

THE GUARDIAN

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Modest Expectations

Dr. Edgar McInnis, formerly of Charlottetown and now president of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and professor of political economy at the University of Toronto has very modest expectations of the Big Four talks beginning at Geneva July 18.

Writing in the Institute's publication, "Notes", he points out that the official proposals at this time are much more modest than the great expectations that have been built up in the public mind since Sir Winston Churchill's first advocacy of a top-level meeting.

The realism of the new official attitude is a consequence, he thinks, of the lack of authority of present-day leaders. They cannot speak for their countries in the way leaders did in wartime.

Eden commands respect, but that is something different from the deep respect evoked by Churchill's lion voice.

The Big Four will meet with the realization that their world lies in deadly peril. And peril has always been effective in persuading people to sink their differences and to determine on action.

Restoration Of Reputation

Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture in the United States Cabinet, is not one of those officials who are in the world's lime-light every day. However, one action he took recently shows him to be a man of distinction in the world of politics.

Mr. Benson could easily have ignored the new verdict, since Mr. Ladejinsky is no longer in the service of the Agricultural Department. Instead, he issued a statement in which he made it clear that the first report he had received and on which he had based his action had been misleading and inaccurate.

Mr. Benson's moral and political stature is indicated in this statement: "I hope both the public and Mr. Ladejinsky realize that, as far as I am concerned, a security decision at a given time, either adverse or favourable, is not necessarily a decision for all of the future."

Mr. Hoover's Retirement

Whatever place history will assign eventually to the Hoover Administration, there is no question that Mr. Hoover's overall career will be accorded a very high niche indeed in American public service.

Prime Minister Nehru has shown once again that he knows how to mix political realism with high ethical attainment. While in Vienna on his way home from the Soviet Union he was asked about the Iron Curtain. Evidently not wishing to say anything that might, even by inference, involve the newly independent Austrians in trouble with the men of the Kremlin, he replied: "What Iron Curtain? I haven't seen any curtain, iron or otherwise."

which was rendered without remuneration or emolument of any kind.

Originally, the Commission that Mr. Hoover headed was concerned chiefly with investigating and making recommendations to improve the general efficiency of the various Government departments. Under the present Administration, however, its terms of reference have been widened to cover almost every aspect of the nation's economic and political life, including the foreign policy field.

A great many of them have been adopted already; but the general consensus is that the more controversial ones will have to await the Presidential election of 1956. Although President Eisenhower is said to be wholeheartedly in favour of the report, some Republican leaders are a little wary about acting on the advice of a man who popularly—though, no doubt, wrongly—was identified with the economic ills of the late 20's and early 30's.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to figures published recently, there are 7500 public libraries in the United States. Even so, 27 million Americans have no access to a library of any kind. It seems hardly possible.

For a supposedly quiet Island in a supposedly quiet season there seems to be far more going on than one would expect in a much larger community. The only thing to do is enjoy the things one likes best.

It used to be that the farmer had a more or less fixed seasonal routine with a bit of a break before going from one task to another. Now, however, he must try to cope with a great many activities overlapping in much the same fashion that modern sports overlap one another's seasons.

Criticism of the costs of the Centennial program are to be expected. When the bills must be met they make far more impression than the general high level of business which cannot be directly attributed to the efforts of the Centennial committee. It must be recognized, however, that the committee has been doing an outstanding job and deserves the strongest support.

Centennial reports continue to come in. The latest item concerns a group of important newspapers which have completed a century of daily publication: the Manchester Guardian, the London Daily Telegraph, the Edinburgh Scotsman, the Irish News of Belfast. 1855 was a great year for the British press, in that it marked the end of the burdensome stamp duty on newspapers.

Pope Pius the Twelfth has always been a good friend of the press, a fact which adds to the value of the advice he offers newspapermen from time to time. Speaking to members of the Canadian Women's Press Club, who were visiting Rome, His Holiness said: "Publishing and journalism are much more than a secular business; they are tied up with transmitting truth, goodness, and beauty from person to person through the printed word and image."

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It Was Wilting

OTTAWA REPORT Supremacy Of Parliament

By Patrick Nicholson

The Progressive Conservative Opposition in the House of Commons have won the most significant parliamentary victory seen here since the war. In their nipped but foredoomed stand against the Defence Production Act, they got hold of a first-class issue and handled it well, up to the point where the government capitulated to close the first round.

True, the supremacy of Parliament is neither dramatic nor easily comprehensible. But those among the voters who are politically conscious, and are willing to take time out from earning a dollar to study how the government will spend 27 cents of it, have been quick to see that the Conservatives in this case were one thousand per cent right. After some ten days of that dogged castigation by the Conservatives, the Liberals were frayed, frustrated and fed up. Their tempers were shortened as much by an unprecedented heat wave as by this unprecedented Tory stand. In due course, they had to resort to the undemocratic weight of their steamroller majority to call a halt to the Conservative attacks on the Hill.

