

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

THURSDAY, NOV. 3, 1955

Nothing Encouraging

From all accounts the Big Four Foreign Ministers' Conference is having hard sledding, harder perhaps than had been anticipated. While no one, not even the Foreign Ministers themselves, can predict the outcome with any assurance of accuracy, anyone can see that nothing has happened so far to warrant optimism. Indeed, it looks very much as if the "Geneva spirit" must remain a theoretical force for some time to come. After a week of discussions the only agreement reached is a negative one, namely, not to invite either of the two German governments to the conference. Mr. Molotov's insistence on doing away with the Western alliance as a prelude to German reunification is so preposterous that it is scarcely worth mentioning, except as one more proof of Russia's obstructionist policy. Only a government composed of madmen would agree to any such foolish proposal.

Evidently believing there is not much chance of coming to a political accord, Western delegates are trying the Russians out in the field of cultural exchange. Certainly, elimination of censorship on news from Moscow, reciprocal establishment of information centres, distribution of films on a co-operative basis, encouragement of unrestricted tourist travel, and anything else that might help, even in a small way, to break down the rigid barriers that now stand in the way of an understanding, would be of considerable benefit to all concerned.

But these are suggestions which Western governments have been pressing on the Soviet Government for years without making any noticeable dent in Russian obstinacy. And if, as it seems, the Russians are adamant in refusing free communication between the two German zones, what hope is there that they will encourage that cultural freedom in a wider sphere? It is not a pleasant thought; but he would be an incorrigible optimist who would continue to look for tangible results from the present Geneva Conference on the basis of anything that has happened up to this time.

A Significant Report

Five years ago, when he was President of Columbia University, General Eisenhower set up a "Project for the Conservation of Human Resources." Participating in the undertaking were representatives of the university faculty, business organizations, private financial foundations, labour unions, and the United States Government. The idea was to find some way to avoid waste in the application of individual talent to various phases of community life. An interim report has now been made by the Project's director, and it shows some interesting things.

Perhaps the most significant fact brought out is that of those college students who are supposed to have the greatest aptitude for learning—that is to say, those who make the highest marks in intelligence tests—less than 50% go on to graduation. "This fact," the director states, "has important policy implications for employers." He then goes on to express this rather unusual opinion: "Any personnel policy which differentiates sharply between college trained and the non-college trained is dangerous. The college trained group includes many individuals of quite average and perhaps inferior ability, while the non-college trained group includes many very able persons."

That this is an unusual opinion is evidenced by the fact that, for a good many years now, an academic degree—almost regardless of the standards of the bestowing institution—has been looked upon as a badge of extraordinary ability. Indeed, it has become almost impossible for young people who lack degrees to find any position carrying

with it the slightest executive responsibility. This report of President Eisenhower's Project will perhaps help to clear the air and to put the whole matter of academic attainment in a more reasonable and less mythical light. It does not suggest that academic degrees are worthless—that would be an equally serious error—but it does demonstrate that other considerations beside formal education should have a place in the determining of an individual's fitness to shoulder responsibility.

Britain Annexes Rockall

Rockall, a North Atlantic island about as big as a baseball diamond, finally has found an owner. With traditional ceremony, Great Britain has claimed the lonely stone speck 280 miles northwest of Ireland. A landing party from the survey ship H.M.S. Vidal went ashore, planted a flagstaff, unfurled the Union Jack, and left behind a plaque commemorating the annexation.

Long roamed only by winds and sea birds, this newest possession of the British Crown stands only 70 feet high and little more than that in diameter. Its total shoreline measures only 250 feet. It was annexed because it may fall within the orbit of a proposed guided-missiles range in the Hebrides.

Looming starkly from the sea, Rockall has felt the feet of few adventurers. To take a boat through the pounding swells and neighboring reefs is hazardous except in dead calm. Parties from H.M.S. Endymion claved to its summit in 1810. Shortly before, Endymion's captain had "chased" the island, mistaking it for another ship with white sails aloft and dark hull below—an illusion perhaps created by guano on the pinnacle.

