

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

The Washington Meeting in Retrospect

In retrospect, Sir Winston Churchill's meeting in Washington with President Eisenhower leaves unanswered, so far as the public is concerned, the fundamental issue in Anglo-American relations. That issue, clearly, is the future of Anglo-American policy in the Far East.

The British view, it seems, is that by compromising with Red China it may be possible in time to divorce the Peking regime from its alliance with Moscow. The British policy of compromise embraces a number of decisions which are highly unpalatable to the United States. There is, for example, the highly controversial issue of closer trade relations with China. Nor should the notion of a mutual non-aggression pact between the United Kingdom and Red China be entirely ruled out. Ultimately, there remains the thorny issue of Red China's admission to the United Nations. The British, unlike the Americans, do not appear to believe that Red China's presence at UN poses any insuperable problem.

It would be futile at this point to seek to determine whether British policy in the Far East is right or wrong. It would be equally futile to attempt to assess the merits of the United States proposal for an alliance in Southeast Asia similar in structure and purpose to NATO. What is disquieting is that in place of an Anglo-American policy for Asia, there is instead a British policy and several American policies, each differing sharply from the others.

Canada, it has been said more than once, is the vital link between the United Kingdom and the United States. Historically Canada, on more than one occasion, has successfully played the role of interpreter in Anglo-American diplomacy. Unfortunately, the present impasse in Anglo-American relations finds Canada without a voice and, seemingly, without a policy, beyond a general support for U. N. principles.

On Solid Ground

Just before prorogation Mr. J. Angus MacLean voiced a strong plea in the House of Commons for a better understanding by Canadians of the law and the legal proceedings under which they live. Favorable comment on his speech is made by the Chatham Daily News, which says:

"When the P. E. I. member referred to the 'abysmal ignorance' in Canada regarding the Canadian system of parliament and justice, he was on solid ground. Furthermore, as he pointed out, this ignorance is not confined to illiterates, but extends to Canadians who class themselves as well-educated.

"It is a striking fact that our schools, which are supposed to prepare the rising generation for intelligent citizenship, though they give a reasonable amount of attention to our governmental system, ignore the laws under which we live, and leave their pupils to discover what the law is, either from the newspapers or by painful personal experience. For such knowledge as Canadians may possess of our civil and criminal laws, our people are dependent on the necessarily incomplete and fragmentary newspaper reports of court proceedings."

No More Rationing

July 3 of this year will be numbered among the memorable days of British history. While it marks no spectacular political event or diplomatic achievement it will be remembered for years to come as the day on which the national will to triumph over disagreeable conditions engendered by war came, to at least a partial victory; after being endured for fourteen years, meat rationing came to an end.

This means, of course, that Britain's economic position has improved very considerably; it means also that the dollar shortage which has plagued the British people ever since the last war is being shorn of much of its damaging power by wise and long-term financial planning. More important than either, however, will be the psychological effect on people in all walks of life, who can now see for themselves that the austerity program, with all its inconveniences and discomforts, was indeed, a weapon in the nation's struggle for survival. In a free society governments can take the lead in instituting measures intended to strengthen the nation's economy, but responsibility for the success of such measures depends in large part on the people themselves. The cheerful way in which

citizens of the United Kingdom, irrespective of political convictions or of economic status, adhered to the rules and regulations regarding rationing of staple foods, may be cited as one more piece of evidence to support the claim that "there'll always be an England".

We in this part of the world know very little about food shortages and nothing at all about serious economic stringency. The British know a great deal about both. They know also that many things commonly referred to as "necessities" are, in fact, semi-luxuries which can be dispensed with in times of scarcity without danger to health and strength. In this connection it may be well to mention that medical surveys have established that, in general, the health condition of the British people is as good now as it was before the austerity program went into effect.

The end of rationing does not mean, necessarily, that there will be plenty of meat on British tables from now on; other things besides rationing enter into the picture. In any event, Britishers will rejoice that the "roast beef of Old England" is once more free from the shackles of austerity; their friends in many parts of the world will rejoice with them.

The Hudson Bay Route

The Calgary Albertan raises the question, What will happen to the Prairies' seaport, Churchill on Hudson Bay, when ocean freighters are able to sail up the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes to Fort William and Port Arthur?

The Hudson Bay route has long been a contentious subject, says the Calgary paper. About a quarter of a century ago the Federal Government completed a railway to Churchill and built up a grain terminal there, but the port and the route have failed to live up to expectations. Part of the difficulty is unavoidable. The route is open to shipping for only about three months of the year, but even in that short time the grain shipping facilities are not used to capacity. The Government is enlarging the storage capacity but still the route will not play a big part in grain movement.

Supporters of the route, who are mostly Saskatchewan farmers, argue that Eastern Canadian interests have managed to sabotage the development of the route, partly through maintaining exorbitant and unjustified cargo insurance rates. They say the route is fully as safe as the North Atlantic out of Montreal or Saint John, but it is being discriminated against.

