

Free Trade Zone

Plans for creating a free trade zone in Western Europe have proceeded with dispatch since Britain announced willingness to become a member of the organization. The hope now is that the arrangement may be completed by next July. In all, 17 countries with a total population of more than 200 millions are expected to enter the agreement whereby all trade tariffs will be removed. Meanwhile, six countries—France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg—are hoping to sign a "customs union" agreement next month.

Britain, so far, has not joined this customs union, the reason being that under its provisions all members will erect the same tariff barriers against non-member countries. This does not apply to the proposed free trade agreement which will permit each member country to fix its own tariffs for imports outside the treaty area. Britain also wants agricultural products excluded from the free trade formula, while the other countries do not. The latest report is that a compromise will probably be worked out, so as to leave Britain's trade relations with the Commonwealth undisturbed. The important thing is that for the first time Britain and Western Europe are going to join in a policy of free and unrestricted trade which in time may very well lead to some form of political union, something which has been talked about off and on for many years.

When negotiations for the free trade arrangement began in earnest a year or so ago, the United States Government professed great and sympathetic interest in it. Secretary of State Dulles on several occasions referred to it as the best thing that could happen for the European economy. Now that an agreement is in sight, however, slight misgivings appear to be arising in Washington. In the early summer, an announcement from the State Department has disclosed, talks will be held with all European Governments with a view to having them reduce their tariffs on imports from the United States. This hardly fits in with the free trade idea under which it is hoped that Europe will become less, not more, dependent on imports from the U.S.

Gen. Norstad's Views

General Lauris Norstad, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, has been subjected to a good deal of press criticism in Britain and Western Europe for speaking out against the proposed reductions in NATO manpower. He has been especially critical of Britain's announced intention of cutting her forces in Germany approximately in half.

It must be granted, however, that Gen. Norstad's task these days is not an enviable one. As Supreme Commander he is responsible for the defense of Western Europe. And, of course, if things were to go badly for the allies in the event of a sudden Soviet assault, which is always a possibility, he would get most of the blame. Even with the present strength at his command he does not appear to be satisfied that the defense is adequate. It is natural, therefore, that he should be perturbed over the impending British withdrawal which almost certainly will be followed by French, German and Italian paring of their commitments. What the United States will do has not yet been disclosed. But for some time some influential members of Congress have been complaining that the United States is doing more than its share in the defense of Europe. There is no doubt that this complaint will become more articulate in the wake of the European reductions.

Gen. Norstad's uneasiness is made all the more pronounced by reason of the fact that he does not share the views of those who claim that nuclear power has made large land armies and conventional weap-

ons dispensable. More than once he has said that it is conceivable that a Soviet attack, should one be made, would be of a conventional type, in which case it is doubtful that the West would resort to nuclear devices and thus take the responsibility for all-out atomic war.

"International Law"

Everybody knows now where President Eisenhower stands with respect to "international law". He used the term at least a half-dozen times in his latest speech on Middle East affairs; and each time he referred to it as something which Israel must respect, because she is a small and relatively weak nation, and Russia may ignore, because she is powerful. For the latter there can be only "moral pressure" from the United States and the United Nations.

A weaker speech was probably never delivered by the leader of a great nation. Its gist was that Israel must comply with U.N. resolutions and take chances on being treated fairly in the future, while Russia and Egypt are to be allowed to do pretty much as they please. But the most sickening passage in the speech was this one: "It would indeed be a sad day if the United States ever felt that it had to subject Israel to the same type of moral pressure as is being applied to the Soviet Union." That surely is adding insult to injury. What it means in effect is that economic, political and military sanctions which, if the President has his way, are to be applied against Israel are less severe than the "moral pressure" which has been applied against Russia. No Israeli can be expected to accept that view. Nor can anyone else who knows the meaning of plain words and who has the slightest respect for the most elementary moral principles, to say nothing of "international law."

EDITORIAL NOTES

One good thing about the elevation of the Duke of Edinburgh to princely status is that those ill-informed magazine writers and reporters who have persisted in referring to him erroneously as "Prince Philip" will now be able to carry on the practice legitimately.

Emperor Haile Salassie of Ethiopia is reported to be angry over President Eisenhower's failure to confer with him concerning his new policy for the Middle East. He ought not to take the slight too badly in view of the fact that other nations more powerful and more closely allied with the United States were left out of the deliberations.

