

The Guardian

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

MONDAY, MAY 14, 1956

Railway Settlement

There will be general satisfaction over the settlement of the threatened railway strike. The railways and the unions alike are to be commended for pursuing negotiations with dispatch, instead of waiting for an actual work stoppage with consequent confusion and prolonged delay. A special cause for satisfaction is that the Railways, after first refusing to negotiate on the basis of the Conciliation Board's report, saw the wisdom of changing their position in that respect. After all the function of an arbitrator is to work out a compromise between opposing views; and if, in this instance, the railways had remained obdurate in face of the board's decision, a precedent would have been established which, in time, would have made the whole principle of arbitration useless.

This is not to suggest that the unions which threatened the strike were justified in their demands or that the final settlement was fair to both sides. That, of course, is a debatable question; and there are many people in this country who are of the opinion that railway workers are apt to air their grievances a bit too often. That is as it may be. The important thing in this case is that the recommendations of the Conciliation Board were accepted before the dispute had time to get out of hand. It is to be hoped that from now on, at least for the life of the new contract, the railways will be able to function without threat of labour trouble. It is to be hoped, too, that the unions will not get into the habit of asking for more and more benefits every time a contract comes up for renewal. There is, after all, a limit to what any special group may properly expect in the way of economic concessions.

On The Edge Of Space

Science stands on the verge of sending the first man-made moon beyond the earth's atmosphere—fulfilling the 40-year-old dream of an American rocket pioneer named Robert H. Goddard. Neither men nor animals will ride the first missile into space. Yet it will carry with it almost limitless promise for the future, an article in the National Geographic Magazine predicts.

Within two years, the distinguished astrophysicist Dr. Heinz Haber writes, the first artificial satellite will be circling the world, climaxing a great research project carried on intensively since 1955. His article, "Space Satellites, Tools of Earth Research," is illustrated by a series of color paintings of how the tiny new moon will appear, racing high above the earth. The dramatic pictures were painted by William N. Palmstrom of the National Geographic Society staff. For detailed accuracy, the artist and rocket experts checked such points as star positions, shadings of color at great heights, perspective, and the exact paths the satellites will follow at five miles per second around the earth—one complete circuit every 90 minutes.

Thirty inches or less in diameter and weighing about 2 1/2 pounds, the orbiting sphere will have a clear view both of earth and far beyond. As it sweeps across continents and oceans, high in the fringe of atmosphere where the last traces of air become lost in outer space, its motion may reveal many secrets of the earth's gravity and composition, cosmic bombardments, and the factors that cause and affect weather.

"The artificial satellite will not be the beginning of a new-weapons development, and it will not be built because its creators are planning a trip to the moon," Dr. Haber says. "The satellite program has been initiated as a purely scientific project designed for the enhancement of knowledge about our own planet."

The National Geographic article credits Dr. Goddard, a New England physicist and inventor, with historic pioneering in rocket de-

velopment. Goddard's liquid-fuel rockets, built and tested in the 1920's and 1930's, foreshadowed the German V-2, the recoilless bazooka of World War II, the Wac Corporal and other modern high-altitude missiles.

In the Society's files appear early letters between Dr. Goddard and Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, now Chairman of the Board of the National Geographic Society. In April, 1920, Dr. Goddard appeared before the Society's Research Committee to outline plans for a rocket capable of reaching unprecedented altitudes for weather research. That same month, through a news release, the Society announced first tests of Dr. Goddard's apparatus. It predicted, "The event may rank in the history of a new super-aviation science, as yet unnamed."

Law vs. Mercy

Mob terror, such as that which has been troubling the island of Cyprus for the past several months, is a fearful thing which calls for extraordinary measures. Unchecked, there is no telling to what it might lead. Whether, or not the British governor of the island was justified in rejecting the appeals of two young men who were sentenced to be hanged for their part in the current upheaval is another matter. To the British authorities, and from a strict legalistic viewpoint, they were criminals, and as such deserving of the extreme penalty prescribed by law. To their fellow citizens and to their Greek kinsmen they were patriots, and now martyrs in the struggle for freedom. The question that confronts world opinion in the case is simple: Were the hangings morally defensible?

