

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1955

Mr. Pearson's Proposal

It may be, as President Eisenhower appears to believe, that a straightforward declaration by the United States to prevent Red China from conquering the Chinese Nationalist bastion of Formosa and the nearby Pescadore islands is the best means of averting another war. Greater risk may, as he suggests, lie in taking no action at all. In this view he has the almost unanimous backing of the U. S. House of Representatives. But the President has also indicated that he would welcome the good offices of the United Nations in arranging a cease-fire in the Formosa Straits. Using this concession as the keynote of his speech in the Canadian House of Commons on Tuesday, External Affairs Minister Pearson gave a statesmanlike review of the situation as it affects world peace, urging that the danger spot be "neutralized" pending its final disposition by international negotiation. In doing so Mr. Pearson pointed out that an essential party to any cease fire of this kind would be the Communist government of China which, though a non-member of the United Nations, would have to be invited to participate in the Security Council deliberations if they were to have any chance of success.

This, surely, is a reasonable proposal and one which is likely to have the unqualified approval of Britain and other countries allied with the United States. In this connection it is well to remember that the present Formosa situation bears no comparison with the crisis which precipitated the Korean war. American recognition of the Republic of Korea on January 1, 1949, was based on the United Nations resolution of December 12, 1948, which declared "that there has been established a lawful government (the government of the Republic of Korea) having effective control and jurisdiction over that part of Korea where the Temporary Commission was able to observe and consult and in which the great majority of the people of all Korea reside; that this government is based on elections which were a valid expression of the free will of the electorate of that part of Korea and which was observed by the Temporary Commission; and that this is the only government in Korea." Neither the United Nations nor the United States ever recognized the right of the Republic of Korea to extend its effective control and jurisdiction by force to other parts of Korea. To make the American defense treaty with the Republic of China comparable with the Korean treaty it would have to be amended, or subjected to reservations, to make clear that the Republic of China in Formosa and the Pescadores would not attempt to extend its effective control and jurisdiction to other areas.

It is significant that President Eisenhower in his message to Congress emphasized the purely defensive nature of the arrangement with the Chinese Nationalists. Until now, as the protector and patron of Chiang Kai-shek, the United States has not encouraged intervention in the Chinese quarrel by the United Nations; and it has appeared to other nations that this purely American policy was dangerously linked to the declining fortunes of a near-desperate refugee regime and a barrier in the path of the United Nations in dealing with a variety of other pressing problems. President Eisenhower's recent statements indicate a change of attitude in this respect; a change which Canada, through its spokesman Mr. Pearson, has been quick to recognize and to endorse wholeheartedly. The Canadian foreign minister's statement may have far-reaching results at this critical juncture.

A Good Service

In a recent edict the Minister of Information in the Spanish Government said that "the press must always be at the service of the State". By "State" he meant, of course, the ruling political party. In commenting—courageously, be it said—on this interpretation of the role of newspapers, the weekly "Ecclesia", organ of the Spanish Roman Catholic action, took a somewhat different view. "If authentic public opinion must have liberty to form," noted the paper, "the press that reflects it must have the same right as long as it does not harm the common good, which is not forcibly the same as the opinion of the Government." Admitting that censorship is within the rights of the Government "as long as it is not arbitrary", the Ecclesia article went on to give the Spanish authorities a very good lesson in the rights of the press and of public expression of opinion generally: "The Government acts and its actions call for an echo. If this echo does not manifest itself or is falsified by agents of the State, it is not

public opinion but a fiction. Public opinion serves the common good, and that not only when it applauds but also when it criticizes the actions of the Government. Censorship is one thing; and the so-called 'directives' whereby the newspapers are obliged to present as their own the opinions of the Government, are something very distinct from the right of the Government to require publication of communiques."

It so happens that Ecclesia is the only uncensored publication in Spain at the present time. If it keeps up its good work, despite almost certain official demands that it be discontinued, it will have rendered a good service, not only to the press in Spain, but to the freedom of free expression of opinion the world over. Unfortunately, it is not only in totalitarian states that the freedom of the press to do its legitimate work has been called into question by demagogic politicians

The College Library

The centre of every college and university is its library, and one of the chief functions of every institution of higher learning is to train students in the best possible use of the intellectual wealth which every good library contains. Some interesting thoughts on this subject are contained in a report by Dr. Sidney Smith, President of the University of Toronto, which has been published in pamphlet form.

