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Highway Control

Most of the Provinces have agreed to Ottawa's scheme of returning interprovincial highway authority to provincial boards and are busy working out uniform regulations on a regional basis.

An authoritative ruling places jurisdiction over interprovincial and international highway traffic in the field of Federal legislation, the reasoning being that the carriage of goods or passengers across the country or internationally is of national rather than local concern.

The implication in the ruling is that there should be national highways for the use of interprovincial and international traffic. Quebec sees that in the course of time this will be realized and unless the power is firmly given to the Provinces by amendment of the constitution, the time will come when Ottawa will find it expedient to withdraw the powers delegated to Provincial boards, at the same time assuming responsibility for designated highways.

Trouble In The China Seas

The recent utterances of Red Chinese leaders regarding Formosa and the overt acts of aggression, accompanied by much sabre-rattling, towards Chinese Nationalist forces on the island of Quemoy, are doubtless calculated to impress western nations with the view that an all-out war aimed at conquest by the Communists of territories now in the hands of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, is imminent.

Yet neither strategic nor economic considerations would seem to justify Peking embarking on so risky an adventure. There are other areas on the Asiatic mainland where Red China can exploit her aggressive expansionist policies far more effectively and at far less cost than in a naval rivalry against the Nationalist stronghold of Formosa.

The real purpose of Peking's interest in Quemoy and Formosa is not, for the moment at least, the destruction of the Chinese Nationalist regime. Rather, it is to capitalize on the fears of socialists and others in the free world that a trigger-happy 7th Fleet of the U. S. Navy, by its very presence in the waters off the China coast, may precipitate a major war in which the rest of the world would be involved.

Incidents in the China seas may, therefore, be regarded as a calculated propaganda device aimed at widening the rift between the United States on the one hand and the United Kingdom and the countries of western Europe on the other.

British Naval Tradition

Three centuries of naval tradition will end for England soon when regular ships of the Royal Navy lose their "young gentlemen," the midshipmen. Boys in their teens, training to be sea officers, no longer will serve in the British fleet. They will enter the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth at the age of 18, spend at least two years there, and then go to sea as acting sub-lieutenants, the lowest commissioned rank. British warships no longer will have "gun-rooms," time-honored sanctuaries of the midshipman.

Since the 1670's, and as recently as 1948, officers-to-be in the British Navy began their training by the time they were 13. Nelson entered the naval service at the age of 12, Collingwood at 11. Admiral Edward Hamilton signed his first ship's book at seven. Such youthful seagoing by future officers began just after the English Restoration, when Charles II issued what were called "letters of service" to youths sent to sea from aristocratic families. These "king's letterboys," or "youngsters" as they were later called, trained beneath the ship's gunner—hence the gun-room became their quarters. At 15, they were designated midshipmen, or "oldsters."

In 1729, England's first naval academy was established at Portsmouth. It served as a naval college until 1837, when young volunteers were once again sent directly to sea under instructors. Twenty years later,

the training ship H.M.S. "Britannia" was designated to supply the Fleet with midshipmen. It served until 1902, when the naval college at Dartmouth was established by Edward VII. Today the Royal Naval College has grown to an impressive block of red- and white-fronted buildings on a hillside above the River Dart, where it empties into the Channel 25 miles east of Plymouth. From this historic estuary Richard the Lion Hearted sailed in 1190 to launch his Crusades. Even earlier the port had known the galleys of the Romans and the long "serpent ships" of the Saxons.

England's wooden ships with their crews of iron men swung at anchor there, their interiors painted a single color, scarlet, to signify they were ready for blood. From Dartmouth, as from a hundred ports, came ships that met the Spanish Armada, and long after, those that launched an invasion on D-Day, 1944. Today, Dartmouth gives to British youth that skillful seaman-ship the Royal Navy calls "Nelson's touch," and thereby continues to guard an island "firmly anchored in a stormy sea."

Decorated By Reds

Dr. Leopold Infeld has been awarded a high state decoration for scientific work in Communist Poland. The Polish news despatch did not specify the nature of the work for which Infeld was awarded the Order of the Banner of Labor First Class, but it is evident that this former co-worker of Albert Einstein and 11-year mathematics professor at the University of Toronto continues to find favor with those who rule behind the Iron Curtain.

The Montreal Gazette recalls that in March of 1950, after Hon. George Drew had called the attention of the House of Commons to a newspaper article questioning his intentions on a proposed visit to Poland, in fact throwing grave doubts upon his loyalty, Infeld made this statement: "I am and intend to remain a loyal citizen of Canada." Six months later Infeld sent his resignation to the University of Toronto by mail from Poland, where he has resided since that time.

