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

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1956

New Agreement

Reports that the United States will soon broaden its exchanges of atomic information with Britain, and possibly with Canada, would seem to indicate a policy more in keeping with good political relations than the one that has been dominant all along. It has always been a mystery why secrecy in atomic development should have been considered necessary between governments which were working towards similar goals of security and peace with strength. One would imagine that both countries would stand to gain by sharing whatever knowledge was revealed by research in such an important field.

Perhaps the reported change is due more to practical considerations than to any abstract strengthening of partnership. The fact of the matter is that Britain has been making great strides in the atomic field in recent months, so much so that some American observers have stated frankly that the United States is fast losing, if it has not already lost, its initial superiority—which incidentally, British scientists, working in co-operation with their American colleagues, helped to bring about. At least, there seems to be general recognition of Britain's leadership in nuclear development for industrial uses. This does not make the new agreement any less desirable. It is long overdue; and if the British had had their way there would have been free and unrestricted exchange from the start.

It does appear to indicate, however, a greater awareness on the part of United States' Atomic Energy officials that secrecy between friendly nations is not only useless from a political point of view but detrimental to the best interests of both.

\$100 Million Pests

A survey of the annual loss due to livestock pests in Canada, recently completed by Dr. A. W. A. Brown, University of Western Ontario, puts the total at \$100 million, about 70 per cent of this due to cattle pests.

During the fly time, horn flies can cut milk production as much as 20 per cent, and heel flies cause such annoyance when they are laying eggs that milk flow suffers. Black flies have killed many valuable cattle in some areas, and during the winter, warbles and lice may cause unthriftiness and disease in dairy herds. Considerable sums are spent each year to control household pests, such as house flies in dairy processing plants, and additional costs are incurred in preventing losses through cheese mites, cheese skippers and other pests in storage rooms.

The insect problem in the dairy industry will be one of the subjects to be discussed at the World Congress of Entomology in Montreal next August.

Defender Of Freedom

The impending retirement of Dr. Zechariah Chaffee from the faculty of Harvard University, with which he has been associated for forty years, is a matter of interest not only to Americans but to all free men wherever they may live; for freedom in its many aspects has had no greater advocate or defender. Dr. Chaffee's academic role during most of his time at Harvard was that of lecturer in law, a subject in which he has an international reputation. But his greatest contribution to a free society, especially in these latter times, was in the field of civil rights; and it is for that service that he deserves the gratitude of his contemporaries.

Civil rights have been under considerable strain in the United States in recent years. In the name of security, some of them have been whittled to the point where many serious thinkers in the field of political and social relations have wondered whether the traditional liberties assured in the American

constitution were headed for extinction. Some observers have gone so far as to suggest that the United States, in its crusading zeal against un-Americanism, actually was adopting the methods of the very authoritarian form of government it was trying to weaken on a world front. Fortunately, the trend in that respect has been halted, or at least slowed down; and Dr. Chaffee has done more than his share in that process of democratic strengthening. In his writings and in his many outside activities, including membership in the United Nations' Sub-Committee on freedom of information and the press, he has declared mightily and with persuasiveness that it profits a nation nothing to fight for basic liberties abroad while denying them or tampering with them at home.

Dr. Chaffee's latest book, "The Blessings of Liberty", published a few weeks ago, is a valuable textbook of freedom. It is to be hoped that his retirement from academic duties will enable him to devote even more time than formerly to discussion of public issues involving civil rights.

A Word For Neutralism

For several years now one of the points of difference between British and American foreign policy, vis-a-vis cold war tensions, has involved the status of "neutralism" as proclaimed by India and some other Asiatic states newly come into political independence. The British view has been that the West should help these nations get their international bearings without imposing upon them any political restrictions, and take a chance on their continuing to favour democratic institutions. The American view, on the whole, has been that economic aid to any particular country should be based on that country's likelihood of becoming an ally in any future war. Whether the British view is economically sounder than the other, it does seem to have had greater intellectual appeal to the neutralist governments. At least, the general view among observers of the international scene is that Britain's prestige in India, Indonesia, and Burma, is better in many ways than that of the United States.