"The increase of literacy has not been, in very modern times, an unmixed blessing," Dr. Smith states. "Mere literacy leaves men and women at the mercy of the printed word, and places in the hands of demagogues a tool with which to dupe and warp the public mind. In libraries where thoughtful and selective reading is aided and, indeed, required, we have the instrument that will make us masters of words and not their slaves. In such libraries there are books to feed the mind and imagination, not trash to anesthetize the spirit; the wisdom of ages and the discoveries of today are set forth in wholeness and integrity; all sides of a question are open to investigation... There is no padlock law to bar that door, and there will be no book-burning there."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Plans for a new national farmers' organization were made in Dublin recently at a meeting of 1,200 farmers from all parts of Ireland. The new organization, which will be non-political, will be designed to promote the efficiency of Irish agriculture.

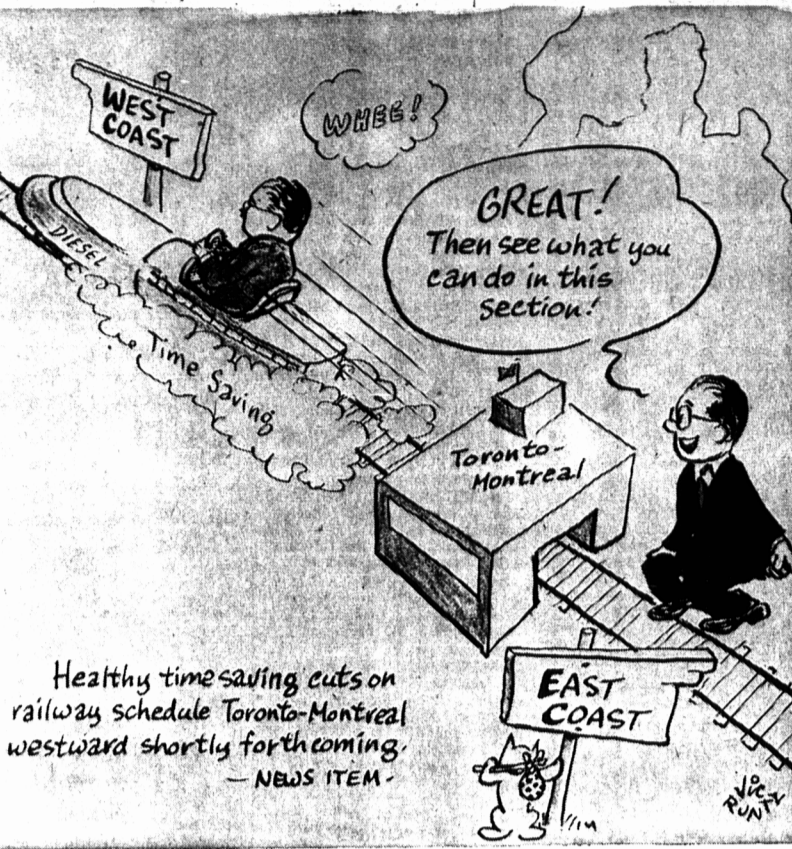
In a tribute to King Haakon VII, who within a few months will have served 50 years as Norway's monarch, a nation-wide collection campaign has been launched to raise money for a Norwegian Seaman's Church in Copenhagen. A gift from the Norwegian people to its popular King, it will be named "King Haakon's Memorial Church."

It ought not to be difficult for the dairy farmers to prove to the Federal Government that the 1931 "gentlemen's agreement" between this country and New Zealand, allowing that country to send us cheese at very low tariff rates, has ceased to have moral force, inasmuch as it was based on the assumption that Canadian producers would not be injured by the transaction.

The new 10 cent postage stamp that will go on sale Feb. 21 will depict an Eskimo and his kayak. As a tribute to Canada's oldest citizens it is to be commended; but, should many of the stamps find their way to the Southern and Mid-West States, most of whose residents already picture this country as an ice-bound region the year round, their advertising value will be doubtful, to say the least.

It would be a help to the rest of us if the atomic experts could come to a greater measure of agreement among themselves. The other day the chairman of the American Atomic Energy Commission said that "the level of radiation reaching populated areas—long distances from the actual explosions, that is—after atomic bomb tests is far below the levels which could be harmful to human beings." Immediately, the statement was challenged by Dr. Alfred Sturtevant, Professor of Genetics at the California Institute of Technology, who stated that his calculations indicate that "of the 90 million children born in the world last year, at least 1800 were adversely affected by radiation from bomb tests." He said further that this figure was ultra-conservative and that "the real value could easily be 100 times greater."

Something for our local legislators to think about when they assemble here next month is a bright news item from Phoenix, Arizona. It states that the Arizona House of Representatives have hired a lady "charm school" teacher and professional actress to read all the bills introduced. There will be no more harsh dissonances in the reading of the clauses containing legal jargon, and even the most contentious measures will be launched soothingly. It remains to be seen what effect this innovation will have on committee discussions.