The answer is far from simple; but one feels that in Britain itself, to say nothing of the wider world community, there will be many who will wonder whether magnanimity would not have served the British cause as well as, perhaps better than, the inexorable carrying out of a statute established in crisis. Following so soon after the deportation of Archbishop Makarios—again a perfectly legal order—the incident could very well postpone, perhaps indefinitely, the restoration of law and order, which of course is the first aim of the authorities. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" may be a logical formula in face of terror. Yet, it must be said that mercy has been known to serve the purpose of peace equally well.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The general view is that the more cheerful a worker is the better work he is likely to do. Not so, reports a research team; the really efficient workers are those who grumble a lot.

A professor says that the late Sigmund Freud made words like Id, Ego, and Superego, "virtually household usages". It isn't quite as bad as that, surely. One feels certain there are many, many households where the tricky words are never spoken.

Dr. Jonas E. Salk, the originator of the polio vaccine that bears his name, stated recently that the vaccine can now give lifelong immunity against paralysis, although the milder forms of the disease may resist total eradication for some time, pending further developments.

An F.B.I. report reveals that major crime in the big American cities is down slightly from what it was a year ago. Strangely, the rate in cities under 250,000 population and in rural areas has gone up a bit. There's a worthy subject for research. It used to be the other way round.

German researchers have discovered what it was that made ancient Roman wrestlers so tough: honey. They ate huge amounts of it daily. To do its best work, the researchers advise, the honey has to be in its natural state, not heated to make it keep longer. This should be good news for apiarists.

Scientists report that the circumference of the earth is a half mile shorter than was believed. They call this information "very important" for the artificial satellite project to be launched next year by the United States. It would be hard to think up any other reason why the news is of any value.



HUFF AND PUFF

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

AGAINST FLUORIDATION

Sir.—Thank you for publishing my letter "Against Fluoridation" in your issue of May 7th. It is refreshing to come across a paper which in fairness to its readers gives them a chance to see the other side of the picture on the action of fluorine.

Your Note following my letter is based on a pamphlet entitled "Comments on the Opponents of Fluoridation". Your readers will be interested to know that previous issues of that pamphlet contained certain statements on me and on my work, which, being totally untrue and libellous in nature, had to be omitted in the following issues.

The statements in the "Comments" to which your Note refers, likewise require rectification. It is true that the bibliography of the Report of the United Kingdom Mission which came to study fluoridation in the United States failed to list a single reference to my work, but everybody familiar with the methods employed by the fluoridators knows that ignoring the work carried out by their opponents is one of these methods, irrespective of whether the fluoridators' "unselfish, philanthropic and altruistic activities are put into practice in Great Britain, in the United States, or in any other distant part of the world.

Concerning the second statement taken from the "Comments", according to which "in 1952 the National Research Council published a 565 page book entitled 'Survey of the Literature of Dental Caries', of which one chapter of 90 pages was devoted to 'Fluorine and Dental Caries', but none of Dr. Spira's numerous papers was mentioned in this bibliography", may I point out that it is not the job of a practising physician and research worker on the subject of chronic fluorine poisoning to deal with the problem of dental caries? It was, therefore, quite legitimate for the Survey to omit the 34 papers which I had published on the purely medical aspect of the disease. Not in one of them have I touched upon the problem of dental decay. The study of this problem should be left to the dental profession, so long as it does not interfere with medical facts with which it cannot be expected to be familiar.

Some light is, however, thrown on the attitude of the fluoridators, when it is observed that in the chapter on "Fluorine and Dental Caries" its author writes from the centre of both fluoridation of public water supplies and the aluminium industry that "in addition to alertness for the appearance of mottled enamel... it may be well... to determine hearing acuity" without even mentioning the fact that it was I who was the first to draw the attention of the medical profession to slowly progressive deafness being caused by the long-continued action of ingested fluorine. I daresay I feel flattered to know that my reports on the subject of fluorine are considered so harmful to their plans that mention of their existence has to be suppressed lest someone interested is tempted to look them up.

I am, Sir, etc., LEO SPIRA, M.D., Ph.D. New York City.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO (May 14, 1931)

Three students attained "great distinction" in the recent examinations in the Faculty of Arts and Science. All three are from the Island, they are: Stuart Docherty, Cardigan; Earle Ebers, Charlottetown; and Robert Donald, Malpeque.

The CGS Montcalm is at present placing buoys in Island waters. The harbor buoys are in position and the steamer today sails in the direction of Cape Breton. The work is expected to be completed in a week.