United States officials expected Israel to obey orders to withdraw her troops from Egyptian territory without waiting for suitable guarantees. Well, they have now found out their mistake. Israel is the first democratic state to insist on the United Nations living up to its responsibilities. The whole free world owes her a debt of gratitude.

Western diplomats are wondering what the Soviet Union's change of foreign ministers may mean. One thing sure is that it means no good. Shepilov, to give the devil his due, occasionally said "may be" to Western suggestions for settling problems. Gromyko is a man of one word—"no".

The Egyptian Minister of Portugal is reported to have been the only foreign diplomat not present at a reception for Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh in Lisbon. He had conveniently left town, just before the Royal party's arrival. It was, of course, an exhibition of bad manners; but then no representative of Colonel Nasser can be expected to be outstanding in diplomatic civilities.

It is reported that in brushing aside Mr. Stanley Knowles' proposal that all medical expenses be deducted from income for tax purposes, Justice Minister Garson branded it a "phony". What kind of talk is that for a minister of the Crown? It's bad enough to use that word as an adjective; to use it as a noun is reprehensible; and if it isn't described in the Speaker's books as unparliamentary language, it certainly ought to be. What justification is there for ridiculing any proposal that is intended to give aid and comfort to a sick person?



ZOOM!

Singapore Constitution

Reuters News Service, London

British and Singapore ministers will open full-scale negotiations here March 11 on the constitutional future of the Southeast Asian island colony of Singapore.

Lim Yew Hock, the island's chief minister, who will lead the Singapore delegation, thinks prospects for complete internal self-government for the territory are good.

He had preparatory talks here last December with Alan Lennox-Boyd, the British colonial secretary. They then agreed that the agenda for the March conference, which is expected to last for about two weeks, should be:

1. To take note of the items in the constitutional proposals by the British government which already have been agreed to in principle. (These were made at the abortive negotiations in London in May, 1956, when the Singapore delegation was led by Lim's predecessor, David Marshall.)

2. Internal security. The conference last May failed mainly because of the deadlock on the question of control of the island's internal security when it impinges on defence.

3. Designation of the Queen's representative in Singapore.

4. External relations and the external defence of the island, which is Britain's largest Far Eastern naval base.

5. The date when the new constitution shall come into force.

6. The position of civilian employees in the armed forces.

Well-informed sources here believe that two vital issues at the forthcoming conference will be the problem of internal security and the designation of the Queen's

representative in Singapore, which has a population of about 1,200,000.

REJECTED COUNCIL

At last May's conference, the British delegation, led by Lennox-Boyd, proposed the establishment of a defence and security council consisting of the British high commissioner, the chief minister, two other British representatives and two other Singapore representatives.

But because the British plan gave the high commissioner the casting vote, Marshall rejected the proposal and the negotiations failed.

Lim now is understood to have suggested that the council be composed of three representatives each of Britain and Singapore and one from the Federation of Malaya, Singapore's big neighbor, which is due to become an independent member of the Commonwealth Aug. 31.

This would, in the event of a division of opinion between the British and Singapore members of the council, give the final vote to the federation's representative.

Lim has made it clear that he wants Britain to retain control of Singapore's defence and foreign affairs. But he has made this proviso—that foreign trade and cultural relations shall come under the island's elected ministers.

He has warned the legislative assembly that another failure of the constitutional negotiations would be too much for the people of Singapore to bear.

"It will mean a grave blow to the democratic forces in Singapore and make the ground fertile for subversive forces to operate," he declared.

OTTAWA REPORT

Parliamentary Activities

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: The purpose of this column is to tell you about the highlights and trends of our parliamentary government in this national capital. And in doing this, I try to describe the work performed by our national figures and outstanding politicians of all parties, with special emphasis from time to time on the M.P.'s who represent the fifty-five constituencies where this column is read.

The House of Commons meets for 5 1/2 hours on four days of each week, for 3 1/2 hours each Wednesday, and not at all on Saturdays or Sundays, under normal conditions. This 25 1/2 hour week does not represent the total work done by your M.P. in Ottawa. He spends perhaps several hours a day in his office, attending to the requests contained in letters from constituents. Once a week or perhaps more often he meets with his colleagues in party caucus, and again with his colleagues in smaller provincial party caucus if he is a Liberal. And he probably sits on two or three committees during the session.