That this is probably an accurate appraisal is found in a recent statement by President Eisenhower to the effect that in certain circumstances neutralism may be a good thing. "If a small nation is truly neutral", he said, "and becomes a victim of aggression, then public opinion of the world is outraged. But if it is militarily associated with a great power, it might have trouble on its borders, and people would say 'good enough for them; they asked for it'".

If this sentiment does in fact find its way into the foreign policy of the United States—there is no certainty that it will—it is not likely to cause any disaffection among those countries that already have thrown in their lot with the West; for they, too, have been a little uneasy about the aid-for-friendship concept of the United States.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A man dangled from a 185 foot high church spire for 90 minutes was ordered to a mental institution for "observation". Just why there should be any doubt about his mental condition is not clear.

Trade Minister Howe thinks that Trans-Canada Pipe Lines will repay the \$80 million loaned by the Federal Government "long before it is due". It can be taken for granted that that little phrase has been written down in a good many opposition note-books for possible future reference.

Malcolm Hollet, leader of the Conservative Party in Newfoundland, has gone on a cross-country "goodwill tour". It is up to Premier Smallwood now to prove that he was sincere when he said he would like to see a "stronger opposition" in the legislature, by not travelling the same road before the election which is due sometime this year.

U. S. egg production, reported to be 195 eggs per hen per year now, compared with 188 in 1955, is said to be stimulated by greater use of hybrid hens, which are believed to lay 22 per cent more eggs than non-hybrids in some cases.



LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

Research In Farm Economics

The Country Guide, Winnipeg

Farm organizations, at least in some parts of Canada, are more and more realizing the need for much more research in agricultural economics than has been done in Canada up to the present time. Certainly the trend toward lower farm prices and lower net farm incomes during recent years has contributed substantially to increased interest in economic problems. There is an understandable tendency at the present time to assume that because of lower prices and a world-wide tendency toward increased production, marketing research is the greatest present need of the industry. This is true, to some extent, but it is principally true because there has been so little research in the marketing of farm products up to the present time.

Economists, as social rather than physical scientists, can never be as precise as the physical scientists in their conclusions, largely because the facts with which they work are valid only for the moment of discovery or investigation. Where large numbers of human beings are involved, facts relating to prices, quantities and demands are highly fluid in their relationships with each other. Special F-1

This is particularly true in the special field of agricultural economics, where the influences brought to bear on both production and marketing are much more numerous and less predictable, than for any other group of people and products one can think of. Nevertheless, though the agricultural economist can never be as precise in his calculations as the chemist or the physicist, his work and his increasing knowledge of the way in which economic forces operate, are becoming more and more necessary as our civilization becomes increasingly compact and orderly.

If farmers feel as many do, that agriculture in normal circumstances operates under a serious handicap as compared with other elements in society, it is a certainty that these handicaps will never be removed until there is a much more general and widespread appreciation of the importance of the economist and his work.

Only one Canadian province today may be said to even approximate adequate attention to agricultural economics. That province is Ontario, where, in addition to some 15 economists working in the Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, there are 11 other others in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Ontario Agricultural College. We doubt if there is an equal number of agricultural economists in government or university service in all the rest of Canada, outside of the Canada Department of Agriculture.

True, Ontario's farm output regularly leads all provinces—though it has been surpassed by Saskatchewan; but in any case it represents only one out of every four Canadian farm families. If Ontario has not been extravagant in its expenditures in this field, the other provinces must be regarded as having been too shortsighted, if not definitely backward.

It is characteristic of agricultural research in Canada that it has never been able to proceed as confidently and relatively as fast as research in the non-agricultural sectors of the economy. Farmers are not able to develop their own research programs. They must depend on public funds to a large extent, and on miscellaneous contrib-

utions toward university research by industrial concerns. Such companies, quite understandably, are inclined to direct their contribution toward projects in which they have some special interest. In most provinces at least, research grants of this nature are seldom directed to any aspect of agricultural economics. Research in farm economics, on the whole, has been less well supported by both government and industry than research in almost any other field, and it is time that something was done about it. Farmers and their organizations, between them, have a very vital interest in this type of work, in none of which should farmers individually be expected to show a keener interest, than in that of farm management and production economics generally.

