of water, brings about an average reduction of 60 per cent in the prevalence of tooth decay in children consuming fluoridated water since birth. No ill effects have been noted.

"The improvement of dental health of children, who will later be adults, ensures an improvement in general health, dental health being an integral part of total health."

The Government of Canada has now added its endorsement to that of the World Health Organization, the Government of the United States, and many responsible medical and dental associations. And already scores of municipalities across Canada are fluoridating their water supply, including Halifax, Metropolitan Toronto, Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

Found Dangerous

We note, from an exchange, that after a four-year program of research into the death of millions of fish in the lower Mississippi River, it has been determined that the residues of the agricultural pesticides, aldrin and dieldrin, are the probable cause.

These residues, it seems, were not the result of concentrated spraying; they were simply the concentration that followed natural runoff from the soil each tiny fraction adding up to a lethal amount as it was carried downstream.

Now the question has been raised whether human beings who eat the fish and shrimp caught in the Mississippi or the Gulf of Mexico are being subjected to slow poisoning. Long-range cumulative effects of these chemicals are still unknown; at least no one argues that they are good for mankind.

Noted, too, is the fact that in Great Britain, severe restrictions have been placed on the use of pesticides of the kind that were found in the bodies of these fish. Authorities there are not waiting for autopsies on men and women to confirm their suspicion that these chemicals pose a threat to health.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A total of 1,588,600 new privately-owned housing units were started in the United States in 1963—nine per cent more than in 1962.

"The drama critic for The Times of London," says the Ottawa Journal, "found much to praise in the opening production of the Stratford Festival company of Canada in Chichester, England. He was unable, however, to suppress a well-bred shudder at the intrusion of a North American accent upon the hallowed ground of Love's Labor Lost."



APRIL SHOWER

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Are Our Values Bally Scrambled?

Thirty years ago, a talented performer in words and music wrote a hit song advising "Don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs. Worthington."

"Since the Dirty Thirties when Noel Coward composed that advice, many things have changed—no less the rewards in the entertainment industry. Peter Sellers, perhaps the most prolific comic actor in films today, earns about \$750,000 per year. The Beatles draw around \$1,000,000 per month in royalties and performance fees. Cassius Clay, now wearing the World heavyweight boxing crown, is presumably in a position to match the \$880,000 which his predecessor, Sonny Liston, received for his last title fight.

These huge earnings, worth over about \$25,000 per working week for a film star, and double that for a singer. In contrast, the Minister of Canada draws \$85 per week, the chief of our armed forces less than \$400 per week.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events and public affairs. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the views of its contributors. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian makes no claim to any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

IN REBUTTAL

In reference to the rebuttal asked for by Mr. Angus MacPhee, Senior East, in his letter of April 7 Public Forum:

The correct payment has been given no thought to the long, strenuous, nine-weeking hours, those who work on it, to say nothing of the plow operators' families, who on occasion themselves have had to wade through waist high drifts, while the husbands are out trying to piece the puzzle together.

I heartily agree with Mr. MacPhee on one point, namely, the plow operators' work on the machinery (Yellowbird as he called it), that is a 14 ft. wide broken down piece of machinery that is not up to par with the operators; and has to wait until a service man is available to take it out from the field, sometimes as far as 70 miles to repair them.

Regardless of broken down machines, it must be admitted that the last ten years, work on the plow has only gone slow from Rolfo Ray's "Easy" point.

As for constructing a lot of coffee, this I cannot agree with, especially the remark I am referring to, who sometimes would bring home their lunch to show that they are eating. Does Mr. MacPhee realize the long routes some of these operators have to travel, and how well as the abuse they get from some ungrateful people, most of whom hit what people might think of condition the roads present?

and the president of Canada's largest transportation company, \$1,345 per week. The President of the U.S.A., who is the world's highest-paid political chief, gets \$1,925 per week.

WRONG TALENTS

Thus top politicians, industrialists and military brass, despite their training, experience and success, are financially outstripped by the top entertainers. At least one of these lavishly-paid entertainers has shown that brains do not have the road to riches. Cassius Clay has been rejected for service in the U.S.A., army, reportedly after failing the arithmetic section of a mental aptitude test.

The Pentagon announced that Clay is not qualified for induction into the army under applicable standards. "Testing given Clay included measurements of his vision, his hearing, his skills needed in military service."

An army spokesman would not participate the tests which Clay failed, but gave samples of his own work in arithmetic reasoning ability.

1. A man works for 6 1/2 hours in the morning and 3 1/2 hours in the afternoon with one hour for lunch. How many hours did he work?

Choose the right answer from (a), (b), (c), (d), (e).

2. A clerk divided a number by 3.5 when the correct number is multiplied by 4.5. His answer is 3. What is the correct answer?

Conference On Youth

Unesco Features

Detailed information on the first international conference on youth to be held by the United Nations in Grenoble, France, from August 23 to September 1, 1964, was given recently at a press conference held at Unesco House, in Paris. Taking part in the press conference were L.C.J. Martin, secretary of United Kingdom National Commission for Unesco, chairman of the preparatory committee for the conference, and other members of the French Ministry for Youth and Sports, including Jean-Louis Laroche and Achter Delord, director of Unesco's Department for Adult Education and Youth.

The conference, to be held at the Alpine Geography Institute and the Geographical Institute of the University of Grenoble, will bring together about 300 delegates from Unesco's member states, and representatives of 41 international youth organizations. Their task will be to study the content and methods of out-of-school education for young people.