In a year such as this, with a general election expected, your M.P. will also spend some time mending his political fences around his constituency.

These rival claims upon his time, coupled with the lure of drinking coffee, playing cribbage, and "chewing the fat," cut deep into his attendance during those 25 1/2 hours each week when the House is sitting.

WORK IN THE CHAMBER
The largest attendance in the House is always for Orders of the Day, at the opening of each day's sitting. It is then that important current topics are introduced by means of questions addressed to some Cabinet Minister; it is then that the government gives notice of its intended legislation. It is then that the House tends to be at its liveliest and most interesting pitch.

But during this past week, the shadow of the election has loomed larger than ever, as reflected by absenteeism of members dredging up support for themselves back home.

To report "A day in the life of

your member of Parliament" last week, it would have been necessary to be in about 150 different places all over Canada.

The House today consists of 169 Liberals, 50 Conservatives, 22 C.C. Fers, 15 Socialists and 3 Independent members. There are six vacancies caused by the death of the sitting member. Of this House of 269 M.P.'s, I counted 106 only on Orders of the Day one day, and 109 another day.

On one of these days, Conservative Leader John Diefenbaker rose to his feet when Finance Minister Walter Harris moved that the House should go into committee of supply.

Mr. Diefenbaker moved that "this House is of the opinion that the welfare of the Canadian people requires the adoption now of a national development policy which will develop our natural resources for the maximum benefit of all parts of Canada, encourage more processing of those resources in Canada, correct the present serious unfavourable trade balances, foster wider financial participation by Canadians in the development of our resources, and promote greater opportunity and employment for a steadily increasing population."

NO CONFIDENCE
This of course amounted to a motion of no confidence in the government. I counted no less than eight Cabinet Ministers listening very carefully indeed to Mr. Diefenbaker ripping into them for inactivity and lack of imagination. In due course, two of their numbers, Mines Minister Prudham and Resources Minister Lesage replied in behalf of the Cabinet; the latter falling back on the oft-heard excuse that natural resources are a provincial responsibility, and that the federal government would not and could not interfere with provincial rights by taking any lead to foster such a programme as that sought by the Opposition. There are of course many examples where it has suited federal government to invade provincial rights, notably in the field of taxation; and in that case the federal trespass has severely handicapped the provincial gov-

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.

C.C.F. OBJECTIVES

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Pridham's letter in Friday's Guardian please permit me to mention some instances where government (or public) ownership is functioning very satisfactorily: Postal services, Transportation, the C.B.C., Education, Health and Welfare, etc.

Monopoly by large corporations, who work only for their own profit and are responsible to no one, is much more to be feared than public ownership which is responsible to the people. The latter is democracy in action.

The C.C.F. does not advocate the abolition of private enterprise where it serves a useful purpose such as in co-operatives, small businesses, or wherever there is healthy competition; and where there is danger of monopoly in public services government ownership can best serve the people.

Please let me assure Mr. Pridham that the C.C.F. still follows the principles and program laid down by its great founder the late J.S. Woodsworth and it has exerted an influence in Canadian politics far beyond its numerical strength—especially in the field of social legislation, as old age pensions, family allowances, unemployment insurance, health insurance, prison reform, etc. Conditions have changed somewhat since Mr. Woodsworth's day. He would have rejoiced had he been able to see the growth of the Labor Movement and the curb which Labor Unions through their policy of collective bargaining have been able to exert upon monopolistic capitalism.

"The aim of the Co-operative, Commonwealth Federation (C.C.F.) is the establishment in Canada by democratic means of a Co-operative Commonwealth in which the supplying of human needs and the enrichment of human life shall be the primary purpose of our society. Private profit and corporate power must be subordinated to social planning designed to achieve equality of opportunity and the highest living standards for all Canadians."

The above quote is one of the tenets of the C.C.F.
I am, Sir, etc.,
M.A. MACINNIS,
Borden, P.E.I.

ernments in implementing their responsibilities.
By the end of this two-day debate, some 80 week-ending M.P.'s had returned to Ottawa, and the Liberals voted as a solid phalanx to defeat the three opposition parties by 121 to 67.