Prohibition officers have not yet discovered where the quantity of liquor has been hidden, which was landed 4 1/2 weeks by daring rum running aviators in the vicinity of Summerside.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 14, 1946)

A C47 U.S. transport plane took off from Summerside airport yesterday afternoon to inaugurate what may become a profitable trade between Prince Edward Island and U.S. Army bases in Newfoundland. The plane carried a cargo of 200 gallons of fresh milk.

Eighteen Charlottetown girls, with Mrs. Edwin Johnston, music instructor, leave by bus this morning for New Glasgow, N.S., where they will represent the Province in the Nova Scotia musical festival. The New Glasgow festival is only open to competitors from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

LOW SPOT

The Dead sea, world's deepest depression, is 1,285 feet below sea level.

OTTAWA REPORT

Salmon Canning Conflict

By Patrick Nicholson

Will the east-west cold war erupt into a salmon-canning war in the Pacific Ocean? Or will it be replaced by a Russo-Canadian fishermen's alliance?

Worried Canadian and Russian fisheries officials have already discussed this increasingly serious situation. Fisheries Minister Jimmy Sinclair told me in his Parliament Building office recently. At stake for British Columbia is the whole of her fifty million dollar annual salmon industry.

The threat to this rich sea harvest lies in the mass catching methods used by Japanese factory ships operating— I nearly and perhaps correctly said "poaching"—in mid-sea. Unlike the other great harvests of the Pacific—halibut and herring—the salmon is not a lifetime dweller in the open ocean. It is spawned and grows up in the stellered waters of rivers, and the nations owning such rivers rightly or wrongly feel that they have a preferential interest in their yield.

The Russian salmon spawn in the mighty Amur River. Ours spawn in the Fraser and other river systems. The third but comparatively insignificant course of Pacific salmon is the small Japanese rivers.

Last year, Japanese fishermen could only catch six million salmon in their own territorial waters; that was presumably the total available catch from the runs in Japanese rivers. But they caught a bountiful sixty-five million salmon on the high seas, nearly all of which are presumed to have been Russian salmon rather than Canadian salmon, as they were caught in the western half of the Pacific ocean.

In contrast to that big Japanese haul, Russia last year could only approximately match our catch of about 130,000,000 pounds. It is impossible to compare with accuracy the Japanese system of measuring catch as so many fish, as against our system quoting so many pounds of salmon.

Commercially-caught species of salmon may each range from about 4 pounds up to 30 pounds or more. Our British Columbia plants cannot one and a half million cases last year; each case being the equivalent of eighty pounds of landed fish before trimming. A good guess would be that Japan's catch was more

three times the size of our catch. Russia's catch of salmon runs vary in size in cycles. 1955 was a poor cyclical year. Russia however feels that the poor haul of her fishermen, operating traps on the Amur river, was partly attributable to the Japanese deprivations among the fish on the high seas, before they could reach the Amur.

So Russia has ordained an upper limit of 25,000,000 upon the number of salmon which Japanese fishermen may take on the high seas this year.

FREEDOM OF THE SEAS?

Japan is very disturbed by this action. Canadian officials are understandably concerned to see what the next move will be in this game of international poker.

Will Japan observe the Russian edict? If not, will Russia use force to back her claim to her own salmon? If she does, will Japan break the 3-year-old treaty with us and the States, under which her fishermen are banned from fishing nearer to our coast than the 175th parallel—about 1,000 miles away?

The delicate point of international maritime law involved here is the ancient principle of the freedom of the seas. This gives any fisherman full scope outside another nation's territorial waters. Despite this freedom, Japanese fishermen are being progressively hedged in. First there is the "Rhee Line", set up by President Syngman Rhee 60 miles off Korea. Then there is the dangerous radiation and fall-out coming from the U.S. atomic tests at Bikini. Then there is the North Pacific International Fisheries Treaty with its boundary on the 175th parallel. And now there is the Russian catch limit.

This situation gives especial importance to the expected visit here in August of U.S.S.R. Minister of Fish Industries, A. A. Ishkov, with whom our Jimmy Sinclair conferred in Russia last year. It gives little importance

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

IF YOU BREATHE TOO FAST DO you breathe too rapidly or too deeply? Many persons actually overbreathe and get only trouble for their efforts.

Overbreathing, or hyperventilation, occurs when the rate or depth of respiration is greater than that needed to satisfy the oxygen requirements of your body.

