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Soviet Bureaucracy

The question whether Soviet Russia's domestic policy—which, of course, helps to determine foreign policy—is a little more benevolent than it used to be cannot even be discussed, let alone answered, without some reference to Russian history which seems to indicate that in essential things, as distinct from incidental political events, there has been very little change from the supremacy of the Czars to the present Politburo-controlled system.

The chief characteristic of this bureaucracy, in domestic affairs, is a passionate attachment to the status quo, quite regardless of political ideologies and systems. Under the Czars this meant a subdued, ignorant, docile, and politically powerless peasantry. When the Revolution came, in spite of all attempts of the bureaucrats to prevent it—this, incidentally, was perhaps the most startling thing about the Revolution—they philosophically accepted the inevitable and adjusted it to their own advantage.

Contrasting Neighbors

Costa Rica and Nicaragua, whose long feud has now erupted in violence, are next-door neighbors with striking geographic as well as political differences. Nicaragua is the largest of the six Central American republics. Costa Rica, after tiny El Salvador, is the smallest. With some 20,000 square miles of territory sandwiched between Nicaragua and Panama, Costa Rica occupies about one-third of the Nicaragua area.

Most Costa Ricans live in the perpetually springlike central uplands. There, at an altitude of 3,830 feet, lies the capital and cultural and commercial center, San Jose, reported to have been strafed by raiding planes. A majority of the Nicaraguans, including the inhabitants of the capital, Managua, dwell in the warm, steamy Pacific plain framed by volcanoes and dominated by two big lakes.

A National Geographic Society bulletin notes that many of the 'Forty miners, bound for the California goldfields, came this way. When Panama was chosen as the site for the trans-isthmian canal, the Nicaragua canal project was the defeated competitor.

tions, with a rich volcanic soil producing many similar crops including coffee and bananas. But again with a difference. Only about five per cent of Nicaragua's available crop land is in use. Costa Rica, with a dense rural population, is known as the home of "little landers." Many small farmers work independent holdings.

Historically, the two neighbors now at loggerheads were once members of an unsuccessful Central American federation. On gaining independence from Spain in 1821, the five provinces of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador at first joined the short-lived Mexican empire.

Revolutionary Progress

It is doubtful if even Alexander Graham Bell could have visualized the tremendous development of his invention of the telephone that has come in three quarters of a century. Speaking recently on this subject, Mr. Thomas W. Eadie, president of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, said that in 1880 there were some 2,000 telephones in the whole Dominion.

Direct long-distance dialing of the number required is close to the operation stage. With it, the long-distance operator will dial the required number direct. The next step will be direct long-distance dialing from the home or office to the home or office required, with no manual switchboard operation needed at all.

Such figures and the vast complexity of a system which yet must operate with reliable precision are fascinating enough. Mr. Eadie illustrated that mere bigness or vast detail are not the only accomplishments of telephonic science. The telephone systems are the frameworks which have revolutionized news services, entertainment and defence operations as well.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Charles Spurgeon, noted English preacher, died this date, 1892.

The 1955 defense budget presented recently to the United States Congress shows plainly the costly effects of the tensions which are bedeviling the world today. The budget provides that 67 cents out of every dollar spent by the United States government will go for purposes of defense.

Britain is taking drastic steps to reduce the number of traffic accidents. And the pedestrian and the cyclist are to bear their share of the responsibility. Under a new bill in Parliament a pedestrian who disregards a policeman's traffic direction will be liable to a fine of \$75. A cyclist found guilty of riding carelessly, recklessly or dangerously will be liable to a fine of \$100, or go to jail for six months.

Regular air service across the North Pole is about to link Canada and Europe—specifically, the cities of Vancouver and Amsterdam. The Canadian Government has just issued permission for such a service to the Canadian Pacific Airlines. This will make CPA the first Canadian operator over the "Great Circle" route at the top of the globe.

TORONTO (CP)—Canadians of Yugoslavian descent now can send money home at the rate of 600 dinars for each dollar—300 more than normal. The Yugoslav government announced through its consul here that it would grant the special rate on funds sent relatives living in Yugoslavia through Canadian banks and the National Bank of Yugoslavia.



A Mean Combination

The Petawawa Flight

Armed Forces News

Nearly 46 years ago the first military aircraft flight in Canada took place at Petawawa, Ont., when J. A. D. McCurdy (until recently Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia) and F. W. Baldwin flew their aircraft, the "Silver Dart", from the site which is now the camp airport.

The attempt by McCurdy and Baldwin to demonstrate the airplane as a machine of war resulted in little more than casual interest. But the results of two world wars and more particularly the Korean conflict, proved the value of an army air component. In Korea more than 50 per cent of all Commonwealth counter-bombardment fire was directed by airborne artillery observers.

Aside from improvements in construction and design, the new Cessna aircraft has superior flying characteristics, more power, and is equipped with the latest flying and navigational aids.

Last summer the Petawawa Flight (the Royal Canadian Artillery) has another flight located at Shilo, Man., moved to Wainwright, Alta., to participate in a summer training concentration with troops of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade.