Far off normal sea lanes, cramped and waterless, Rockall has never had a lighthouse. Its hazards are increased by a reputed area of magnetic disturbance two to three miles off the island. So far as is known no person has ever lived there. The rocky hump, exposed summit of a 60-mile-long submarine range known as the Rockall Bank, has borne several names, says the National Geographic Society. The earliest known was Rockabarra (Gaelic for "the spiked rock"). Others were Rockol, Rokele and Rocil. Ornithologists debate whether the islet is a breeding place or merely a summer resting site for seagoing birds. One survey revealed four adult guillemots (narrow-billed auks) on the rock and some 10 others on the near-by sea.

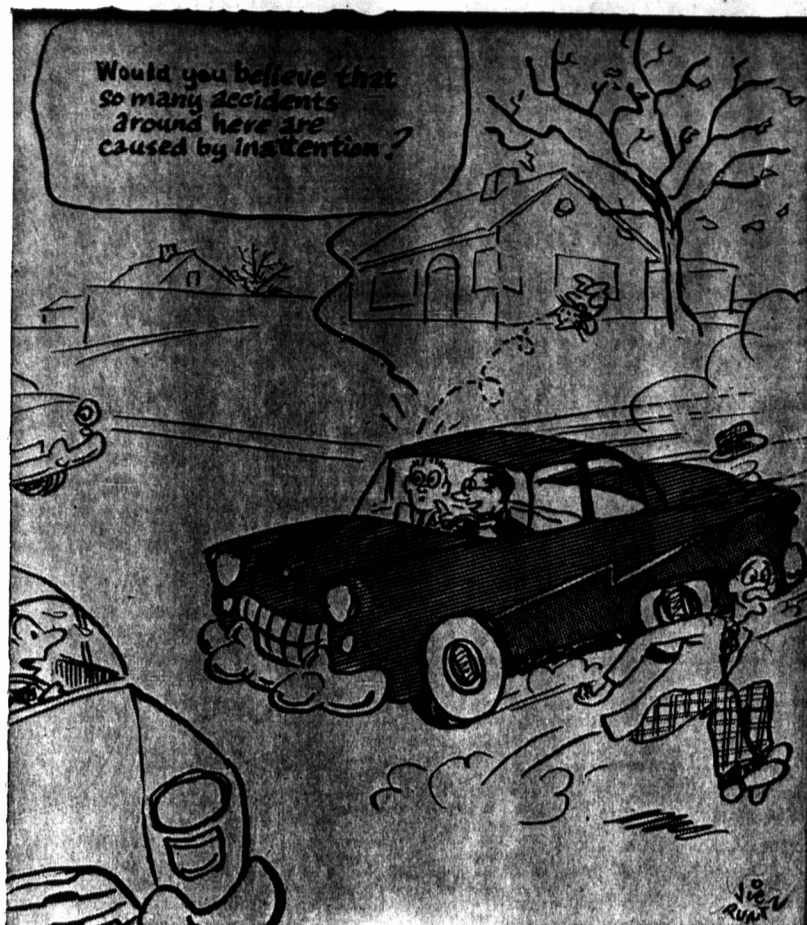
EDITORIAL NOTES

Pawnbroking must be a lucrative trade. When a man in the business advertised for a porter, the printer made it appear as though he wanted a "partner". The telephone didn't stop ringing all night, he says—so many persons wanted to get in the business.

A British doctor has expressed the opinion that men who run the 26 mile marathon probably use up more energy than channel swimmers. Yes, and if the truth were known, hardworking men like lumbermen, miners, and many others who might be mentioned, use more energy than either the runners or the swimmers.

It is reported that Japan's coal industry is declining rapidly. And all because of a strike in the fall of 1952. It lasted so long that the government advised industrial firms to turn to oil; which they did, with the result that when the strike finally came to an end the demand for coal had dwindled very considerably, and it has been going down ever since. To make matters worse, American coal can be sold in Japan for \$5 less than the home product.

