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On The Decline?

It does seem as though totalitarianism, both right and left, is losing its grip. In the Soviet Union it appears to be weakening so rapidly that some Western observers are already talking about free elections behind the curtain.

Over in the Orient, the voice of Chou En-lai is becoming more and more subdued daily; not for a month or more has he threatened to "liberate" Formosa.

Down in Argentina the dictatorship of Juan Peron is, for all practical purposes, at an end. For the first time in more than ten years his political opponents have been permitted to air their views over the nation's radio system.

It's all very wonderful, of course — if there's no hitch to it!

Calendar Reform

World calendar reformers have scrapped their old target date of January 1, 1956. They now hope, with United Nations help, to change the civil calendar once and for all on January 1, 1961.

A lot depends on the United Nations economic and social council. At the 18 nation council's request, Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld has asked 84 governments, in and out of the United Nations, what they think about the idea.

The association has headquarters in New York City. It claims 55,000 members and has 39 national affiliates. It contends that the calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII is faulty because quarter and half years are unequal and each year starts a day or two later in the week than the last.

day called "Leapyear day." This would make the calendar perpetual. New Year's day would always come on Sunday, Christmas always on Monday.

India argues that the present calendar is inexact and makes it (1) impossible to arrive at exact quarterly and semiannual statistical comparisons and (2) necessary for authorities to fix court and legislative sessions, and so on, anew each year.

The United States, Great Britain, Burma and others object to the blank days. These would break up the cycle of Sabbaths every seventh day. Israel says this "would bring confusion to the religious and social life of Jews all over the world."

The United Nations has asked the Vatican, but has no answer yet. In 1912, the papal secretary of state told the international chamber of commerce the Holy See would not oppose calendar reform if fixing feasts was left to the church.

A Refreshing Story
The news these days is so deeply involved in the odds and ends of human disarray that it is refreshing and encouraging to read the little story which appeared recently about young King Hussein of Jordan and the poor boy, Mohammed Ali Muhisin.

The story is redolent of some of the more fabulous tales in the Arabian Nights Entertainments. As time goes on it will be revised and embellished until in due course it takes its place among the epics of the king's realm.

EDITORIAL NOTES

If it's a joke it's one that's in very bad taste; but it is difficult to believe that Social Credit member Blackmore is in earnest when he says that J. B. McGeachie, of the Toronto Globe and Mail, Patrick Keatley of the Manchester Guardian, and Matthew Halton, CBC correspondent in London, among others, "follow the Communist Party line" in their periodical comments on the news of the day.

When a Conservative member from British Columbia joins with a Liberal member from this Province in seeking some solution to the potato tariff problem, there is some hope that the important matter will attract governmental attention.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND 1955 AUGUST 1955. Re-union Aquatic Sports FLOWER SHOW. OLD HOME WEEK. Historical Pageant. SHIP VISITS. Boxings, Racing and St. Pacing, etc. Stay Around. Freaks Of Lightning. Short Of Expectation. Empty Clouds. Big Task Ahead. France's Atlantic Colony.

Freaks Of Lightning

The other day in International Falls, Minn., a bolt hit the plate glass window in a dress shop and opened a crack about an eighth of an inch wide and eight feet long.

Lightning strikes water, too, but it vastly prefers fishermen in row-boats holding metal fishing rods. Inside the house, use of electrical appliances — telephone, radio, stove and so forth — does not increase the danger from lightning.

Unfortunately, the plutonium core refused to slide into position, and the work went on for hours. Then someone noticed a desert thunderstorm headed toward the site.

Big Task Ahead
(Kitchener-Waterloo Record)
The Royal commission set up by the government to probe deeply into Canada's basic problems is beginning its herculean task with a study of the far northwest extending beyond the Arctic circle.

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Short Of Expectation

The mistake of expecting public projects to be a cure for unemployment is demonstrated repeatedly in government-financed works that fall far short of expectation in creating employment.

Empty Clouds
(Globe and Mail)
Discussion of cloud seeding as a means of bringing rain to combat Ontario's disastrous forest fires may lead conservation-conscious citizens to ask "Why hasn't it been done?"

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France's Atlantic Colony

Cap Breton's neighbor islands St. Pierre and Miquelon, a colony of France, have a new, youthful and enterprising administrator in Governor Pierre Sicard, who is determined to do everything possible to revitalize their economy.

NEW POWER PLANT
SARABI, Afghanistan, (CP)—A new power plant is being built here by a German firm. Located about 3,500 feet above sea level, it is to make use of the water power of the Kabul river.

Medically Speaking

New drugs and new medical techniques are constantly making our lives safer and much more comfortable.

Our monthly report on medical advances today includes the following: Clistin Maleate, a new antihistaminic agent with little side effect. This drug is reported effective in alleviating symptoms of allergic rhinitis, urticaria and other allergies.

HEART STIMULANT
University of Chicago medical scientists have determined that the heart stimulant, digitoxin, can be given safely to pregnant women without being transmitted in large doses to their unborn children.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A prison warden suggests that prisoners should be kept up to date on world news. No doubt this would check any desire to escape.

THE FLOWER-FED BUFFALOES
The flower-fed buffaloes of the spring. In the days of long ago, Ranged where the locomotives sing. And the pairie flowers lie low; The toasting, blooming, perfumed grass Is swept away by wheat. Wheels and wheels and wheels spin by. In the spring that still is sweet But the flower-fed buffaloes of the spring. Left us long ago. They gore no more, they bellow no more. They trundle around the hills no more. With the Blackfeet lying low. With the Pawnees lying low. Vachel Lindsay.

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Long Past Due
(Hamilton Spectator)
Relief is on the way for concert and theatregoers whose tempers become frayed when they have to listen to the entertainment they crackling and rustling from their neighbor's chocolate wrapping.

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