Aircraft and personnel operated in the field for a month under simulated operational conditions throughout the period of collective training.

Last summer, pilots more than doubled the average flying times of previous months while directing fire for Royal Canadian Artillery units, participating in manoeuvres involving the operation and maintenance of individual aircraft and their equipment in the field and cooperating with infantry and armour. Pilots also took part in reconnaissance and communications flights, and night flying exercises.

Individual training, lectures and courses are carried out in flight lecture rooms, and each individual is daily becoming more expert in his special field. General flying experience in all kinds of weather is available to pilots through communications flights to various military establishments in Ontario and Quebec.

Royal Canadian Air Force

The Age Old Story

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children. . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. . . . Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

POPE RECEIVES AMBASSADOR

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Pius Saturday received in private audience Peru's new ambassador to the Vatican, Diomedes Arias Schreiber, who presented his credentials. The audience was the first the pontiff has granted since he became ill last month to a member of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican.

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The Poet's Corner

FROM LAST POEMS

We'll to the woods no more, The laurels all are cut, The bowers are bare of bay, That once the Muses wore; The year draws in the day, And soon will evening shut; The laurels all are cut, We'll to the woods no more, Oh we'll no more, no more, To the leafy woods away, To the high wild woods of laurel And the boughs of bay no more.

Giving Time A Voice

Montreal Gazette

There is an old Germany saying attributed to Schuler that "the happy near no clock." . . . Perhaps most fortunate of all are those who have in their possession an old clock that they have heard for years, more, which has measured out their lives, as it has marked the events of the greater world.

There is a fine old gentleman who lives in a limestone Victorian house on one of the streets in downtown Montreal. In his hallway, on a wall, is an antique London-made clock. The tick of that clock was the first sound in this world he can remember.

On summer's evenings, when he sits out doors on the stone steps, and his door stands open, those who pass up or down the street—even they are passing on the opposite side—may sometimes hear that old clock with his high, metallic voice, sounding the passing of another hour.

What is the secret of the strange attraction of clocks? Perhaps it is that they are really symbols of human life itself, so that he who cares for his clock is like a deity for some higher power. As Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote in "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table":

"Our brains are seventy-year clocks. The angel of life winds them up once for all, then closes the case, and gives the key into the hand of the angel of the Resurrection."

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

- BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, Etc. Bell, Matheson & Foster 150 Richmond St. Chas. R. McQuaid, B.A. 156 Richmond St. Dial 8911. J. Elmer Blanchard, B.A. 165 Queen St. Phone 4232. M. A. Farmer, Q.C., LL.B. Bank of Commerce Bldg. Gaudet & Hazzard Bank of Commerce Bldg. Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. 130 Richmond St. Dial 4747. A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B. Phillips Bldg. 111 Grafton St. Palmer & Haslam Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg. Matheson, Peake & Nicholson 175 Grafton Street. J. A. MacGuigan Currie Bldg. - Dial 9424 - Queen St. G. E. MacMillan, B.A., LL.B. 156 Richmond St. Dial 5223. MacPhee & Trainor 185 Queen St. Dial 4232. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS McDonald, Currie & Co. Currie Bldg. Charlottetown Dial 8736. H. R. DOANE & COMPANY 148 Great George St., Charlottetown Phone 6547 - 6548. ARTHUR J. GARRETT Palmer Electric Building 100 Fitzroy Street Charlottetown L.A. 1-1

Pushing Atlantic Union

(Vancouver Sun)

Plans pushed by Canadian MPs of all parties for the formation of a NATO parliamentary association are worth the sympathy of all Canadians interested in promoting international co-operation. Some people hope that eventual meetings of the proposed association will lead to the recognition by the NATO governments of the need for a NATO assembly on an official basis of a North Atlantic parliament, in fact.

This would be a long step toward the North Atlantic union which many dream of as preferable to West European union, since it would bring into the political federation of West European states the two powerful democracies of North America.

The main question is would the U. S. Congress and people support a North Atlantic federation? If the answer were yes, the road ahead would be easy. The economic, political and military troubles of the western world would be over.

But if the answer is no, the idea of a NATO parliament or assembly remains a dream. To attempt to set it up on a less ambitious basis would only confuse a picture that is already badly confused. There are too many overlapping organizations of the kind in Europe already.

It's hard to keep track of post-war developments in this direction. We have for example the six-member European Community for Coal and Steel—the Schuman plan, with its "High Authority," and "Consultative Council" and "Court of Justice." There is the Council of Europe composed of ministerial representatives of 15 countries and its attendant Assembly which has power to debate and advise but none to bind. This council's concern is chiefly cultural and economic but man's hope has been that it will lead to political federation.

Shortly there will be a West European union, of seven members, which will further complicate matters. This organization's prime purpose is to re-arm Germany and draw it into the defence of the West. This too will have a council of ministers.