Russian archeologists, working in the glacier regions of ancient Scythia, have dug out the frozen bodies of a number of warriors said to have been buried more than 2000 years ago. According to a Swedish scientist who examined them, the bodies were in a perfect state of preservation, "because the tombs were covered with loose flat stones that reflected the sun's rays but admitted water and cold air so that the contents were frozen into solid blocks of ice". Evidently, refrigeration is not as modern a technique as is generally believed.



IT'S EASY!

OTTAWA REPORT

Crown Corporations

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: As an average Canadian taxpayer, you are a typical shareholder in our thirty Crown Corporations.

Yet you are almost certainly completely unaware that you have any interest in these government businesses. Possibly you do not even know of the existence of these Crown Corporations. Undoubtedly you are in complete ignorance about how much they cost you personally each year.

There are twenty-nine of these Crown Corporations, as well as the Canadian National Railway system. They include a group of radio stations, a film studio, a rubber plant, a uranium mine, a hydro-electric system, a cable company, an airliner, a steamship line, and other businesses. Government activities of this type include lending money, marketing wheat, renting houses, mining coal, operating harbours, building aircraft, manufacturing munitions, and fabricating metals.

All taxpayers are compelled to provide the working capital for these government enterprises. If the operation of these Crown Corporations and Government agencies is not financially profitable, we find that our liability is not limited to the amount of working capital already subscribed. On the contrary, we are compelled to foot the bill for their annual loss, as in the case of the increasingly costly Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

An even more glaring example of the taxpayer covering an operating loss is the Canadian National Railway, which last year called upon him to make good its deficit of \$29,000,000.

OUR HUGE INVESTMENT  
 Finance Minister Walter Harris told Parliament in his budget speech this year that the taxpayer's money invested in Crown corporations amounted to \$1,795,100,000. In addition, the government has made substantial loans backing up its interest in these business and similar undertakings. Mr. Harris did not disclose this additional debt.

Every Canadian taxpayer, whether or not he wishes and whether or not he knows it, has money invested in these various projects. The average father, as head of a family, carries this particular baby for his wife and children. This means that he has \$274 invested in the C.N.R.; \$142 invested in the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation; \$28 in the National Harbours Board; \$10 in Polymer Corporation; \$5 in the C.B.C.; and so on to a total of \$478. These figures do not include the loans.

These Crown Corporations are nominally under the control of the elected representatives of the taxpayers, our M.P.'s sitting in parliament. But a very real objection to the operation of these Crown Corporations today is that in practise Parliament is not permitted by the Cabinet to exercise any but rubber stamp control over these corporations.

DANGER TO DEMOCRACY  
 Normally M.P.'s receive no answers to their questions seeking information about their staff and their operations. In the rare cases where a Crown Corporation is examined by a committee of Parliament, the rules of procedure permits no more than lip service to the principle that M.P.'s are watchdogs for the taxpayer.

The deeply dangerous but little recognized menace of the Crown Corporation as a permanent limb

The Age Old Story

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

of government is its arrogant tendency to progressively increasing dictatorship. It deliberately and unlawfully bypasses Parliament. It skulks behind the red tape curtain of improper secrecy. It flaunts the law of the land and the rights of the individual.

Each and every M.P. should demand recognition of his right to see and full access to all information concerning every Crown Corporation.

Without this information, no M.P. can carry out his task of supervising how the taxpayers' money is spent. Without this information, no M.P. can check up even the most flagrant extravagance on the part of the management of these Crown Corporations.

And without this information in detail, M.P.'s cannot halt the transfer of the powers which were vested in Parliament by our constitution, to the executives of these Crown Corporations.

This transfer of governmental power away from Parliament is being made daily by the cabinet and even by civil servants.



ONLY THE DREAM IS REAL

Only the dream is real. There is no plan transcending even a rose's timid glory. A cricket's summer song. The ways of man are stupors of the flesh, and transitory. There is no truth but dreams; yet man must spend his gifts of quiet days in storm and stress. Inheeding that a single breath will end. With one swift stroke the hoax of wordliness.