This means that your body loses a greater amount of carbon dioxide with the results that your hemoglobin clings more tightly to the bound oxygen. Thus, less oxygen is distributed to the tissues as your blood courses through your body.

In the brain, and other sensitive tissues, this lack of oxygen is apt to have immediate effects. You may develop a giddy feeling or even lose consciousness, your face may become flushed, your vision may be blurred and your hands may tingle and feel numb.

By this time you realize something is wrong. Since you apparently have no control over what is happening, you might become panicky. And this will add to your symptoms.

Hyperventilation can be caused by various things.

Exertion, especially excessive running, sometimes sets up an overbreathing cycle in apparently healthy individuals. They simply can't reduce the rate and depth of breathing after it has been automatically increased by the exertion.

Exposure to cold, fear, pain or other strong emotional upsets might start hyperventilation to prepare you for flight or fight. It's a natural response to such stimulants.

Maybe you'll launch an episode of overbreathing by frequently yawning or sighing to relieve anxiety or tension. Eventually this sighing might become deep enough and frequent enough to produce hyperventilation.

Sometimes persons actually develop a habit of overbreathing upon finding themselves in an unpleasant situation.

For example, you might light a cigarette when under tension or an obese person may seek consolation in food.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. A.Z.: I am 52 years old and have not had a menstruation period for over a year. Am I still in danger of becoming pregnant?

Answer: Usually, women in whom menstruation has ceased for this period of time, there is no chance of becoming pregnant.

to the first Russian step towards participation in the Canada-U.S. A-Japan North Pacific Treaty; namely her request to be allowed to attend as an observer at the treaty organization's next meeting in Seattle this summer.

Fisheries Minister Sinclair remains hopeful that friendly agreement may be arrived at before competitive catching destroys this bountiful harvest. Or, to coin a nasty pun, the east-west cold war may be followed in the Pacific by a seine peace.

STUDENTS TO SEE CAPITAL

OTTAWA (CP)—More than 180 young Canadians will be in the capital this week on an "adventure in citizenship" sponsored by the Rotary club of Ottawa. The students, selected from all parts of the country, will visit the House of Commons and Senate and be received by Governor-General Massey.

LAND GIANT RAY TAMPICO, Mexico (AP)—The crew of a shrimp boat off Tampico cast their nets Friday and came up with a giant ray fish weighing 1,115 pounds. The four-man crew fought the fish four hours before landing it.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

An old fogey is anybody who likes music that makes you tap your foot instead of the kind that makes you jump up and down—Brandon Sun

Something that motorists need to learn in a hurry is the fact that there's no such thing as a traffic accident. For every so-called accident there is a human cause, and it should be the immediate concern of every motorist to eliminate that human cause—Quebec Chronicle

Senator Jean-Francois Pouliot ebullient little man from Quebec recommends certain changes in the Canadian Senate. For example: windows, better artificial lighting, a franking machine for senatorial mail and replacement for wartime murals. What is needed in the Senate, of course, is new and younger senators from other than the Liberal party—London Free Press

In her suit for divorce, a Detroit woman complains that her husband's judo tricks interfered with her place in society. When high-toned company called, she said that Walter—that's his name—grappled with the unsuspecting guests. "After our friends were thrown to the floor several times," she moaned, "they would leave, never to return." At any rate, just try judo if you want to rid your home of unwelcome company. It's more convincing than a hint—Sydney Post Record

Ontario's birth rate has been rising rapidly in the past few years according to the provincial deputy minister of economics, Mr. George Gathercole. The evidence is on every hand, in the growing demand for housing, schools and municipal services of every kind. Canada's babies are part of the current boom and are well worth some of the inconvenience caused by extremely rapid expansion—Ottawa Citizen

Consider how enterprise can be carried on from one generation to another: Col. R. S. McLaughlin's grandfather started making axe handles for his own use when he was clearing land at Enniskillen. He made such good axe handles that his neighbors asked him to make some for them. Then he started building wooden sleighs, expanding to the making of carriages, and eventually the McLaughlin automobile; today, General Motors of Canada Ltd.—Royal Bank Bulletin

NOTICE

As our business has been reorganized to a Ltd. Co., all accounts owing the old firm are due and payable before May 31, 1956 and after that date we shall be obliged to take legal action for collection of same. Should there be any discrepancies or adjustment claims kindly contact us before that date.

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