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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1955

New Text-Book Material

Although neither Britain nor West Germany has yet recovered fully from the Second World War, and while both countries are preoccupied with measures to ward off World War Three—or to escape defeat and destruction, should it be forced upon them—historians of both countries are looking back to World War One to see what it was that led to Anglo-German estrangement in 1914.

If and when the historians' views are accepted and incorporated into the school books, the old British assumption that German militarists started the war in order to make their nation the master of all Europe, and eventually of the world, will become obsolete; so will the German belief that Britain took the lead in forming alliances aimed at the encirclement of Germany and the thwarting of her commercial and colonial rights.

It all sounds very simple; and, no doubt, the purpose behind the historians' views is very good and proper. It can be expected, however, that there will be plenty of discussion about the conclusions before they are finally given places in the books.

"Moving Day" In Egypt

Marching feet, roaring plane motors and the husky blasts of outgoing ship whistles proclaim an epic "moving day" task as the British abandon occupation of the Suez Canal Zone. Leave-taking time extends for 20 months from last October under British-Egyptian agreement.

Under the October, 1954, agreement the British have already quit the Suez area, the southernmost zone. The first stage, ending in February, saw a general withdrawal of over 22 per cent of the forces. Eight troop ships in regular calls at Port Said have embarked 13 major units.

As withdrawal progresses the political climate improves in the zone. Desert garrisons that lived behind barbed wire since 1951 now visit towns previously out of bounds. In the crowded streets of Cairo British soldiers in civilian clothes mingle with travellers from other lands.

Troops and businessmen find the change welcome.

Behind the withdrawing forces the Suez Canal still stands as one of the world's most strategic waterways. It was completed in 1869 by Ferdinand De Lesseps, a former French consul in Egypt, and fulfilled a centuries-old commercial dream of a route between the East and the West joining the Red Sea and Mediterranean.

In The Garden

Now comes the time when the gardener can share, if he will, in the marvels and glories of re-creation. No sensitive person can walk on the soft earth these May days without feeling that he is, indeed, on hallowed ground, and then bowing his head in reverence.

The philosophers cannot explain it, nor can the scientists reduce it to a formula, but every gardener knows in his heart that in some way beyond his knowledge, and even beyond his capacity to seek, all the mysteries of life are gathered up in a little package of seedlings waiting to be enveloped in earth's warmth and there brought, in due season, to glad fulness—

"These are the things I prize And hold of dearest worth: Light of the sapphire skies, Peace of the silent hills, Shelter of the forest, murmur of the grass, Music of the birds, murmur of little rills, Shadows of clouds that swiftly pass, And, after showers, the smell of flowers And of the good brown earth."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Reports to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from nine provinces (Quebec's figures are not ready) show that last year 1,960 persons were killed in traffic accidents and 47,020 injured.

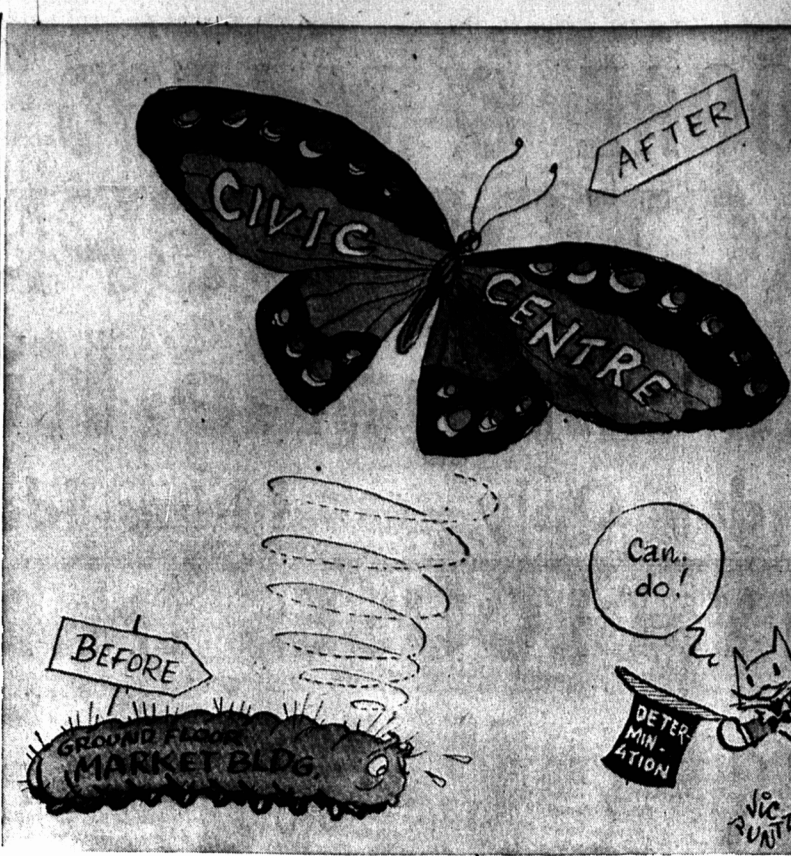
Since the late Dr. Einstein was considered enough to bequeath his brain to science, it would seem that the least the laboratory heads can do is to agree among themselves where and how it shall be used. This is one place, surely, where quarrelling is bad form.