Only the dream will last. Some distant day the wheel will falter, and the silent sun will see the last beam leveled to decay. And all man's futile tangor spent and done. Yet after brick and steel and stone are gone. And flesh and blood are dust, the dream lives on.

—Anderson M. Scruggs.

The Suez Canal Base

By Gilbert Seddon  
 Reuters News, Ismailia

The experiment of manning military installations in the Suez canal base with British civilian technicians after the base is handed over to the Egyptian army is beginning to take shape here.

Nearly 500 British technicians have arrived and are at work. The general pattern of organization has been completed for a total of about 2,000 Britons, including their families, to be grouped in three civilian communities when the evacuation of British forces is completed by next June.

Under the Anglo-Egyptian agreement on the canal base, signed Oct. 19, 1954, all major installations are to be maintained for seven years by British civilian contractors.

Pre-Roman London

(Reuters Agency, London)  
 The men who excite historians by unearthing evidence of the 500-year Roman occupation of Britain have gone and told of digging up remnants of an even older society.

Archeologists are always uncovering relics of the Roman siege, but a leader of a recent expedition delighted Britain's large crop of historians by proving the existence of an organized community active before Julius Caesar's followers took over the country.

The pre-Roman town, inhabited by Celts, was located near the present-day village of Silchester, on the Berkshire - Hampshire border 30 miles west of here.

The Romans began their domination in 55 B.C., but because of the difficulties of transportation, they did not attack the village until about 40 A.D. The Celts then fled the area and settled in Wales.

FIND RELICS  
 Excavations were made in a 45-foot-wide ditch, believed to have been a barrier in the community's defence system.

In the bottom of the ditch, under 10 feet of earth, archeologists found hundreds of pieces of broken pots and vases.

"That was definite proof that the Society existed before the Roman conquest," George Boon of Reading Museum said.

Boon's party will go back to the area next September and dig up more ditches and other parts of the area which might hold evidence of the hamlet or its residents.

Thousands of historical finds, by both professional and amateur archeologists, have been made in the past decade. One of these was the unearthing of the famous temple of the goddess Diana, near Newport in September.

The existence of the Roman temple was established in the 17th century, but it was not unearthed until this year.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

OLDSTERS NEED LES SFATS

While all of us need some fat in our diets, we need less as we grow older.

As a matter of fact, many experts on food matters insist that it is harmful for older persons to eat more than the minimum amount of fat necessary for body maintenance.

GALLBLADDER AILMENTS

Gallbladder disease, for example, traditionally chooses its victims from among women in the "fair, fat and forty" group. Excess eating of fats seems to have a definite bearing on gallbladder ailments.

We know for a fact that most gallstones contain cholesterol, a type of fat. Hardening of the arteries, too, frequently is caused by deposits of cholesterol along artery walls and fatty deposits in the liver can cause much damage.

Even after you take off those excess pounds, don't forget what you have learned from your reducing diet.

Cut down your fat allowances as you grow older. Just remember that many foods contain hidden fat.

For instance, fat is dispersed through the lean meat of a prime steak and in fish. Most types of cheese contain a lot of fat, and it's found even in some vegetables.

So, be on the safe side. Don't eat so much fried foods and rich pastries. Make allowance for the hidden fat you eat.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

L. K.: What is the daily minimum requirement for Vitamin A?  
 Answer: The daily requirement for Vitamin A has been set at five thousand international units.

Pisa's Leaning Tower

Reuters Agency, Italy)

An Italian professor, worried about the future of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, has suggested that it should be dismantled stone by stone and rebuilt on a safe platform of cement.

Prof. Giovanni Boaga's proposal was favorably received at a meeting of the Italian Society of Topography, but no action was taken. There is still ample time. Many experts have calculated that the leaning marble landmark of Pisa has still about 200 years to go before it topples.

The tower stands on waterlogged sandy and clay soil. Injections of cement in past years have not stopped its tilt, increasing almost imperceptibly by about .0275 of an inch a year.

At present, the maximum lean of the eight-tired tower is about 17 feet.