To some extent all three of these purely European institutions are looked upon as future frames for a political federation of Europe. But there are obvious flaws. The Council and Assembly of Europe represents 15 countries including Germany and two neutrals, Sweden and Ireland. But they exclude Portugal, which is a member of NATO, as well as Canada and the U. S. This organization is ambitious to serve as the "umbrella" or clearing house for all the other institutions. Its misfortune is that the assembly has no real power.

To be effective a NATO parliament would have to represent the popular will in the member countries. If this were so the Council of Ministers would have to listen to the parliaments of their respective countries, cannot speak either for their home parliaments or their own people—only for themselves.

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FIRE 32,000 WORKERS

KITWE, Northern Rhodesia, (Reuters)—Northern Rhodesian copper mining companies Saturday fired about 32,000 striking African workers who had ignored a "back to work" ultimatum. The Chamber of Mines had issued a warning that unless the strikers, out for 25 days, returned to work by last Friday night they would be dismissed.

PUBLISHER SEES MOLOTOV

LONDON (AP)—V. M. Molotov, Soviet foreign minister, received American publisher William Randolph Hearst Jr. Saturday, Moscow radio reported.

Breakfast Table

"Our brains are seventy-year clocks. The angel of life winds them up once for all, then closes the case, and gives the key into the hand of the angel of the Resurrection."

NOTES BY THE WAY

And now it has been suggested that children are a liability in the home. Well, we never found them as a liability and one certainly appreciates having children about when they grow older. Ask any childless couple about children as a liability.—St. Catharines Standard.

A properly educated man can go further in business which he enters knowing nothing about than one who was "trained" for it at the expense of his education. If schools and universities would concentrate on producing people thoroughly grounded in the traditional subjects, business and industry would teach them whatever else they needed to know.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

What happened to the Canada Medal? When Mr. Mackenzie King established this 100 per cent Canadian award in 1943 it was supposed to answer in part the problem of how to honor civilians for distinguished service to the nation while keeping the door closed to such titular marks of recognition as are distributed twice, and sometimes thrice, yearly from Buckingham Palace. Yet the first Canada Medal has still to be awarded.—Brantford Expositor.

So long as Canada remains a commercial satellite to any other country, we must expect the fluctuations in that country to leave their mark upon our economy. With a greater degree of independence, we are gaining greater control over our own destiny. We can and must take full advantage of that independence, by seeking our own solution through the normal channels of trade. And if wheat has constituted one of the main causes of the sluggishness of our business, our task is to get it moving toward some market, where all this potential wealth may be converted into what we need to keep our wheels turning. It will not be an easy problem to solve, but one thing is certain, no one is going to solve it for us.—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

A safe-gun-handling test should be required of persons under 19 years of age before they are issued gun licenses. This spoke the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters in annual meeting at Sturgeon Falls. Delegates said a safety gun test would stop some of the slaughter of persons during hunting seasons. No doubt, by why limit the tests to hunters under 19? A mature person knowing how to handle a gun should be pleased to demonstrate his know-how when applying for a license. It would be sensible to require safe gun-handling tests of everyone irrespective of age who applies the first time for a gun license. Good sense in handling a gun is as necessary as in driving a car. In this respect it might be said that the rules governing the issuance of drivers' licenses likewise are not sufficiently strict. Apparently not judging by the record.—Sydney Post-Record.

The practice of communities of choosing their "outstanding citizen of the year" is so fraught with difficulties that it takes outstanding nerve to announce the winner. And, often it takes outstanding self-conceit to accept the title. Only in exceptionally rare instances can one person be singled out as doing the most for any given town. We think we have found such a citizen. He lives in Waynesboro, Va. He is so outstanding that he convinced the selecting committee that his name should not be made public. This not only is an outstanding, and refreshing, display of modesty but, also, it gives the many outstanding citizens we are sure live in Waynesboro the opportunity to rightfully intimate to their friends that they are THE outstanding citizen. Thus, no outstanding egos get deflated, no one goes off in a corner to sulk, everyone is happy.—Montreal Star.

When man upsets the balance of nature too much, he usually runs into trouble. In Russia engineers are worried no end because the Caspian Sea is shrinking. The reason for this is that the engineers decided to improve agriculture and industry in the Caspian area by going ahead with irrigation and power projects. They had not counted on these so draining the rivers and streams running into the Caspian sea to make it impossible for them to replace the water lost from that sea through evaporation. See what we mean?—Brantford Expositor.

The classic example of co-operative utility is taking in one another's washing. It will have to be discarded. It is no longer so pointless as it seems. There has come about a situation in which it works with complete logic. There is required, of course, a certain lapse in official logic. Two British housewives have found the way to get something for nothing out of the unemployment insurance fund by means which Labor Ministry officials seem to regard with more amusement than disapproval. They literally take in one another's washing. Hire one another as laundresses for six month periods, fire one another, for the next six months draw unemployment compensation, and then start over again. The curious part, really, about the affair, is that the Labor Ministry officials aren't at all ruffled by the disclosure of what is going on, say there's nothing they can do about it, as if such ingenuity deserves its reward. Which sounds not at all like the voice of legendary British civil service rectitude.—Montreal Star.

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