A new angle to the traffic safety campaign has been introduced in Kitchener, Ontario. Drivers convicted there of drinking offences are going to be sent back to school. They will be required to attend lectures and demonstrations given by police and doctors dealing with problems created by alcohol in the driver.

The new Civic Centre provides much needed facilities for the Travel Bureau and bus terminal, in addition to more attractive market facilities than were available before the renovation of the building. Indeed, the interior has been changed beyond recognition. The official opening yesterday may have been less spectacular than some of the features scheduled for our centennial year, but it marks a genuine milestone in civic improvement.

Professor James Carney (an Irishman) of the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies has come up with some research data which seems likely to cause a bit of fuss on both sides of the Eire border. He says that after studying the subject for seven years he has discovered that (1) St. Patrick did not land in Ireland in 432 A.D. as is commonly believed; (2) He is not buried in Downpatrick, County Down, where a stone slab marks his supposed resting place; (3) The saint has no connection whatever with the city of Armagh, the Primatial see. The professor claims to have proof that Patrick came to Ireland (from where he does not say) in 457 and that the area of his missionary work was in the provinces of Leinster and Connaught. He claims also that a mission from Rome had established the see of Armagh some years before the saint arrived on the scene.

—Olga Hampel Briggs, in the New York Herald Tribune.



Transformation

Civil Defense Planning

Second of a series of four articles, by Dave McIntosh, Canadian Press Staff, Ottawa.

Canada's civil defence planners are working out a radiation fall-out pattern for every major Canadian city or possible target area. When a hydrogen bomb is burst near the ground, vast quantities of radioactive debris are sucked up into the mushroom cloud.

Winnipeg is warned of an impending H-bomb attack and the population is warned to evacuate immediately. In what direction should it evacuate?

The meteorologist makes a forecast for the next 36 hours, the most deadly period of time for radioactive fall-out. He fits the day's information to the wind pattern already drawn up for Winnipeg for that time of year. He sees, perhaps, that the stratosphere winds are blowing from the west.

Therefore, the population would be told to move west, north or south to avoid the fall-out area. People living in a belt some 20 miles wide and some 200 miles long immediately east of Winnipeg would be warned.

ACURACY IMPERATIVE But wait. The weather forecast also sees that after the radioactive debris falls through the stratosphere it will be driven by strong lower-level winds from the north. Therefore, the fall-out area will be south or southeast of the city and the populace is so warned.

The results of a mistake in wind forecasting could be disastrous. It is conceivable that evacuees could be told to head in a certain direction to avoid fall-out only to find that through a sudden wind change they were moving into the actual fall-out zone.

Fortunately, there is a generally constant wind pattern in Canada. Thus it is possible to chart the probable fall-out area for any locality at any time of year. That is being done now for every major city and target area.

Interest of civil defence planners in fall-out danger is bringing into fairly common use the word "roentgen"—meaning a unit of radiation.

At Canada's atomic energy plant at Chalk River, Ont., workers are not subjected normally to more than 15 roentgens a year.

It has been estimated that a human can survive a total dose of about 700 roentgens delivered in

the space of one or two days. It has also been estimated that radiation from a medium-sized hydrogen bomb one hour after the explosion and covering an area of some 250 square miles is 2,500 roentgens per hour.

It follows that every exposed person within this area would be dead in less than an hour or taken so violently ill he could not survive.

This represents one of the awesome and terrifying factors in civil defence planning. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has made public figures on fallout and roentgen dosage from the March 1, 1954, blast at Bikini of a bomb believed to have yielded 20 megatons, the equivalent of 20,000,000 tons of TNT.

Ten miles downwind from the explosion, the radiation dosage was about 5,000 roentgens for the first 36 hours after the fall-out. Some 100 miles from the point of detonation, the dosage was 2,300 roentgens for 36 hours; at 110 miles, 2,000 roentgens; at 125 miles, 1,000 roentgens; at 160 miles, about 500 roentgens; at 190 miles, 300 roentgens.

"Thus, about 7,000 square miles of territory downwind from the point of burst was so contaminated that survival might have depended on prompt evacuation of the area or on taking shelter and other protective measures."