Healthy timesaving cuts on railway schedule Toronto-Montreal westward shortly forthcoming. NEWS ITEM.

More Zip Per Trip

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.

QUALIFICATIONS

Sir.—It was my opinion that a person wishing to express his views through The Guardian did it through a letter to the editor—or the Public Forum. Your editorial page this morning suggests there may be a change of policy as you carry an article with a by-line headed "Dr. Ladzinski's Trials." Would it not be a good idea to tell your readers who this writer is. Is he an "on-the-spot" columnist with a first-hand knowledge of United States affairs. Of course, if he should be far removed from the scene getting his opinions second-hand we should know this too. If you supplied this information readers would be better able to evaluate the material.

I am, Sir, etc., J. P. MACINNIS

Summerside, January 25/55.

(There is no secret as to the authorship of the article in question, as the name appeared plainly under the heading, in the same manner as it has appeared in frequent contributions to The Guardian since last July. As stated in our columns that time, Mr. Macquarrie is professor of political science and international relations at the University of Manitoba. He is a native of Victoria, P. E. I., and taught school in this Province for seven years. Later he was assistant professor of economics and political science at the University of New Brunswick, lecturer in political science at McGill University, and visiting lecturer at Mount Allison University and Acadia University summer school before going to Brandon College, Manitoba, in 1951. He has written on international affairs for numerous publications, including the Christian Science Monitor, the Brandon Daily Sun, the Winnipeg Free Press and the Halifax Herald. He usually spends his summer vacations on the Island and is widely known here personally and by repute.—Ed. G.)

Role Of The Crown

(Ottawa Journal)
Dr. Eugene Forsey has done well to emphasize in a recent address the role of the monarchy in the Government of Canada. Nowhere was the wisdom of the Fathers of Confederation demonstrated more unmistakably than in their deliberate decision to make Canada a monarchy, a dominion under the Crown, rather than a republic in the style of the United States. There is nothing sacrosanct about a monarchy; the authority of the Queen rests not upon any vestige of divine right but upon the common will of the people. The Dominion of Canada is a monarchy not because that status was imposed upon us by empire-conscious dignitaries in London but because those patriotic and far-seeing citizens, the Fathers of Confederation, wrote it into our constitution and established it as a basic principle of our Canadian system of law and government. There is no evidence that republicanism has gained any strength here in the past 90 years, and if the constitution were being written today the choice made in 1867 would be confirmed. The simple fact is that in the present state of political evolution, and in the light of the tradition and history of the countries associated in the British Commonwealth of Nations, there is no style of government so well suited to the needs of the times and the interests of the people of this country. Nobody would presume to predict that Canada will have a king or a queen a hundred or a thousand years hence but for today and for the foreseeable future there is no alternative so precisely designed to serve our needs, to protect our liberties, and to guard the British principles and precedents acquired in our long, slow and painful progress.

LONG TERM

Councillors of the London county council in England are elected for three-year terms.

Civil Servants & Politicians

By Heath Macquarrie

Members of the House of Commons have made and heard many speeches since Parliament opened on the seventh of this month, and the Hansard report of debates has already run to over three hundred pages. One matter which accounts for but a small portion of this large total is of great significance and it was somewhat surprising to note that it was passed over without comment by most of the speakers. This was the case of Dr. L. B. Thompson, the director of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, an unsuccessful contender for the leadership of the Saskatchewan Liberal party. It was Mr. Diefenbaker who brought the matter to the attention of the government and in doing so he gave voice to his serious misgivings on the handling of the whole affair. Dr. Thompson as director of the P.F.R.A., a very important agency on the prairies, tendered his resignation last fall prior to the Liberal convention in Saskatchewan. No action was taken on it until after the Liberals had chosen their new leader. Dr. Thompson came out second in the balloting and some weeks later the cabinet, on the advice of Mr. Gardiner, decided that the resignation should not be accepted.

Mr. Diefenbaker denounced the procedure as detrimental to the preservation of a non-political civil service and quoted one of the Saskatchewan Liberal candidates who accused Mr. Gardiner of using, or causing the P.F.R.A. to be used for political purposes. The Minister of Agriculture has long been regarded as a dominant figure in provincial politics in Saskatchewan and, in some quarters, the candidacy of Dr. Thompson was considered as being one of his shrewd moves, which this time proved unsuccessful. In defending his action in the House Mr. Gardiner stated that Dr. Thompson's only political activity was his attendance at the nominating convention. He also maintained that no one else with comparable qualifications was available for the post.