BETS FOR HOUSEKEEPING

TORONTO (CP) — Mrs. Grace Gray, 51, who Friday said she ran a racing book to help out with the housekeeping while her husband was in jail, was fined \$200 or 20 days for receiving and registering bets. Police said she was doing \$400-a-day business.

Early Mariner's Astrolabe

National Geographic Society

In Scotland's Duthope Museum in Dundee rests a curious brass disk, eight inches across, engraved with numbers near its rim, and fitted with a movable pointer. The device is a mariner's astrolabe. It bears the date 1555, recently authenticated by experts. Believed to be a relic of the Spanish Armada, wrecked on the coasts of Britain and Ireland, it holds claim as the oldest navigational instrument in existence.

With similar instruments, from the heaving decks of caravels and galleons, Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus, and other daring navigators sighted on sun and stars and found their ship's latitude. Astrolabes, the first scientific instruments for position-finding on trackless seas, made possible the first great voyages of the age of exploration.

In simplest form the astrolabe was a suspended disk or circle of metal or wood. Pivoting at its center, the pointer swung up or down. By aiming along the pointer, the mariner determined elevation of the sun or a star, and thus could compute his distance above or below the equator.

Still used today in extremely precise instruments for measuring the earth's surface, the principle of the astrolabe was known 2,000 years ago, making it perhaps the oldest scientific instrument in the world. Its invention is sometimes credited to Hipparchus, a Greek astronomer of 150 B.C., and sometimes to Apollonius of Perga, a century earlier.

Knowledge and use of the astrolabe came down through the Dark Ages in the hands of Arab astronomers. During the Crusades, Saracen instruments that could take the elevation of stars and mountain summits were treasures to be sent home to Venice, Paris, or London.

When Marco Polo visited the city of Kanbalu, he noted the great number of astrolabes there. "They have their astrolabes," he wrote, "upon which are described the planetary signs, the hours, and their several aspects."

Yet seamen's astrolabes came into use relatively late, at the dawn of the age of exploration. They may have known of the time of Prince Henry the Navigator in the early 1400's. The navigator Martin Behaim is known to have used one about 1483. For the next two centuries, seamen relied on astrolabes to guide



SEA POOL  
 Here where the sun-washed slopes to westward lie  
 Is held a little cool  
 Unrippled pool  
 A cup of tawny rock filled with  
 the sky.  
 Under their black-and-white pavilions there  
 The limpets meditate  
 Or walk in state.  
 One-footed, under water clear as air.  
 And out of every chink and cranny  
 Weed delicate as fern  
 Whose segments burn  
 With every colour of coral and the rose.  
 Here while I lie at length for hours  
 and stare  
 Into this strange secure  
 Sea-world in miniature,  
 Wonder on wonder takes me un-  
 aware —  
 I am Columbus' and Balboa's heir.  
 —Audrey Alexandra Brown  
 in the Montreal Star.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(June 18, 1931)

Mrs. Elizabeth Russel of Stelarton, N.S. Grand Chief of the Pythian Sisters of the Maritimes is on visit here.

Fifteen schools mastering more than 200 Junior, Intermediate and senior athletes, all under the age of nineteen years are congregating in the C.A.A. grounds this evening for the second annual Provincial Interscholastic Track and Field Meet.

Arrangements are being made for the visit of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery to Charlotte-town during the last week of August.

Lieut. Donald C. Baker has been appointed to the command of H.M.C.S. Queen Charlotte, it was announced last night.

Lessons From Birds

(Exchange)

As man shrinks his world with faster and farther-ranging aircraft, he can still take lessons from the birds that inspired his early yearnings to fly. The earth's most tireless travelers, birds regularly perform amazing feats of endurance and navigation. The Arctic tern, farthest voyager of them all, nests as far north as there is any ground to nest on. The other half of the year it spends in the Antarctic. Traveling more than 22,000 miles yearly, the birds fly south along the coast of Europe and Africa to the Antarctic Circle, returning north by the east coast of South America over the Atlantic Ocean to Labrador and Greenland. One tern was found recently on a beach near Perth, Australia. It had been banded in Sweden, 10,000 miles away.

