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Embarrassing

While American State Department officials are studying Red China's proposal for negotiations in the Formosa crisis, in an effort to find out whether or not it means anything more than double-talk, the Nationalist Foreign Minister, George Yeh, (odd first name for a Chinaman, incidentally) is reported to have stated that the Republic of China—meaning the Formosa Government—will never sit at the same table with representatives of a Soviet puppet regime—meaning the Peiping leaders. Not only that, but in Mr. Yeh's opinion, "a cease-fire proposal is tantamount to encouraging international aggression."

In case Chou's proposal, after study, is found to be sincere and feasible, this viewpoint of the Nationalists is going to be a bit embarrassing to the United States Government, since, of course, no negotiation would be possible without the approval and the active participation of the Nationalists. But it is the task of diplomacy to iron out embarrassing situations which might hinder a just settlement of an irritating and war-provoking dispute; and it can be assumed that, in this instance, President Eisenhower and his Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, will find some way to persuade Chiang Kai Shek, and Mr. George Yeh, that stubbornness, when it is unnecessary and impractical, is not a virtue.

There are rumours that already the Americans are sounding out the Nationalist leaders on a possible withdrawal of their garrisons from the disputed Matsu and Quemoy group of islands. Though as yet unconfirmed, these rumours have an air of plausibility. In view of rising allied opinion that United States action in that particular area would be unwise and in no way necessary for the protection of Formosa—assuming that Formosa itself is important to the security of United States' interests in the Pacific. Certainly, without outside help the Nationalists could never hope to defend the little islands successfully against Communist attack. If—and, of course, it is a big if—Nationalist occupation of the islands is all that stands in the way of a settlement of more important issues, or even sincere consultations looking towards a settlement, we may expect to hear any day now that Matsu and Quemoy have been declared expendable.

A Red Sea Kingdom

Political turmoil inside Yemen that broke recently into newspaper headlines gave the outside world a peek into a little-known Red Sea kingdom. South of Saudi Arabia and just north of Britain's Aden Protectorate, Yemen has been described as a garden surrounded by desert. Sometimes it has been called the "forbidden kingdom." For years it carefully cultivated its desire for seclusion. Rarely was a foreigner allowed a glimpse inside this country that wanted to be alone. But today times that draw the world into an ever-shrinking community are enmeshing Yemen.

Since World War II Yemen, straddling a region that has known many invasions since its conquest by Egypt in 1600 B.C., has joined the United Nations. It is also a member of the Arab League. Medical scientists from the United States have assisted Yemen in a battle against health menaces. American archeologists have excavated at Marib where the Biblical Queen of Sheba supposedly reigned.

One of the strongest ties with the outside world is now being projected—a modern harbor. In answer to an appeal, the United Nations has dispatched a port building expert to Yemen to expedite a \$45,000,000 program. A harbor is to be constructed for ocean-going ships 10 miles north of Hodeida, a Red Sea port which lacks docking facilities. News dispatches located much of the recent unrest at the mountain city of Ta'izz where some 25,000 persons live 120 miles south of San'a, Yemen's walled capital. Surrounded by green-tinged hills and enjoying a crisp highlands climate at night, Ta'izz, rather than San'a, is home to Yemen's rulers. In ancient times Ta'izz bestrode the spice route which channelled frankincense, myrrh and other coveted luxuries of the East from Aden to Mecca and on to Byzantium, whence Roman galleys carried them along Mediterranean shores.

As in those days, the camel caravan and the open market still play a leading

role in the country's economy. The TA'IZ market offers a multiplicity of goods—from camels to dried locusts, a Yemeni delicacy. An occasional truck can be seen along the rugged roads, but for every motor vehicle, there are scores of goats, donkeys and camels. Few other modern devices are more evident than the motor car. Drinking water still must be boiled. Where there is electricity, it proves so erratic as to be a doubtful boon. Wheat is yet thrashed by the primitive flailing method. Even so, Yemen produces a growing list of commodities which it sells abroad—coffee, dates, hides, wool, rock salt and grain—mostly in exchange for oil, textiles and cotton.