BASEMENT PROTECTION If a person were exposed to 100 roentgens an hour, it is estimated that this could be reduced to 12

roentgens by taking shelter in a basement. At that rate, a person could withstand radiation for 50 to 60 hours, or longer than required for the decay of the radioactivity. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has said: "The main radioactivity of a bomb's fall-out decreased very rapidly with time for the most part, within the first hours after the detonation."

That means that a person with good protection in a fall-out area could survive. However, it is likely that the fall-out area would still have to be abandoned after it was safe for persons to leave shelter.

The ground, for instance, would have been subjected to full radioactive exposure. Cattle could eat

the grass and thus transfer radioactivity to humans through their milk or beef. Putting hither-laster substances on your youngster's thumbs won't do much good either. Instead of correcting the trouble, these things might make your child want to suck even more. Scolding or nagging an older child won't help him and might only make him unhappy and feel guilty. Keep Him Busy

You've got to determine the cause for his thumb-sucking. I think you'll usually find a child of one, two or three, or even older, will suck his thumb when he's bored or tired. Maybe he's not playing enough. Watch him. If he tires too easily, slow him down a little. On the other hand, maybe he should be kept busier than he is. Give him several toys to play with, keep his curiosity aroused, keep his hands busy.

Frustrated youngsters sometimes suck their thumbs. It is important to consider carefully all of your child's requests and questions. Don't come out with an automatic "No," just because you're busy at the moment.

Here's another tip. Try giving him some chewing gum. Quite frequently this is an effective cure. Or, if your child is old enough, try to reason with him. Maybe you'll find that rewarding him for not sucking his thumb will help him break the habit.

QUESTION AND ANSWER B. F. K.: Will you please tell me if an injury to the left breast might become serious, and is there any treatment? I am 17. Answer: Whether or not the injury to your breast is serious depends upon the extent and severity. In order to be sure that no damage has been done, it would be well for you to have an examination by your doctor.

Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D. LOOK FOR THE REASON WHY CHILD SUCKS THUMB

How do we keep our child from sucking his thumb? Parents frequently ask this question, although thumb-sucking in an infant is perfectly natural.

Your youngster isn't going to suck his thumb for the rest of his life. He'll stop, eventually, of his own free will. Don't worry about that. But if the habit continues, as he grows older, it should be curbed.

Cured at School If he still sucks his thumb by the time he enters school, he will be ridiculed by the other children and that will make him drop the habit fast. This isn't the best cure, but it's sure, but it's effective, I think, though, you'll want to break him of this habit long before he is of school age.

I don't believe you'll have much luck with mechanical devices such as thumb-cuffs, thumb-guards or adhesive caps. Putting bitter-tasting substances on your youngster's thumbs won't do much good either. Instead of correcting the trouble, these things might make your child want to suck even more.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

We note the annual story about how many income tax payers made their returns right on the deadline. The tax collectors always profess astonishment at this, dropping remarks about the peculiarities of human nature. But we're afraid we can't join them in their moralizing. To us it seems wholly logical that a man should have the use of his money as long as the law allows. After all, the government doesn't pay interest on money handed in ahead of the due date. Also we think that a little inquiry among credit managers would disclose to the tax collectors that relatively few people pay any obligations until close to the time when they promised to.

These rushing Americans! Any day now we expect to see them calling themselves Amas and their national figure Uncle Sm. Any world without a letter saved is regarded by them as a fatigues and the interest of the safety of the flying public." Foreign air lines introduced free drinks years ago on trans-oceanic flights. Now most of the domestic lines serve liquor on their extra fare planes; even on short flights. Each line is fearful that it may lose customers to competitors if it abandons the practice. Stewards and stewardesses are the persons best qualified to see the result of having cocktail parties in air lines. The practice ought to be banned by the Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association. A conscience doesn't keep you from doing anything; it just keeps you from enjoying it. — Chicago Tribune.

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The Age Old Story

John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spoke, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

The Suez canal joining the Mediterranean and the Red sea was completed in 1869.

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The Poets Corner PLAYWRIGHT OF THE GLOBE How truly is the globe your play-house now! The grandeur of your lines out-grew the stalls And pit long since; outlived the raucous calls Of ribald grounding and the pleased boy Of patron land. Your fame has spread and grown From Avon and from Thameside, year by year, To air wave, sound stage, screen. Without a peer Your words, your scenes, your characters are known, As millions now at once, see Hamlet rage, Hear dying Caesar's cry, deplore the fate That sped young Romeo, Juliet to their fate, Lament with Lear, or laugh with Did see or sily, then, the future probe And bid you name your theatre the Globe? —Olga Hampel Briggs, in the New York Herald Tribune.