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

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1955

Not A Target?

This Province did not participate in the recent civil defence test because, in the words of an official release, "it is not considered a target area". Presumably, our enviable status is due to the fact that we have no heavy industry or important military installations, which are supposed to be the chief attraction for bombing crews.

In the event of atomic war—or non-atomic war, for that matter—no one on this Island is going to feel at all slighted if the big, death-laden bombers pass us by simply because we are not worth bothering about. But isn't the comfortable assumption a little on the naive side? True, bombs of any kind cost a great deal of money, and it is reasonable to suppose that, by and large, they would be used where they might be expected to do the most harm to war-making potential.

Then, again, the jettisoning of bomb loads by crippled planes, regardless of location, is standard practice. How does anyone in the Defence Department know for certain that this Island will be excluded from any such inadvertent or accident? We are, after all, only a few moments flying time from St. John's, Newfoundland, Saint John, and Halifax, all three of which are numbered among the likely targets.

The more one thinks of it, the more one is inclined to believe that in another war—which may the good Lord forbid—the security of any community, however insignificant militarily, will be relative and not absolute. Would it not be wiser to proceed on that assumption rather than on wishful thinking, even though this latter, if and when the time comes, may turn out to be accurate?

Soviet Farm Problems A review of current agricultural policy in Russia is contained in the latest issue of Agriculture Abroad, a monthly digest issued by the economics division of the Canadian Department of Agriculture's marketing service. The economists note that the USSR has now abandoned its "biological" method of estimating grain production and has issued no 1954 output figures. This biological method estimated output on the basis of pre-harvest yields and did not take into account heavy harvesting losses.

In setting a planned six-year goal to increase grain production 164,000,000 tons a year—the equivalent in wheat alone would be 6,625,000,000 bushels—the Soviet Government and the central committee of the Communist party admit that present grain production does not meet the country's requirements. Agriculture Abroad quotes from a speech by Mr. Khrushchev that described in some detail the problems now facing Soviet agriculture. "At present," said the Minister, "we are still lagging seriously behind the level needed to satisfy the requirements of the country."

Currently, the official plan to solve these problems is threefold. It provides for increased grain production per unit of land; the sowing of grain on virgin and fallow lands; and an increase in the acreage sown to corn, a relatively new crop in the Soviet Union and, apparently, not a popular one among conservative-minded farmers. Already, the digest reports, official returns indicate that about 44,000,000 acres of virgin land have been plowed in the Urals, Kazakhstan and Siberia.

While the main struggle will be to boost yields per acre, the USSR's objective in 1956 is to sow nearly 75,000,000 acres of "virgin" land from which the Soviets hope to reap 30,000,000 metric tons of foodstuffs. A great part of this land, in Kazakhstan and the Altai region, is fertile. Some of it has been

titled before or adjoins land which is titled today—though not highly productive. Major handicaps are the incidence of drought, a dust threat, inadequate soil and storage facilities.

To secure an eight-fold increase in corn production, a system of rewards and penalties have been announced. Collective farmers and tractor drivers are promised 15 per cent of the corn harvest of 1955 — over and above their regular pay. The newspapers report numerous cases of fines and dismissals for errors in farm management. The Soviet Government hopes to make further net production gains by obtaining fodder from the silaged stems of this crop.

In his latest address on the subject, Mr. Khrushchev said the 1955 new breaking would make about 50,000,000 acres of new land available to Soviet farmers. Should the new land yield 16 bushels to the acre, the country will harvest an additional 20,000,000 tons of grain.

Since the ministerial upset of February 28, the USSR has changed men as well as methods. To augment and enforce its virgin soil campaign and the switch to corn, the Government has purged the management of collective farms, replacing them with party members who will be directly responsible to the Kremlin.

M. P.'s Pensions

According to information tabled in the House of Commons, fifty-three members will be in receipt of maximum pension of \$3,000 under the Parliament Retiring Allowances Act, if unkind political fortune leaves them at home at the next election. These 53 have contributed the maximum amount required of \$4,000 to the parliamentary pension fund.

There are 211 members contributing to the pension fund, and excess receipts over disbursements of the fund now stand at \$1,325,745. Each member of the Commons participating in the plan pays 6 per cent of the first \$4,000 of his or her annual sessional indemnity.

At present there are eight former members of the Commons in receipt of pensions under the Act. Since it came into force, Nov. 20, 1952, a total of 18 allowances have been authorized. Apart from the eight now receiving pensions directly, six are paying on the instalment plan and two have entered the public service, with the result that their allowances have been suspended. Four of the eight M.P.'s receiving pensions are over 70 years of age, and the amount of their old age pensions, \$480 a year, is subtracted from their pensions as retired members of the Commons.

The government pays into the fund contributions matching those made by the members. The total amount paid former M.P.'s last year, including withdrawal allowances, was \$49,199.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Battle of Waterloo, this date 1815.

23 Sea Cadets from Britain are to tour Canada next month as guests of the Navy League of Canada. The trip is part of a policy developed by the Navy League of bringing together the Sea Cadets of the Commonwealth in a spirit of empire brotherhood. Canadian Sea Cadets are at present on a visit to Britain.