A Matter Of Conviction

Dr. M. L. Pottle, who resigned a few days ago from his post in the Newfoundland Cabinet, has been an important figure in that country's Government for quite a few years. In the latter years of Commission Government, subsequent to the suspension of the country's Dominion charter, and prior to its entry into Confederation, he held the post of Commissioner of Home Affairs and Education; and he has been a member of the Smallwood Government from the start. He is thus in a position to know at first hand Newfoundland's economic strengths and weaknesses and potentialities. Apparently he and Mr. Smallwood have been on the very best of terms; his quarrel was with the rapid industrialization of the country which he felt was proceeding much faster than governmental finances could stand. Mr. Smallwood attributes this uneasiness to "lack of understanding." It may be that; on the other hand, it may represent a wiser concept of government than the rapid industrialization enthusiasts have thus far been able to assimilate.

There is no question that Newfoundland's financial structure, as a result of subsidized new industry, is being strained very considerably. Perhaps this is of no very serious consequence in view of the good results which industrial expansion may be expected to produce; but Dr. Pottle evidently is of another opinion, and reports from other sources seem to indicate that he is not alone in his fears. At any rate, it is clear that the former minister's resignation resulted from a sincere conviction and not from any personal pique or grievance. There is no suggestion so far that he will now be read out of the party; nor is this likely, since Premier Smallwood himself is noted for a vigorous individualistic temperament, and he could hardly blame a colleague for having the courage of his convictions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It's all very well for Government officials to say that a black market in polio vaccine is "hardly probable"; but once the racket has started it will be too late to do much about it. The time to take preventive action is now, not six months or a year from now.

Berchtesgaden, Adolph Hitler's wartime retreat high in the Bavarian Alps, has been given a more respectable role. It is to be occupied the last week of this month by a group of American soldiers and their families who are attending a religious conference.

Premier Chou En-lai may not be on very good terms with the United States Government; but, apparently, he has no objection to American goods. At any rate he is reported to be driving around in a new American automobile in his spare hours at Bandung, presumably having traded in the Russian built vehicle he bought last year.

While most of the free world countries would like to see a truce in the Formosa dispute, pending a settlement—if one be possible—by negotiation, South Korean officials say they are "afraid" that one may be arranged. In their view it would be followed first by Communist conquest of all Asia and then by Soviet domination of Europe. It's hard to please everybody.

The city of Chicago is meeting with difficulty in carrying out its water fluoridation program. Only two bids were received on contracts for 4,000 tons of liquid hydro-fluorsilicic acid for injecting into the city's water, and only one of the bids could be opened. It was for 1,000 tons at \$54 a ton. The other bid arrived too late to come within the legal time set. It was understood to be for 2,500 tons. Eventually Chicago will need 5,000 tons of the chemical annually. This was the second time bids were called for since the City Council voted for fluoridation nearly a year ago. The first time only one company put in a bid on the liquid chemical. "We may have to curtail fluoridation activities until we find a new source of supply," said the city purchasing agent.



Test Of Strength

The Austrian Treaty

By W. N. Ewer United Kingdom Information Office

One has become accustomed over the years to the sudden changes in Soviet policy. And one has come to realize that these twists and turns, sudden and violent as they may seem, are tactical. They never or hardly ever connote any alteration of purpose or objective. "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." The sudden reversal of the Russian attitude towards the conclusion of "The State Treaty" with Austria is a characteristic example. For eight years—from the time of the Moscow meeting of Foreign Ministers in the Spring of 1947—the Soviet Government has persistently and efficiently prevented the conclusion of a treaty which would have restored her full independence to Austria and have ended the Allied military occupation.