PRODIGES OF TRAVEL

While no other bird matches the tern's journeys, many perform prodigies of travel and accurate navigation. Pacific golden plovers nest in Alaska and winter in New Zealand. They make the trip by way of Hawaii and the tiny coral islands of the Pacific, locating them unerringly after flights of 2,400 miles over trackless ocean. That is a respectable accomplishment for a bird with intricate navigation aids in his cockpit and a half million dollars worth of radio equipment on the ground. Bobolinks that arrive in the United States in spring have completed a 6,000 mile journey, the National Geographic Society reports. From their wintering grounds on the prairies of Brazil and Argentina, they fly over the vast forests of the Amazon in early March, swarming north to the Caribbean. They traverse that sea in a single night, visiting Cuba before they arrive in New York and New England in early May. When fall comes, they make the same trip in reverse.

PIGEON'S FLIGHT

In an ornithological experiment a Manx shearwater no bigger than a pigeon was carried from its breeding ground in Britain to Boston. Released in territory none of its kind had ever seen, it struck out across the Atlantic and arrived home—3,200 miles away—in 13 days.

What drives birds on such journeys, and how do they find their way? Many theories have been advanced, none proved. That birds are well equipped for travel is evident in the efficient use they make of their fuel—body fat. The ruby-throated hummingbird, no larger than a moth, flies 500 miles non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico. The Atlantic golden plover, flying more than 2,000 miles from Nova Scotia to South America, uses only two ounces of fat.

With all their ability, however, birds sometimes need a helping hand from their imitators. Early cold snaps in Austria sometimes kills thousands of martins and swallows as they attempt to migrate south. Local bird lovers load the survivors in crates and ship them by air to Italy and Yugoslavia, where they are released to continue their migration.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Give a boy enough rope and he'll bring home a stray dog at the end of it.—Brandon Sun

According to a horticulturist, mistletoe is not a vine but a parasite. To most people, however, it's considered an excuse.—Toronto Star

After seven years the Trans-Canada Highway is one-seventh paved. Back in the slow old eighties, of course, we built our first trans-continental railway in eleven years.—Peterborough Examiner

There are mad people in the world who talk about a "preventive" war against Russia. A "preventive" war against Russia would be a preventive war against human existence; against the life of mankind. The world "war" should be stricken from man's vocabulary; so stricken because the word now is obsolete, to be replaced by the word "human destruction."—Ottawa Journal

Since 1954 the Americans have built 68 churches in Germany—at a total cost of about one and one-half million dollars—according to a report by United States Army Headquarters in Europe. The report added that whenever the American troops leave Germany, the churches will be turned over to the Federal States in which they are located.—West German Bulletin

Many who have been retired on pension at 65 take on other jobs with different concerns. The net result is that, while they continue working to their own best fit, organized society is the loser because their ability and talents are not being applied where most useful. It would be better were they to remain in positions where they are more familiar with the duties and problems. The whole idea that a man is through at 65 and ready for retirement from the post where he may be most useful is long overdue for revision.—Port A. Star-News-Chronicle

The philosophy of a certain type of motorist has never been better expressed than it was by a Connecticut man arrested for standing on the seat of his motor-cycle as it sped through traffic: "I felt like stretching, but I didn't want to waste time stopping."—Stratford Beacon-Herald

A chap whose hobby is goldfish says they talk endlessly to one another in grunts and squeaks—he supposes its about food. Or it could be about the strange specimens of animal life they see looking out through the glass.—Ottawa Journal

The King of Greece, visiting in Paris, expressed "the unshakable decision of my people to support our brothers in Cyprus against any adverse circumstances and by all legal means". If the agitation for union of Cyprus with Greece were to revert to "legal means" the bloodshed and violence in that troubled British colony would cease instantly.—Exchange

The trouble with making territorial claims based on historical position is that someone may put history a bit farther back to a time when your people weren't there. So it is with Syria's claim to the whole of Palestine. She will have to fight not only the Jews, who make historical claims too, but others as well.—Sydney Post-Record

Insular ignorance which controls Kremlin thinking was illuminated in Premier Bulganin's parting remarks in England. He said that "as a result of our stay here we have become convinced the British people do not want war." In other words, until he and Khrushchev came west they had seriously supposed that the British might actually be angling to get a war started. It is that kind of international illiteracy which confronts the rest of the world in its dealings with Russia—and it is something ever to be borne in mind when we try to assess Red actions.—Detroit Free Press

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