At the time of the 1950 controversy it was implied that Infeld might be taking back to the land of his birth, then and now under Russian domination, valuable atomic secrets. The scientist at that time disavowed possession of any vital atomic knowledge. With many this did not seem compatible with the fact that he had accurately predicted that Russia would have the atom bomb by 1949. Infeld admitted having paid a visit to Poland in 1949. What information, if any, he may have taken to the Reds then or when he went for good may never be known. But it has become amply evident that his sympathies all along were with those whose intentions are inimical to the welfare of this country.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Bible Society meeting in St. Paul's church this evening marks the 150th anniversary of the organization and the 50th anniversary of the Society in Canada.

Washington and not New York or London is the financial capital of the world today as financial experts from 50 countries meet to consider the financial aspect of the world economy. There is little likelihood of any serious advocacy of an immediate return to the gold standard but the price of gold is, nevertheless, one of the top matters of concern.

The Maritime Economic Conference being held at Halifax next week faces, in a small way, the same problems as the Colombo Plan conference to be held shortly in Ottawa—the economic development of the French islands are treated as part of the East. Both projects require a study of economic possibilities, the availability of trained technicians and the investment of capital.

The difficulties between the Governor of St. Pierre and Miquelon and the members of the general and municipal councils who have largely resigned are reminiscent of the similar quarrels in Prince Edward Island before responsible government. Unlike the former situation here, however, the French islands are treated as part of the French nation and have one member in each of the National Assembly, the Council of the Republic and the Assembly of the French Union.

Sir Alan Patrick Herbert, English poet, humorist, lawyer and politician, was born this date 1890. He wrote considerable verse for Punch and other publications and also a number of novels, including "The Water Gypsies" and "Holy Deadlock," the latter a satire on the then law of divorce. As a member of Parliament for Oxford University he secured passage of amendments to the English law of divorce. He produced successful musical comedies, wrote "Misleading Cases" and other works. During the Second World War he was a petty officer in the Royal Navy.

NEWS ITEM - CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PLANS TO SPONSOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WHISKER RAISING CONTEST WILL NOT TICKLE EVERY ONE. REMEMBER THE AGRESS. A BEARD GROWING COMPETITION. AND THE IMPOSSIBLE WILL SOMETIMES BE EXPECTED. ONE NICE CONSEQUENCE. FATHER'S RIGHTFUL PLACE MAY BE RESTORED.

Hair-Raising Proposition

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.

DISSATISFIED GROWER

Sir, Have you room in your valuable column for a word from one more dissatisfied potato grower? This Alice in Wonderland crowning will come to Alfred Montes, gypsy king, at Krugersdorp, named after President Kruger of the old Transvaal Republic. The late "King" Montes died in Athens last June and according to Roman ritual there must be 12 months of mourning before the new monarch accedes to his somewhat perambulatory throne.

Gypsies from all over the world may come to the ceremony at which the king is crowned with a jeweled golden crown whose whereabouts is known only to a very few in the inner circle of Romany.

No more ideal land than South Africa could be found for the gypsy life—the veld stretches endlessly and it is easy for a "camp" to move about the country to avoid the winter cold.

Many more gypsies would probably have come to South Africa, but the overland journey from Europe is something beyond the capability of a caravan.

However, somehow or other the royal Montes family once made it, and it has remained in South Africa since 1928. If it is true that the gypsies originally came from Egypt, then it is at least possible that their forebears thousands of years ago knew the shores of the Indian Ocean.

Archaeologists of the stature of the Abbe Breuil believe that people of the Mediterranean made their way right through Africa before recorded history. Among the ancient Bushmen drawings in a cave in the Brandberg Mountains of Southwest Africa is a figure of a "white" individual with attendant dress in much the same manner as in the Old Cretan civilization.

Other links include the fact that some of the native tribes have names for their gods which appear to have the same root as those of ancient Egypt. Then, too, there are gold mines in Rhodesia which were worked by some race that has completely disappeared. In the same area are vast terraces that must have required more slaves to construct even than the pyramids.

LAW AND ORDER

"The Jurors of our Lady the Queen, do present, that in consequence of the great increase of trade and population in Charlottetown, I say that the report be heard from various parts of the Island, particularly on market days, the ordinary Constables are insufficient to maintain order and protect property. That, since the last assembly of Her Majesty's Court of Assize, two houses have been destroyed by a turbulent mob, to procure which, no effort was made either by the Troops, or any other parties, notwithstanding the offence was committed close to the Barrack gates; the Firewardens neither having been able to procure assistance, nor having brought any parties to justice for neglecting to render assistance, what it is in evidence that a Constable witnessed three transactions in their early stage, without offering to interfere or to procure assistance; and it is not known that any other Constables attended, though bound to do so under a penalty, by a particular Act of the Legislature; "Besides which, the Jurors do present, that very recently a respectable inhabitant has received severe bodily injury by the blow of a gun, which occurrence had its origin in a practice of discharging fire arms in the streets, which practice goes unrestrained, as well as that of throwing snow-balls, with which accidents with horses are frequently occasioned; besides which, at certain seasons, the gardens of the inhabitants are very generally plundered.