The Tower of Pisa is the best known but not the only phenomenon of its kind in Italy. In Pisa itself, all the city's tallest buildings, including the cathedral, have a tilt. Bologna has two leaning towers, the Garisenda and the Asinelli, and Rome has its leaning militia tower.

About 5,000 hotels all across the country were registered in Canada in 1955.

NOTES BY THE WAY

On the new Canadian subchaser which is equipped with "homing" torpedoes "you just throw it over the side, tell it to find a sub and away it goes," a crew member says. And if it can't find one and comes back???? —Toronto Star.

So far, we have not yet been able to plan very successfully for our new postwar suburbs, let alone larger regions. However, with our population growing as fast as it is, we need a long-range programme of a city becoming too large is not yet urgent in Canada—save possibly in Montreal and Toronto—but some overall scheme to fit the growing city comfortably and efficiently into the larger region is a proposal to which we ought to give careful consideration. —London Free Press.

We have had many inquiries about a bird usually seen on a lawn and often described as marked like a partridge or a woodcock but with red on the head and a black spot on the breast. All of these reports must refer to flickers. The confusion must arise because many people, knowing that the flicker is a woodpecker, do not expect to see it on the ground. The flicker probably gets more food on the ground than it does from trees, as it is very fond of ants. Look for a large white patch at the base of the tail as it flies away from you. —N. B. Museum Nature News.

The nation's prisons are bursting at the seams, reported James V. Bennett, director of the United States bureau of prisons. Population of state and federal penal institutions is at a new high, with 182,051 inmates, he said. With about one in every 1,000 Americans behind bars, Bennett told Congress he needs \$7 million dollars to build two new maximum security prisons. Women convicts continue to be a small portion of the total, Bennett reported. They make up less than four percent, of those in less than five per cent, of those in federal institutions. —U. S. News and World Report.

Progress continues to be made

by the human race because there are always those who are not content with the status quo. Man is ever striving to improve on the things with which nature—or his own ingenuity—has surrounded him. There is a busy little bee. A vividly held impression is that to compare a human being to that insect is a top compliment.

"Busier than a bee" has traditionally been a prized verbal bouquet, but now man has given the industrious little insect degrees of yes-ness. Two geneticists have informed the American Institute of Biological Sciences that they have developed a hybrid bee which produces honey at a rate of 17 to 29 per cent greater than the hybrid's parents. And egg laying was boosted more than 35 percent in the new models. Like auto bees are being re-designed with new drives. —Corwall Standard-Freeholder.

Culture is not the icing on a cake—an ornament which can be discarded without great harm. Culture is, on the contrary, the evidence that a country has an intellectual development comparable with its industrial, commercial and agricultural development. There has never been a country of real greatness which did not have an important cultural development as part of its gift to civilization. Canada has, for years, lived on the intellectual and artistic productions of other countries, and the time has come for us to repay our debts. —Peterborough Examiner.

One of the greatest of international efforts these past few years has been to attain a real peace between the Arab states and Israel. It has been a rather thankless task. The Arab nations never really have accepted the creation of a Jewish state within their midst and show no signs of doing so. Thus there is reciprocal distrust, dislike and fear. Raids and counter-raids, instead of ceasing, have been becoming more serious. Despite the best efforts of other nations, a real war could break out. It isn't easy to solve a problem if there are those who don't wish it solved. —Windsor Star.

Already a Novemberish look has come over the countryside. October is, above all, the month of autumn, with colored leaves and brilliant suns. But November is the waiting interval before winter. Little remains of summer. And little of winter has yet arrived. Yet there is a Novemberish beauty, too. There is witchery in a black-limbed tree against a red twilight, and a romance to an old stone building wrapped in an evening mist. Walking in the woods, one can catch the very essence of the month. There is an abiding silence, broken only by the crunching of the leaves under foot or the scurrying of some small animal, hustling to make his wintry home. There is a patience and pensiveness about November's approach, as though the world, stripped of her gala summer dress, chastened and humble, were awaiting her baptism of snow. —Montreal Gazette.

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