While Mr. Diefenbaker made out an excellent case for an excellent cause, he perhaps quite incidentally raised an even more important subject. This is the need for an entirely new approach to Federal-Provincial relationships. We are operating now, on a formula devised by the Fathers of Confederation to meet the very different circumstances of 50 years ago. With the changed conditions of trade, finance, population, industry and world affairs, we need to approach current problems from a position of similarly modified federal-provincial responsibilities.

STILL FIRM FRIEND
PARIS (AP).—Premier Guy Mollet said Friday France will continue to give Israel all the aid she can. "They have asked us for lots of aid. We have done what we could and we will continue to give all we can."

WITCHDOCTORS JAILED
KALABO, Northern Rhodesia (Reuters).—Two female African witchdoctors were jailed for two years each here this week on charges of cannibalism. British authorities said the women dug up the remains of two newly-buried bodies—the son and grandson of one of them—and ate them in a black magic ritual.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sandesen, M. D.

KEEP THESE RULES

Most of you probably have taken medicine of one form or another off and on for years. Maybe a simple cough remedy or maybe one of our newer sulfa drugs.

Yet I'll bet you don't know the ten fundamental rules all of you should be thoroughly familiar with before you are safely prepared to handle medicine in your own home. Here they are in simplified form:

1. Always read all directions carefully before taking medicine.
2. Shake liquid medicine thoroughly when the directions so advise.
3. Don't take medicine originally prescribed or intended for others.
4. Never increase the dose or take more frequent doses than directed without approval of our physician.
5. Don't take medicine in the dark. You might accidentally grab the wrong bottle.
6. Keep the label side of the bottle on top when pouring the medicine. This will keep the label clean and easy for you and your pharmacist to read.
7. Close the container immediately after taking the medicine. Some medicines become weaker and others stronger if left in an open container.
8. Don't pour medicine back into the bottle once it has been removed. It might contaminate the entire preparation.

TOPS OF BOTTLES

9. Don't interchange covers or tops of medicine bottles. You might use the wrong medicine by mistake sometime by identifying it by its cover.

10. Keep all medicine out of the reach of children.

These rules are easy to follow. They really take little effort and they might prevent a serious accident.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

L.F.: What causes cold sores?
W.C.: Can I do about them?
Answer: The exact cause for cold sores, scientifically known as herpes labialis, is not known. They commonly occur following colds and such diseases as pneumonia, malaria or meningitis.

It has been found that one treatment with X-ray will tend to help prevent the recurrence of this condition. However, if the herpes have already formed, the use of such preparations as spirits of camphor or a bland ointment such as Lassar's paste may be helpful.

The Poet's Corner

WINTER BIRDS

For food and drink, but not for that alone, from the winter silence of the hill,
From wind-filled branches and hollow tree and still,
And hidden places, lichen overgrown,
With beat and flurry louder than the moan
Of frosty pines they come, and seem to fill
The morning with their sudden wings and spill
An April light on earth as cold as stone.

For them, despite the nest that keeps them warm
For me, despite the fire and friendly word,
I think in winter that some ice must form
Around the heart of woman and of bird,
And it is good, in this beleaguering weather,
To peck at crumbs and speak awhile together.

—Olivia Moore, in the New York Herald-Tribune.

The Age Old Story

TRUST in the lord with all thine heart; and lean not into thine own understanding.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(February 25, 1932)

An estimated loss of about \$5,000 occurred in a fire which broke out early yesterday morning in the residence of Mr. Neil Darrach, Charlottetown. All the upper story of the building was gutted by fire and the lower floors considerably damaged by water. Occupants of the house escaped with only minutes to spare.

Mr. Gethin Edward, the navigator who accompanied Mrs. J. S. Jenkins on her flight from Montreal on Tuesday, made a flight yesterday to Moncton. Mr. Edward, who left in the late afternoon, is expected to make the return flight tomorrow.

TEN YEARS AGO
(February 25, 1947)
The order of three million bushels of potatoes for the British Ministry of Food is now in process of loading. Mr. J. W. Boulter reported at a large meeting of shippers and other interested at the Legion Hall yesterday afternoon. Mr. Boulter stated that the first ship, taking about 88 cars, will load about March 5th.