If Japan is going pacifist, as some reports indicate, the trend is certainly not being helped any by the student population. When Dr. Yukitoki Takigawa, President of Kyoto University, banned a party which the students had arranged to mark the university's 58th birthday, he was imprisoned in his office for ten hours. It took a strong police force to get him out.

According to a Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, both Hinduism and nationalism are growing rapidly in India. Moreover, there has been a noticeable turning away from Christian missions in recent years. Perhaps this was to be expected. Missionaries, however, can take some consolation from the knowledge that Christian influence has helped to build up whatever is good in modern Indian society. Even Mr. Nehru has testified to that.

In the course of its periodical review of Canada's election laws, the Commons committee on privileges and elections recently brought in a proposal to lengthen the period between nominations and elections from two weeks to three. Normally, recommendations of the committee are almost automatically approved by the House. In this instance, however, Opposition Leader Drew objected that opinions differed in regard to the proposal, and that two weeks was adequate. Prime Minister St. Laurent, agreeing for once with his major opponent, intimated that the government would accept an amendment. The Commons, accordingly, voted to retain the two weeks interval, as at present.



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.

TEACHERS' LICENSES

Sir,—Much has been written these days on the subject of education and I feel I'd like to contribute my mite's worth. Having spent nearly a quarter century in school-rooms, I feel that it would relieve my conscience to make a frank confession—which might encourage others to do likewise.

I attended Prince of Wales College in 1900 and received a fairly good academic schooling for those days, but as for professional training there was none. Having my Second Class license, I went out to the country to teach at \$25 per year, which is perhaps more than I was worth, considering my lack of training. In those days summer and refresher courses, which should be a must for those staying in the profession, were unknown.

While visiting on the Island a few years ago, I am proud to be able to truthfully say that many of the pre-school-age children, whom I had met in country districts, were among the brightest I had ever seen. But it made me sad to think of the poor chance these young people would have in the majority of cases, when sent to school.

Do not for a moment think that I am blaming the teachers for their lack of fitness in the field of teaching. But let us compare the salaries of the most easterly and westerly Canadian provinces. The average teacher in British Columbia is receiving \$2405, while in Prince Edward Island the average is \$1335 I believe. Why this great discrepancy, particularly when the people of the Island are the healthiest, per person per acre, in all of Canada? You could ask me, "Tell us, what are you paying your teachers in Alberta?" I am not proud to say that the average salary was only \$2840 in 1952-53. This has had its repercussion in that some 200 of our schools were either without teachers or badly overcrowded. However, we have determined to correct this situation by raising the salaries and other benefits to a point where we will retain qualified men and women in the profession.

Another matter in which British Columbia has beaten us is in the qualifications of her teachers, 40% of whom are university graduates. We here are aiming to reach higher qualifications, both academically and professionally.

One fact I am ashamed of is that the majority of Island certificates and licenses are not recognized west of Quebec. One Island man said that the reason that the teacher qualifications are kept so low is to prevent teachers from going afield and thus forcing the province to pay living salaries. I hope such a statement is far from the facts.

J. M. SIR, etc., I. M. MCDONALD, Ekville, Alberta.

THE ORPHANS At five o'clock on April morning I met them making tracks, Young Benjamin and Abel Horn, With bundles on their backs. Young Benjamin is seventy-five, Young Abel, seventy-seven— The oldest innocents alive Beneath that April heaven.

I asked them why they trudged With weary looks and sour "And does your mother know you're out At this unseemly hour?" They stopped, and scowling up at me, Each shook a grizzled head, And swore; and then spat bitterly, As with one voice they said: "Homeless, about the country-side We never thought to roam; But mother, she has gone and died, And broken up the home." —Wilfred Gibson.

Bilingual Pattern At Ottawa

By Richard Daignault Canadian Press Staff

French is heard more frequently in the House of Commons, says Paul Frenette, chief of the French language stenographic staff of Hansard official verbatim record of the federal House.

Mr. Frenette recalled in an interview that only 10 years ago his two-man staff stood by as long as a month at a time without writing a line in French. Now his staff, increased to three, handles daily business.

"It's all part of a growing bilingual pattern in the Commons," he said. Prime Minister St. Laurent replies in French to direct questions asked by members in that language.

INTRODUCED IN FRENCH

Opposition Leader Drew now formally introduces newly-elected French-speaking members of his Progressive Conservative party in French, although he spoke no French a few years ago, Mr. Frenette said.

Increasing use of French in routine Commons business has helped create the pattern. "One example is the verbal identification of members as they rise to vote during a Commons division," Mr. Frenette said.

Before 1949, French and English-speaking members were called "Mister." Today, French-speaking members are called "Monsieur" and English-speaking members, "Mister." Prime Minister St. Laurent always is identified as "Monsieur."

He can recall when Commons Clerk Leon J. Raymond, then just appointed, began the practice. Mr. Frenette said. "He verbally identified Mr. St. Laurent as 'Monsieur' and all heads turned in the prime minister's direction, expecting a reaction I imagine. But today this is all accepted practice."