Pocket Novel Therapy

Fort William Times - Journal

One of Canada's top government figures for more than two decades regularly escaped the tensions of his office by reading mystery novels. People who recognized him on a train or in a waiting room with eyes intently scanning the pages of a trashy illustrated pocket novel were invariably startled and amused. It didn't bother him at all. He would smile and nod at his choice of reading material. For him it was the means to an end.

West German doctors would have agreed with him. They concluded at a recent medical convention the reading of so-called "trash" literature can have a beneficial therapeutic effect. In fact they now consider a good mystery, detective or crime novel a part of special therapy to accelerate the hospital healing process.

Strokes Small And Large

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Approximately 175,000 individuals in the United States die annually of stroke. The disorder is the third most common cause of death. But these figures may be misleading because a sudden death often are blamed on heart attacks. Less than an autopsy is done, the real cause is not known. It could have been a stroke.

This mistake is understandable because many of the men and women who succumb to stroke also have hardening of the coronary arteries. Arteriosclerosis may obscure a diagnosis in some stroke victims who suffer from angina pectoris, the old ticker is unable to deliver its quota of blood to the arteries of the brain.

Information also is lacking on the number of persons who have had a stroke. If symptoms clear up in a few days, the true condition may escape detection. It has been estimated that two million living Americans have had more strokes, 15 per cent of the major or minor.

A household study disclosed 200,000 strokes annually in analysis and 100,002 with partial involvement. Approximately 400, 000 strokes occur annually in these, 83 per cent are disabling to some extent.

Stroke by an apoplexy are bound to improve because physicians are on the lookout for the warning signals of an impending stroke. After an obstruction. These precursors include transient attacks, headache, dizziness, weakness and numbness of an extremity, visual disturbances, and changes in consciousness. Speech and other tests can now be done to determine the cause. If it can be diagnosed, treatment may guard against future and more serious strokes.

Most of the studies have shown, for example, that diseased neck arteries often are responsible for strokes in men. Many of these abnormalities can be corrected by surgery. In others, high blood pressure can be decreased, circulation to the brain improved, or the blood clotting time lowered. But other types of stroke continue to stump the medical profession.

28 PANGS WEEKLY

Mr. B.F. says I have an angina pectoris and get 28 pangs a week. Is this too many?

REPLY Yes, in that angina pectoris means heart disease and, in respect, one attack of pain is too much. But don't be discouraged. Stop walking before the pain develops or take a nitroglycerine before leaving home if anginal pain occurs the proper way to work.

DISTENTION AFTER EATING

R. B. writes: Could much distention after eating be caused by a psychosomatic basis?

REPLY Yes, but we hesitate to make a diagnosis of nervous stomach unless the gastrointestinal tract, including the gall bladder, is studied thoroughly.

EFFECTS OF CHILL

R. B. writes: Could a chill cause stoppage of urine?

REPLY Yes, particularly if a urinary tract infection is responsible for it.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

The Only Real Weapon

Orilla Packet and Times

A disturbing statement, and one that may well have a most profound effect upon the future peace and stability of the world was made in Britain recently by Harold Wilson, leader of the Labour party. For Mr. Wilson made it clear that, if elected, his party would do away with any Polaris - equipped nuclear submarines in the Royal Navy's fleet, and Mr. Wilson's party has a very real prospect of forming the next U.K. government.

The missile-firing nuclear submarine is the closest thing to the ultimate weapon yet devised by man. In the long run, no other weapon extant today counts for anything in a final showdown between great powers.

The police work, "brush - fire wars", and peace - keeping missions conventional land, air and sea forces are essential, and likely are the only forces likely to ever be actively employed. In the event of a major international politics, ultimate power resides in the nuclear forces which are kept in being, but never used, and it is here that the nuclear missile submarine is a class by itself.

The manned bombers, land-based missiles, aircraft carriers and so on all suffer from grave disabilities or vulnerability to a nuclear attack, and are shared by the nuclear armament, which is room the seas unseen, undetected, unrestricted. It commands the power of tactical decision and with his missiles and his unlimited range can annihilate any chosen target.

If Britain is to retain an independent voice in the councils of world power, and provide a reasoned alternative to the opposed ideologies of the U.S. and the USSR, it is essential that it maintain a force of nuclear missile - firing submarines.

To suggest that Mr. Wilson has done that they are dropped in favour of bombers or aircraft carriers is like proposing to substitute the long bow for the machine gun. For the nuclear Polaris is not simply a better version of an existing weapon. It is a new weapon altogether, the most revolutionary development in the military field since the invention of the aeroplane.

Indeed, it is not a weapon - it is THE Weapon, and to be without it is to go defenceless in the world.

No Ferry Tenders Called

House of Commons Hansard

In May of last year that he hoped tenders would be let before the end of the fiscal year, and in the House of Commons the Solicitor-General Hon. J. Watson MacNaught, Prince, (P.E.I.) made the most recent statement in July that he expected tenders to be let last fall, does the minister's statement in that regard program has been decelerated rather than accelerated?

Mr. MacNaught: No, it does not mean that, but, as the hon. gentleman knows very well, it is a frustrating matter in these matters to design these vessels properly. I can assure the house that I am nearly as anxious as the hon. member, and I may say I am being prodigal constantly by the Solicitor-General in this matter. Everything I can do to speed up the project will be done.

Mr. Health Macquarrie (Queens): A supplementary question, Mr. speaker. Speaking of prods, I should like to ask the minister if he has received a copy of a resolution passed unanimously by the Prince Edward Island legislature urging the immediate construction of this vessel and immediate construction of the causeway, and would he indicate in view of his reply?

Mr. Picketts: Both matters are receiving immediate attention.

FIND FOOTPRINTS

Queensland Museum experts have identified footprints found in a coal mine near Brisbane, Australia, as those of a dinosaur.

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