Seventeen cattle, three horses, \$1500 worth of machinery and \$800 worth of feed along with a \$3,000 barn—all the property of Mr. William Butler, York Point, were destroyed by fire yesterday morning. Also lost were seven tons of fertilizer, 20 tons of hay, and 400 bushels of grain. Loss is estimated at \$7,000.

MAXIMS

Never bear more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three—all they have had, all they have seen and all they expect to have.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Grapefruit is not square, but it's honest. Restaurants are baffled when it comes to getting three halves out of one fruit, as they do with cantaloupe.—Chatham News.

Girls, a psychologist says you should learn to laugh with your husband. But first, of course, you should learn to quit laughing at him.—Ottawa Citizen

Judging by the present credit restrictions, the government must think the public can't be trusted with their own money.—Toronto Star.

Just because the girls laugh at your remarks is no proof that you are witty. Perhaps they have pretty teeth.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

You're getting old if you can remember how they used to chop up the ice in the horse trough on the market square that now isn't.—Sarnia Observer

Canadian National Railways has ordered 137,000 pieces of china and 140,000 glasses for the new Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal. What a field for guests who want a free souvenir!—Ottawa Journal.

Nothing flatters the ego more than a set of markers bearing the driver's initials. Connecticut and New Hampshire have found these a profitable source of income at a surcharge of \$5 a pair.—London Free Press

A sleep-walking woman in California turned sleep-driver and drove 23 miles before waking up. It was found to come in this age when many people's feet are more at home on the gas pedal than on the ground.—Lethbridge Herald.

United States Secretary of State Dulles succeeds in putting his foot in his mouth almost every time he opens it. It is hard to understand an experienced diplomat, who is earnest, sincere and well-meaning, making continual embarrassing statements. The red-faced State Department official at Washington are constantly engaged in explaining away Mr. Dulles' foolish remarks.—London Free Press

The trouble is that the modern family is afflicted with "motoritis." Father pays two or three or four times as much for the family home as for the family car and the former is a more comfortable place to relax and enjoy a holiday; yet every weekend sees people swarming onto the highways by the hundreds of thousands. The cause of this mania for mileage is all a mystery.—Edmonton Journal

Southern Alberta, cradle of the range sheep industry in Canada, should be raising more sheep for they mean to the producer two crops—one of wool and the other lambs for the commercial market. Choice lambs of around 100 pounds in weight are fetching 19 cents at Toronto and one marketing organization in Lethbridge reports its shipments are running from six to eight cars a week.—Lethbridge Herald

Years around newspaper offices have given us many views of ink smeared clothes, but nothing of the sort we heard about the other day in Trenton, Mo. Seems Publisher Ray Van Meter, standing on the ink barrel instead of a stepladder to reach a high shelf in the Trenton Republican—Times shop, slipped and the barrel lid was dislodged. So was Publisher Van Meter, who fell kerplunk into that thick, sticky, black mass.—Kansas City Star

We are fortunate in having a wife who dabbles in sox.—Calgary Herald.

About the only thing a penny will buy these days is a few minutes rest in a parking meter stop.—Niagara Falls Review.

A northern explorer tells us that some Eskimo women wear \$5,000 worth of furs as their everyday attire. And with practically no audience.—Chatham News.

There are two main reasons why a woman buys an article — because nobody has it or because everybody has it.—Chatham News.

"Cook your oysters; uncooked oysters are unhealthy," advises a dietitian. How could cooking an oyster improve his health?—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Sorry, girls, but we cautioned you repeating to leap while the leaping was good, which it won't be again for the next four years.—Ottawa Citizen

It isn't the good food of the old days that we oldsters need, so much as the good hard work which developed the good appetites.—Chatham News.

People are funny. Tell a guy there are eight billion stars in the sky and he believes you. Tell him it's fresh paint and he has to stick his finger in it.—Chicago Sun-Times.

Ontario officials forecast that by 1959 province will have 2,000,000 licensed drivers. That's one way of looking at the present rate, there may not be any drivers left by 1959.—Edmonton Journal

Colo, the first gorilla born in captivity at Columbus, Ohio, has been described as "cute," sweet and wonderful." It only goes to prove that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.—Toronto Telegram.

Irony of the week department: A mental patient in a hospital in England won about \$80,000 in a football pool. He correctly forecast the scores of eight football games. As in many facts of our society, being crazy isn't absolutely necessary; but it helps.—Sherbrooke Record.

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