Port Churchill is about the same distance as Montreal from Liverpool, and about the same distance as Fort William from the Prairie grain fields. Therefore the Churchill route to Britain is shorter by the whole of the distance between Fort William and Montreal. Opening the Great Lakes to ocean shipping won't change the distances, but it will mean substantially reduced charges for the Montreal route. Fort William will become an ocean port, just like Churchill, but with an eight-month season as against three months, with much better rail connection with the Prairies, and with much more capacious storage facilities. It is argued that if the St. Lawrence project weren't being built, the Hudson Bay route would go ahead rapidly. Now, one can't be so sure.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It looks as if Nepal will have to put a bag limit on mountain peaks. Sir Edmund Hillary's expedition has climbed nine previously unconquered peaks.

Substantial Federal grants are to be available to assist the Red Cross in collecting blood for gamma globulin. The substance provides temporary immunity to polio and is used in areas where the disease threatens to reach epidemic proportions.

The Maritime Chief Constables Association is unanimously against any proposal to class 18-year-olds as juveniles. The present age in the Maritimes is 16. The law regards a juvenile as incapable of any offence against the Criminal Code but such behaviour is classed as delinquency.

The Peterborough Examiner would like to see an order of chivalry with Canadian connotation to honour Canadians and others who have served this country well. It is not generally realized that there already exists a system of hereditary Canadian honours. Descendants of United Empire Loyalists are all members.

Percy Bysshe Shelley, English poet, was drowned when sailing from Ravenna to Spezia this date 1822. He was thirty years of age. He was expelled from college for publishing a pamphlet and turned to revolutionary politics. Many of his poems were reformatory in aim but he is remembered as a great lyric poet. Such pieces as "Ode to the West Wind", "The Skylark" and "Autumn" are indeed high achievements of imagination and musical expression.



Possible Unforeseen Developments

PUBLIC FORUM

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

LIQUOR & NATIONAL ECONOMY

Sir,—Today I read an article in an American daily paper that the U. S. cannot exist, economically, without the drink traffic, that her military preparations cannot be sustained without the help given by the liquor manufacturing plants.

It asserts that the anti-liquor forces are allied with the Communists for the ruin of the nation; and it winds up by asserting that the drink traffic should be allowed and encouraged to expand.

What does the writer of this article have to say to the great historian L'Abourette, who tells us that drink was the prime cause of the ruin of Greece and Rome. Other causes are also listed. Immorality and the break-up of the home, the invasion of crime, which are the children of drink, but drink is the chief cause.

What does the writer have to say of the week-end accidents due to drink and the party brawls that so often end in murder. The writer asserts that most of our murders are due to drink. This is true and not half of these fatal cases get into the papers as due to drink.

I strongly suspect that our American friend above quoted is becoming alarmed at the new trend of opinion in the U. S. in regard to drink. Many are thinking of prohibition again, and where local option is allowed that has been adopted. The booze barons and the vendors watch carefully the signs of the time and try to forestall any move that threatens their great business.

Why do we Christian people allow such unworthy people to influence the welfare of our country? I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Now they will know who is to blame, even the monkeys, for they are fingerprinting monkeys in the zoo at Havana, Cuba. —Niagara Falls Review

"A person has to be stupid in order to be happy," asserts a philosopher. This statement won't stand up under analysis, as there is a great deal more stupidity in the world than happiness. —Kings-ton Whig-Standard.

In Victoria a police magistrate has warned drinking teenagers they will face more severe penalties. What they need most has nothing to do with the face; it should be applied at the other end. —Vancouver Province.

It is strange how foreigners can come to this country and take advantage of opportunities which many at home either fail to see or do not know how to capitalize on. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

In Oklahoma the state mental health director has discovered that lie detectors just don't work on full-blooded Indians. Maybe the Indians, poor benighted fellows, were just telling the truth. Truth may be stranger than science. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Coal miners' and wheat growers seem to be in the same boat—able to produce a great deal more than the market will absorb. It is not surprising, therefore, that Alberta miners have voted for a new contract providing no increase in wages. Coal miners are plagued by new competition from gas and oil, cutting down the demand for coal. Wheat growers are the victims of an over-abundant Nature crops since 1950. Both groups are faced with marketing problems which will not be easily solved. —Lethbridge Herald.

Prime Minister St. Laurent made his announcement of Cabinet changes in what the press despatch described as "his steaming-hot office in the East block of the Parliament buildings." What no air-conditioning? This will never do. The Government has been accused of extravagance from time to time, but only a stony-hearted people

would begrudge the money spent in air-conditioning the office of Canada's Prime Minister. Particularly when you consider how hot it can and often does get in Ottawa. —Sydney Post-Record.

Everybody some of these days will be toothless, a scientist predicts. And here we thought the world was already sufficiently gummed up! —Chatham Daily News.

Railway workers in Trowbridge, England, are chipping in for a wooden leg—so their crippled cat can walk more normally on all fours. The cat, Ginger, lost a leg when the sight of a feline friend lured him onto the tracks in front of an oncoming locomotive. Tom cats should watch where they are going, shouldn't they? And so should certain creatures walking on two legs. —Sydney Post-Record.