"The Jurors do therefore present, that there is a necessity for the establishment of a more enlarged system of Police; and they do recommend that until the Legislature shall have made some provision in the premises, a number of special Constables should be sworn in."

—From the report of the Grand Jury, Donald MacDonald foreman, at the opening of Hilary Term of the Supreme Court, January, 1841.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

THE AGE OLD STORY

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Ultimate in refinement: In Toronto they call the dog-catcher the canine control officer. — Stratford Beacon-Herald. A barber in Naples claims the world's record for the fastest shave, timed in 16 seconds, with no cuts. Blowtorch. — Windsor Star.

One of Sudbury's gambling fraternity says that horsehoes are lucky — if you get on the right horse that is wearing them. — Sudbury Daily Star. If he's any kind of husband at all he can tell right away from his wife's greeting whether the candles on the tables are due to gracious living or a blown fuse. — Winnipeg Tribune.

"Peaceful co-existence" on the Red Chinese frontier, says a report, is punctuated regularly by gunfire. Perhaps partly as a reminder that if you can hear the gunfire, it's poor you're still existing. — Windsor Star. Through Much Trial and Tribulation We Enter the Kingdom of Heaven Lindloff was born on August 31, 1880, in Clinton county, Iowa. He was the seventh child of Frederick and Lizette Lindloff, and his unusual name was discovered on a routine check of vital statistic files by Mrs. Burza Jones, a clerk. This is all we know about poor Tribby, who, if still in the land of the living, is approaching seventy-four. But it is difficult to imagine that anyone could bear such a heavy load all his days and attain longevity. — Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A meteorologist says tornadoes are actually violently ill winds that do more good than harm. They absorb a lot of turbulence from the upper atmosphere that might otherwise turn into 100-mile winds on the earth's surface. Were it not for the energy dissipated by twisters life on earth might be almost unbearably windy. And so it is with many apparent nuisances. Science has found that even the despised housefly is a useful insect, pollinating flowers and consuming vast amounts of refuse. Lightning flashes create beneficial nitrogen. Blizzards melt away to feed streams and springs. Chicken hawks are really the farmer's friend, and starlings gobble pestiferous bugs. Maybe we'll find a use for the mosquito. — London Free Press.

Greatness is more than excellence. Excellence is only one ingredient of it. You cannot spend twenty-one hours in icy-cold, stormy water slogging along at a steady two miles an hour unless you are an excellent swimmer, but also you cannot do it just by being an excellent swimmer, something more is necessary. The something more is a subtle thing—a blend, perhaps, of courage and determination and absolute concentration and rigid self-control, and, especially, Bigness of heart. Greatness is never casually come by. It starts with an absolutely honest appraisal of the individual by himself, so that he knows exactly what he can and cannot do. They comes rigorous concentration practice to achieve excellence in the thing that he can do best. And finally must be added that extra spark which, for want of a better word, you could perhaps call dedication. It is not easy. But it can be done. — From an editorial for Young People, Hamilton Spectator.

Girl babies are apparently coming into their own in an adoptive way — at least in the Montreal district. The annual report of a society for the adoption and protection of infants shows that an exactly equal number of boys and girls, 602 of each sex, were placed in homes for adoption during the year. Legal adoptions were completed for 485 girls and 447 boys. This is a far cry from the days when small girls were considered a drug on the market. It reminds one of the fact that, especially in earlier years, girls infants in Eastern countries were so much at a discount that they were frequently thrown into a river or simply left to perish. — Sherbrooke Record.

In a statement prepared by psychiatrists, sociologists and social workers in a children's bureau survey report, the following statement is found: "Children should be held accountable for their acts. To treat them otherwise would be to do them a disservice, since marriage, job and family will all require accountability. To permit the indulgence of every whim is merely building the child up for a future setback. Parents must be clear and consistent in their discipline, and hold their children accountable until they have demonstrated their right to increasing freedom." Discipline need not be cruel and harsh; but it must be firm, tempered by the kindness which comes from a recognition that it is necessary. It is worthwhile enforcing that discipline when the result will be more stable and self-governed race of adults in the future. — Guelph Mercury.

The Poet's Corner

THE CASTING

I pour in the mould of rhyme All that my heart would hold: The transient light on the tower, The moat in its wintry gold, Sunlight, and a passing shower, The gleam of your garments' fold That battles the eye as you pass, Formless and lovely things Like speech that breaks in a laugh: To leave them a shape with wings And Time but a conceit, I beat them with more than heat Because they must glow in the cold;

I puddle the white-hot mass, And prying with words retold, To temper Beauty from Time, I pour them into the mould.

—Oliver St. John Gogarty in "Collected Poems."

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