Those who know of Dr. Thompson's work would generally agree with the minister's recital of his merits, but the ability and qualifications of this particular civil servant were not in question. At stake however is a most important principle of our present form of government—the impartiality and permanence of the civil service. Not so long ago all government jobs were fair game for the dispensers of political patronage and the slogan "To the victor belong the spoils" was faithfully followed. Such a practice made for insecurity, inefficiency and often downright corruption in the ranks of the government's civil service. Holders of government jobs found it expedient to curry favor with the party in power and perhaps secure their own positions by trying to keep it in power. Gradually however this deplorable situation was changed by a process of civil service reform which granted security of tenure to the governmental employee and removed him from the anxieties which he had once felt whenever a change of government occurred.



We were not strangers, Death and I, a pair Not friendly, yet on nodding, speaking terms; Acquainted, we had seen each other On beaches, seas, bleak mountains, lonely paths We chose to travel, walk together, day On day and night, companions yet not friends. A gun and I most wary, watching Death While asking will he strike — and when and how; A constant pair and yet not friends, not friends. —Dale Gahl, in the New York Herald-Tribune.

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CHARLOTTETOWN CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

NOTES BY THE WAY

You may think you have known people who have plumbed the depths of palatial depravity. But we have seen — and tasted — the worst. Came across a man the other day who likes a kind of half-and-half new to us: Coffee mixed with tea. Each is made separately and the liquids blended. He claims there is no brew like it. An experimental sip brought complete agreement. We recommended "Teacoff" as a treat for Friend Husband on the morning of April the First — but will not be responsible for the consequences. —Sherbrooke Record.

We like the French and one of the things we particularly like about them is their ability to combine realism with grace. Who could report—as they have in a government hand-out that has reached our desk—the inauguration of a luxury air service between Paris and New York "non-stop, with a technical call at Shannon"? One of the blunt realities of our age, of course, is that supposedly non-stop Atlantic flights regularly come to earth for fuel in the green Irish countryside at Shannon or, less pleasantly, among the bleak Icelandic rocks at Keflavik or the harsh Newfoundland and Labrador bush at Gander or Goose Bay. But it takes a Frenchman to admit this with the gentle, wryly humorous charm of "no-stop, with a technical call." —Hamilton Spectator.

There are, in this country, individuals with no sense of history (or of much else, for that matter), who narrow-mindedly suppose that any association with the British crown is a sign of servility and colonialism. In many respects they resemble their equally un-historic and ridiculous counterparts in the United States, the "100-percent-Americans". But why should such a minority be able to achieve such results in Ottawa? An answer to that question is needed, and at once. If some citizens want to make Canada a republic, if they want to expunge and erase all mention of royalty, sever all bonds with Britain, France or any other country, it is their privilege to try, provided they proceed under the law. This is a free country and those who wish to preach such a gospel have a right to do so. But they have not the right to behave in the "sly, slithering, serpentine" manner so well described by the observant Dr. Eugene Forsey. We demand to know, and all honest Canadians should join in the demand, who are these shadowy republicans and whence their power? If they are civil servants, gratifying their own prejudices without permission, where have the responsible ministers and members of Parliament been while this quaint type of subversion has been going on? If they are ministers (which we should be most reluctant to believe) by what process of conscience do they call themselves ministers of the Crown or justify the breaking of their oaths of office? One thing is clear: though no minister may have inspired or instigated this "creeping republicanism", as Dr. Forsey scathingly stamps it, some ministers are officially responsible for it. It is time they cleaned house and made a report on the house-cleaning to the people who hold them in duty bound to do so. —Brantford Expositor.

A new red sun is rising in the east. It holds a warning which we must heed. China has been dormant for 700 years because she has been disunited. Now she is once more unified; this time under communism. For her stride into the modern world she has found a guide and friend in Russia. The day may well come when she will be able to throw away the Russian prop. But we cannot count on it. We must match strength with strength and strive for friendship, which is something better than coexistence. —London Daily Mail.

A petticoat saved a woman from a 350-foot fall at Cremona, Italy, recently. She had slipped and started to fall over the stair railings of the Torazo Tower and there she hung for two days until rescued and taken to a hospital. A good many years ago a woman living near the Reversing Falls at Saint John, N. B., had a somewhat similar experience. She jumped or fell from the fall's bridge. Her skirts opened in the wind and her petticoats, several and amply-cut, acted as a parachute. She made a smooth water-landing, floated to shore and helpful hands came to her rescue. The oldtime full petticoats, now back in favor, with modifications, can be pretty useful things to have. —Sherbrooke Record.

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