PATTERN WIDENED

The bilingual pattern has been widened by Speaker Rene Baudouin, who represents the constituency of Vaudeville-Soulanges, near Montreal. He greets official Commons visitors in both languages and hands down rulings in the language used by the member he addressed. When addressing the entire Commons, he speaks in English.

Steady customers of Hansard's French section are three Quebec province members who rarely speak English: J. Wilfrid Dufresne, Progressive Conservative member for Quebec West, and Raoul Paulin and Paul Gagnon, Independent members for Beauce and Chicoutimi, respectively.

Most talkative is the fiery little member for Quebec West, Dr. Paulin, a physician, speaks the finest French in the Commons, Mr. Frenette said. There was a time when French-speaking members limited speech-making in their native tongue to the debate on the speech from the throne and on the budget, the session's big showpieces of oratory.

QUESTIONS IN FRENCH

But today questions are asked in French. And some English-speaking cabinet ministers and members occasionally display knowledge of the other language. Among them are Immigration Minister Pickersgill and Health Minister Martin. English-speaking members who sometimes speak in French include Hon. C. G. Power L.-Quebec South, South, whose words are without a trace of English accent; Donald Fleming PC—Toronto Eglinton, Davie Fulton PC—Kamloops, B.C.

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Medically Speaking

Herman M. Bundesen, M.D.

BABY GOES EXPLORING HIS BRAND-NEW WORLD

A creeping baby usually is a trying problem for mama. But maybe a more thorough understanding of why your adventure-some tot seems to get into everything and what you can do about it might help matters.

Natural Curiosity

Your creeping youngster can't satisfy his natural curiosity merely by looking. He's had to be content with watching and listening and occasionally trying out a few things in his mouth for some time. By creeping time, usually about 10 months of age, he must touch things to learn that some are rough, some are smooth, some are hard, others are soft; some rip and tear, while others do not. Only by actually feeling things can he learn.

Explore and Learn

Slapping his hands and repeatedly telling him not to touch certain things won't solve the problem. It may keep him away from these objects when you are with him, but once he's alone he'll probably be unable to resist the desire to touch what is forbidden. Then again, punishing him might curb his curiosity, but it won't teach him to learn. You don't want to destroy this desire. Just remember, it's your job as parents to see that your baby doesn't get into trouble, not to punish him after he does get into it.

His Shelf

Teach your baby which things he can have and which he can't. For instance, he'll probably grab magazines off a low shelf or table and promptly rip them apart. Place some old newspapers on this low shelf for him to play with or tear as he pleases. Little by little he will learn that this shelf and the things on it are his. He will know the other shelves belong to mama and daddy. And he will leave them alone.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

H. T.: What precautions could be taken to prolong the life of a 68-year-old woman who has an enlarged heart?

Answer: The main thing in prolonging the life of a person afflicted with heart disease is the avoidance of mental and physical strain at all times. It is important for the patient to get plenty of rest and sleep and to avoid overeating and of course, to be under the care of a physician.

The Age Old Story

And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand; for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

COSTLY STRUGGLE

BOON (AP) — The West Germans have added up their cost of the last war and found it came to about \$10,000,000,000. A government spokesman gave these figures in announcing that the cabinet had approved the draft of a massive law providing for settlement of Nazi war loans, compensation for property damage, pensions for war widows, orphans, cripples and veterans.

SEEK FIRE CAUSE

TORONTO (CP) — The police arson squad Thursday sifted through charred debris of a downtown factory seeking clues to the cause of a fire which raged for three hours Wednesday night and caused an estimated \$200,000 damage. More than 50 firemen fought the blaze which gutted the one-story plant of Canadian Radiator Manufacturing Company.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A testing laboratory in the United States reports it has slammed a door 215,706 times in twelve hours, or nearly half again as many times as an active mail boy on a summer's day.—Hamilton Spectator.

Unemployment insurance is exactly that—insurance. It's supposed to protect all of us against the black day when we're out of a job. It is supposed to tide us over while we look for another job. It isn't supposed to buy a chesterfield suite for the bride who never intends to work again. And it isn't supposed to provide intermittent vacations for characters who are allergic to work. But because it's being tricked into doing both of these things its cost is higher than it ought to be, and its benefits do not extend to cover some of those who really need it.—Vancouver Province.

The men's hat industry is worrying about a rabbit shortage. A leading hat maker, said, "The industry soon must face up to the shortage of wild rabbit fur, which is the principal raw material used in making quality fur felt hats." Because of diminishing supplies, wild rabbit fur is currently selling at more than twice what it did a year ago. Other sources quoted typical rabbit skin prices at \$175 a pound, compared with 65 cents less than a year ago, and trimmed pelts at \$8 a pound, compared with \$3.50. Among the reasons cited for the shortage: England and Australia, principal suppliers of the pelts, are engaged in culling his extermination of rabbits. The damage wild rabbits do far exceeds the value of their meat and fur.—Wall Street Journal.

Insurance companies are rapidly encroaching on the preserves of religion and philosophy; one has just announced that people with clear consciences live longer than those oppressed by guilt. Does this also work if the possessor of the clear conscience is fat.—Peterborough Examiner.

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