DEFENCE IS NECESSARY

Defence at any price — and make no mistake about it, we pay top prices for it in Canada — but Dictatorship at no price. This was the slogan of the Conservatives. All parties in the House were agreed that we must have a Defence Production Department, all parties were agreed that the Minister must have certain quite unprecedented powers in running that Department, in view of the present dangerous world situation. But the Conservatives would not agree with Mr. 170 other Liberal M.P.'s who were the reluctant and largely absent tail to the Howe kite, that Mr. Howe should have these unprecedented and unlimited powers from hence to Eternity.

The Conservatives wanted a time limit of say five years put on Mr. Howe's extraordinary powers. At the end of that time, Parliament would study the question again and, if necessary, extend those powers for a further period of five years. This was the right and proper attitude. But Mr. Howe would not trade at that point; he said that with him it must be all or nothing. Thus the Conservatives adopted their stance, although heeded to failure, to preserve the supremacy of Parliament over the granting of dictatorship, unlimited in both scope and time, to one Cabinet Minister. I say it was foredoomed: this was because the Liberal majority could at any time push through the Act exactly as required by Mr. Howe. But the Conservatives achieved the only objective they could hope to achieve: they did awaken Canadians to the desecration of the democratic freedom, even some dyed-in-the-wool Liberal supporters and Liberal newspapers have expressed concern at the Liberal Government going as far as this down the road to dictatorship.

REALISM FORGOTTEN

But in all the smoke of this sensational parliamentary battle, the Government and the Opposition have lost sight of the realities. If war broke upon our heads tomorrow, Canada could not field an army even comparable to the famous Thin Red Line, or as large as that "Contemptible Little Army." If H-bombs were hurled upon our heads tomorrow, Canada could not adequately care for the wounded, the contaminated and the homeless. For the government to demand for itself powers over our defence industry, which are infinitely more sweeping in many respects than those possessed by the American or British governments, is unrealistic and unwise. It would be more realistic for Defence Minister Campney to demand similar powers over our able-bodied men, so that we would have enough soldiers and airmen to handle the military hardware to which Mr. Howe gives such high priority. It would be more realistic for Civil Defence Minister Martin to demand similar powers to protect those factories and their workers who will turn

Communication With Friends

Nanaimo Free Press

It is essential that members of the family and friends keep in constant touch with each other. Otherwise plans cannot be made, important information cannot be imparted, and important questions cannot be asked and answered. Therefore, if communication is to be maintained, a constant watch must be kept over the telephone. Where two or more persons are in the house the responsibility can be shared.

Unless arrangement is made for someone to stay behind to answer the telephone, there can be no trips to the market and no visit to department stores. There can be no acceptances of invitations to lunch or engagements for contract bridge in the afternoon, beyond the sound of the telephone.

Experience shows that, if communication is to go without interruption, it is dangerous to step next door for a few minutes. There can be no watering the lawns or outside the house involving noise, which would drown out the ringing of the telephone.

Experience teaches also that unless a telephone is answered immediately after it rings, the caller will assume nobody is around and hang up. Therefore, communications will be impaired by the available personnel stepping up into the attic or to the far end of the house.

In fact, reliable communication depends on nothing more or less than sitting beside the telephone ready to respond the instant it rings. "To do less invites the certain reproach of persons who will inquire: "Where have you been?" followed by the assertion that "I have been trying to get you all day."

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

BABY'S BEDTIME ANTICS

While some babies ordinarily go to sleep easily and quietly, others go through various contortions before they drop off. Head banging and crib rocking are examples. Apparently, these actions give a baby some kind of relief or satisfy some need. Even young babies, you know, react to rhythm, so perhaps these motions are soothing to an infant. However, they are anything but soothing to you parents.

Remove Casters Although crib rocking and head banging apparently do the child no harm, they do cause parents any reason for these actions. If your youngster repeatedly bumps his head against his crib, the best thing to do is to see that the sides are padded. This will protect him although it won't stop him.

Contemplating the White House electricity bill, which runs about \$2,500 a month, a taxpayer rumbles that what the United States needs is a leader who will take care of international intrigues, inspire it to greater productivity at home, strengthen its constitution, reverse its founding fathers, and also turn off a few lights.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Rookie ball players are being bought and sold at high prices. And here the Lincoln has abolished slavery?—Chatham News.

A new Canadian in Toronto was seen to kiss his ballot before marking it. This is an action understandable only in countries which have at some time been forced to kiss their ballot good-by.—Peterborough Examiner.

Romance will probably flourish at Clear Lake beaches although it's hard to see how a girl knows she really loves a boy she has only seen while he is wearing shorts, fins, goggles and a snorkel.—Brandon Sun.

South Africa, it is learned is producing a motor car that will sell for the equivalent of \$700 in Canadian money. It is said to be devoid of fancy trimmings of all kinds, but will be able to travel 85 miles on a gallon of gas, and have a top speed of 30 miles per hour. The modern car driver, however, would probably spurn a vehicle that would not break the law.—The Moncton Transcript.

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