A Canadian we know who has traveled a lot and is particularly devoted to his country claims that nowhere on earth are there so many permanently impermanent homes and buildings, more overhead wires and more unsightly streets. And this isn't because of a pioneer hurry or lack of funds as Canada ranks second only to the U.S. in per capita wealth. It is—because as a people we don't care. Our cities, with the splendid exception of Quebec, are only now beginning to sense the need of some architectural pattern and regulation—or at least some check on defacement. Most European towns and cities, building for lasting charm in environment rather than hurrying to put up any old thing as quickly as possible, refuse to tolerate any new structure that will not blend with the atmosphere and appearance of the place. —The Hamilton Spectator.

Canada's young women will be given an opportunity to render useful national service with anti-aircraft units for home defence. A report from Ottawa states that it is the Defence Department's intention to expand the Canadian Women's Army Corps (Reserve) as more equipment becomes available. The last war saw women serving in fields hitherto considered exclusively masculine, and in all they distinguished themselves by their courage, fortitude and devotion to duty. Where the service of guns by women was previously unheard of, the A.T.S.—British counterpart of the C.W.A.C.—were particularly notable for their work with heavy anti-aircraft guns in the defence of Britain under bombardment. —The Examiner, March, 25, 1945. Toronto Telegram.

The Passing Scene

By Observer MR. NEHRU AND MR. CHOU

There was so much publicity about the recent meeting between Prime Minister Churchill and President Eisenhower that the tele-a-lete, or whatever it was, between Prime Minister Nehru of India and Premier Chou En-lai of Communist China, which took place about the same time, was almost hidden from view. Nevertheless, in its own way, the New Delhi Conference was no less important than the Washington one; in the long run it may turn out to be even more important.

Everyone knows that, however much Britons and Americans may quarrel over matters big and small, they would find themselves on the same side in the event of war. They have the same general ideological beliefs and their thought processes are very much alike. In the case of the Indians and the Chinese, the situation is not quite as clear, which, in the circumstances is perhaps a good thing. About the only thing they have in common at the moment is an Asiatic environment. That means only that both countries are in Asia; it does not mean that they share each other's views regarding Asiatic hopes and Asiatic culture.

Mr. Nehru, if one may judge from his speeches, believes that Asia's rightful destiny lies neither with Western Democracy nor with Russian Communism. Mr. Chou, on the other hand, if one may judge from his actions, believes that Communism is Asia's only hope of salvation. The general belief in the West—perhaps it is well founded, and perhaps it is not—is that, if he had to choose between the two, Mr. Nehru would take Western Democracy perhaps a little reluctantly, as the lesser of two evils. Whether or not he told Mr. Chou that, we will probably never know. In fact, all we know about the New Delhi meeting is that the two leaders congratulated each other on the fact that India and China have been on friendly terms for 2000 years.

That's all very interesting and it may be quite true: only the historians, who make a business of that sort of thing, are in a position to say, and one annoying thing about historians is that they hardly ever answer "yes" or "no" to simple questions. Perhaps the reason for that is, that to the historian's way of thinking, there are no simple questions; each one is related to another and there is no telling just what basic situations, as distinct from surface manifestations, were like at any given period.

A 2000 year period is not a very long one, but it is long enough to obscure many meanings and purposes. As a simple matter of fact, if one may believe the historians, and of course one may, relations between India and China 2000 years ago were not exceedingly cordial, although the books do not say anything about a war. It was not so much friction as religious controversy which, as every one knows, can be very unpleasant.

It was then, or about that time, that Buddhism came to China from India, where it had flourished for five or six centuries. At the risk of handling words carelessly, one might suggest that by means of this export (Buddhism) India gave to China the seeds of what we call today democracy that country has had in the 2000 year period which, according to Messrs. Nehru and Chou, has been marked by Indian-Chinese friendship. For all its mysticism, perhaps because of it, Buddhism has been much closer to the masses of the people than has Confucianism, which officially and historically is China's native religion.

It isn't likely that Mr. Nehru reminded Mr. Chou of this historic favour—if that is what it was—for at the moment Mr. Chou might be expected to be a little touchy in such matters; but the fact remains that through the centuries India has done more for China, in a cultural sense, than China has done for India. Now, so unaccountable are the ways of history, Mr.

The Age Old Story

Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

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PUBLIC LAND SALES

According to the report of the Commission of Public Lands, 6,817 acres were sold to 103 persons for \$10,060 during the past year. Since 1855, 674,125 acres have been sold by the department, and 122,252 acres appear to remain still in the hands of the department. But a portion of these lands are held by squatters and some of the estates are greatly deficient of the quantity of land which they were represented to contain. So that the quantity of land the Government have yet to dispose of is really much less than the amount named. In concluding his report Hon. Mr. Ferguson says: 'Year by year the necessity of constant attention