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

The Tragedy Of France

The fall of Premier Laniel's government and the acknowledged failure of the Geneva conference have been foregone conclusions ever since the fortress of Dien Bien Phu fell to the communists.

On balance, it is clear that the Soviet Union and its allies have won both a diplomatic and a strategic victory. The fall of the Laniel regime in France places prospects for a European Defence Community including Western Germany in grave jeopardy.

Thoughtful Canadians will sense in the atmosphere of international politics today much that is reminiscent of the summer of 1939. Then, as now, the shadow of violence and aggression hung over much of the world.

Disillusionment, however, need not necessarily lead once again to Armageddon. Diplomacy, backed by arms, can still save the peace of the world.

Delinquent Parents

A growing trend to jail or fine parents for the delinquent acts of their children has been criticized in a United States children's bureau report entitled "Parents and Delinquency".

The problem is an ancient one. There can be no evading the fact that the conduct of children reflects credit or otherwise on their parents but the Common Law, at any rate, has always avoided placing vicarious responsibility on parents.

It is, indeed, a reasonable attitude. A man need not keep a ferocious dog. He cannot, however, in our society readily get rid of an anti-social child.

The Housing Code

Perhaps it is just an accident of history that the "Baltimore Plan" for code enforcement was originally inspired by the example of the City of Toronto's bylaw 14466 of 1936.

Recently a number of Canadian cities have become interested in what has come to be known as "The Baltimore Plan."

of Ottawa recently invited the Baltimore housing staff to explain their methods to local citizens, Winnipeg established a Housing Commission for this purpose in 1949 and the Vancouver Housing Association has been making similar proposals.

Though the expression "urban renewal" in the American legislation includes the practice of code enforcement, the term also points up the ultimate purpose of "renewing" rather than simply "maintaining" or rehabilitating old housing.

Measures of conservation seem to be most usefully applicable to residential areas which contain buildings of sound construction that are threatened with deterioration.

Our conservation officers have found best way to effect a porcupine's capture is to wait until he's in the open, then watching for that slapping tail rush in and pop a large washtub over him.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Among the projects being investigated by the newly reorganized Charlottetown Retail Merchants Association, is the establishment of a Shoppers' Parking Area for the convenience of the patrons.

Every target city in the present continent-wide Operation Alert is presumed to be "substantially destroyed", an assumption that gives civil defence authorities a thorough work out.

Space mice, sand-flea eggs and the He bomb are not guilty of pock-marking windshields, two University of Washington scientists have determined.

Wat Tyler (Wat the tiler), leader of the men of Kent in the rebellion of 1381, was killed by the mayor of London this date in that year.

Industry and commerce; constitutional and social questions; international payments; and economic development of the Commonwealth and Empire are some of the topics being raised at the 18th congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire now meeting in Montreal.



Altering Our Picture

NOTES BY THE WAY

Three trucks raced to a blaze in a fireman's house. At times one can overdo this business of taking work home. —Hamilton Spectator.

A "scale" so delicate that it can gauge weights in the range of 1-100,000th of an ordinary ink signature has been devised by physicists. —Hamilton Spectator.

A new high in toughness was reached by a Hamburg night club which warned guests not to park in front of the entrance; their cars might be dented by customers being thrown out. —Hamilton Spectator.

The British atomic industry will begin commercial production of electricity in 18 months' time. The cost of current is expected to be lower than in thermal stations but not, of course, cheaper than in hydro-electric plants. —Hamilton Spectator.

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Soybeans have become a very valuable part of the agricultural economy of Southwestern Ontario. The climate and soil are suitable for this crop.

When the 50th anniversary of the St. Louis World's Fair rolls around this month it will bring with it the 50th anniversary of a number of things that came out of the fair, not the least of which is

As airy and silent as leaves from a tree I sped o'er the dew-covered grass A loose shawl of moonlight sup-pressing the sea

When wading through lily and reed I thought of a moment and woke with a start

Again in the waters of silver and black I gazed for a soft, bending head: But not in that glass was a face looking back

And then, then I knew I was dead: —Danny McCarron, Montague, P. E. I.

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able

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Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

DAIRY IMPLEMENTS

From an advertisement inserted by R. K. Brace, Charlottetown, in The Presbyterian, July 24, 1884: "I have, at a tremendous expense, secured a complete outfit of Scientific Dairy Implements

During 1953, Canadians spent more on travel outside Canada than was spent by foreigners in Canada, the Canadian Bank of Commerce reveals in its monthly Commercial Letter.

American teachers are given to complaint that they are expected to do almost everything beside teaching. Teachers in Soviet Russia, it seems, are similarly afflicted.

exceeding the force of gravity between them. Putting these formulas into reverse for a review of the period before the universe contracted, we find that it must then have been collapsing with just as great speed as it is now expanding!

Cosmic Speculation

(Scientific American) Dr. George Gamow, a leading cosmologist who lately returned from a mathematical junket into cosmic history, describes the moment of creation as a blinding flash followed by a swirl of ylem.

Calculations based on the observed speed with which the universe is flying apart enabled scientists to fix the date of creation at approximately five billion B. C., a figure, says Dr. Gamow, "that is in perfect agreement with geological and astro-physical estimates."

"It is natural," he states, "to conclude that the chemical elements were formed in the relation of a theory which suggests that during the first few minutes of evolution. We believe the time of formation must have been very short, for the reasons that the free neutrons in the original ylem would have decayed very rapidly and that the temperature quickly dropped below the level at which nuclear reactions could take place."

According to Dr. Gamow, the theory that our universe was born in an immense explosion of the "big bang" hypothesis is gaining support from recent observations. Photographs made by the most powerful telescopes continue to show more and more stars flying from each other like the fragments of a hand grenade.

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Churchill History

(Winnipeg Free Press) It is not commonly known that Sir Winston Churchill in the 1930's, when at the summit of his power, wrote a history of the English-speaking peoples.

LONDON (Reuters) — Marshal Kliment Voroshilov, president of the Soviet Union, arrived in Budapest Monday, leading the Russian delegation to the third congress of the Hungarian Workers' (Communist) party, the Soviet news agency Tass reported.

There may be no scientific basis for that sort of sentiment; it means a great deal, nevertheless. Perhaps not as much as Kipling believed, but certainly much more than many international theorists are ready to admit.

So it is, one might suggest, with the British Empire which, if a bare majority in the Cambridge group be given their wish, will

Immediately on declaration of war, however, British workers and students rallied to the colours; patriotism again became the fashion. The same thing happened in France. M. Herve forgot all about his pre-war nonsense and went on to become a great patriot leader; he emerged from the conflict a hero.

Just before the Second Great War Oxford undergraduates passed a resolution, almost unanimously, saying, "in no circumstances will we bear arms for King and country."

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The Passing Scene THE FACT OF EMPIRE

A little news item, tucked away among chronicles of big events, says that a Cambridge University group recently defeated the motion, "The British Empire is declining—let it fall", by a margin of four votes, 51-47 was the official tally.

Granted that it came into life by right of a nation's power; that does not mean that it was not an evolution which grew out of the historic needs of peoples. Granted that the Empire concept of government is now impracticable; that does not mean that it was a mistake in the first place.

There is no sign of it thus far—there will be many areas which will need the guidance and protection of Empire.

What ever may be the near or remote destiny of the British Empire, it must be said that it has contributed much good to the world. Like all other institutions it has had its flaws, and it has shared in the limitations as well as in the achievements and glories of each succeeding generation.

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