At the Berlin Conference in January and February of last year Mr. Molotov was still adamant. In order to get a treaty at last concluded, the three "Western" powers and the Austrian Government agreed to accept the Russian draft of a single unagreed article. That evolved the acceptance by Austria of an onerous and inequitable economic burden. It was an exorbitant price to have to pay for the fulfillment of a promise given in 1944. But the Russians were to pay the price. With every Soviet demand could be signed at once. But Mr. Molotov at once produced new demands. One—that the Austrian undertaking of neutrality should not only be given but should be written into the treaty—might have been adjusted. But the other as Mr. Molotov was well aware was quite impossible to accept. It was that even after the signing of the treaty foreign troops would still remain and that for an indefinite period—until the conclusion of a German peace treaty. Austria would make the heavy sacrifices involved in the acceptance of the Russian terms. And she would do so without thereby obtaining her freedom from foreign occupation. It was a deliberately impossible proposal of which the obvious intent was to prevent the signing of the treaty and so to ensure continuance of Soviet control over Eastern Austria.

Now rather more than a year later Moscow has gone completely "into reverse." The Berlin demands are dropped without a word of explanation. The Austrians are offered withdrawal of troops by the end of this year at the latest. And in addition the Soviet economic demands (though still harsh) have been drastically mitigated. Austria will retain control over her Danube shipping over a number of industrial undertakings. Previously Moscow had insisted on retaining the preponderant share in their control even after the treaty on a pretext that they must be regarded as "German assets in Austria." The volte face is complete. Obstacles are suddenly removed. And as was to be expected the Communist propaganda line is now that the Soviet Government has been eager and anxious to get the treaty concluded; that it has been the "Western" powers who have made all the difficulties and have sabotaged the treaty making.

But the Soviet Government has not decided to give up its hold on Austria simply for the sake of some not very effective propaganda. What are the real motives of this change? The answer is to be found in Germany. Soviet leaders are ready to sacrifice their hold on Austria if the hope that by doing so they will get another opportunity to establish a hold on all Germany. It is as an English saying goes "a sprat to catch a mackerel." One may recall that ever since 1917 they have been convinced that the communization of Germany is the key to the communization of Europe. That is the Leninist axiom.

TEMPLE SUGGESTION Already the Moscow press is somewhat naively making the purpose of the move clear. The Austrian treaty provides the "model" for a German treaty. Dr. Adenauer is advised to follow Herr Raab's example to negotiate directly with Mr. Molotov. Germany would find Russia ready and willing to give

The Age Old Story

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it; and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

stitution, the only military force would be the Communist army of some 100,000 men, is not hard to predict when one remembers the fate of the "free" constitutions of say Poland or Czechoslovakia. It would almost certainly pass under Communist domination within a year. The Western powers would be powerless to help. They would be pledged to "non-intervention." And their own defence system would have been disrupted. The dream of Lenin's would have been fulfilled. Soviet power would stand on the Rhine, men particularly in Germany and for Europe has little chance of succeeding. But there are a hundred signs that this is the basic plan of the Soviet strategy in Europe. And the temporary sacrifice of a not very valuable foothold in Austria must seem worthwhile to men pursuing much wider aims and a far more valuable prize.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In this area air pollution presents a medical problem. Dr. Evis self no doubt about that. He declared that the incidence of lung cancer was higher in densely populated areas than in rural areas, and that the chief factor was air pollution. Toronto, he stated, was vulnerable because it could not count on winds to clear the air of soot and ash. He added that Toronto's air was particularly bad. —Toronto Telegram.

A survey taken recently among 600 executives disclosed that 300 were overweight and 300 were normally slim. In a series of questions put to the men it was learned that the fat ones admitted having a sweet roll with the morning coffee break. We can only assume that the slim ones were doing the work of the fat ones who took time off in the morning for coffee and a sweet roll. —Vancouver Herald.

A staunch fight was put up before fresh fruits were given clear basket coverings in place of the red gauze that made the fruit look ripe and luscious. The public outcry against the dishonest bacon wrapping finally resulted in steps being taken to stop this practice. But what about the other examples that are common practice? The chocolate bars which are crapped in cardboard and a couple of layers of paper to make them look twice as big as they really are. The cakes of soap that are given a similar treatment, and the large boxes of soap flakes which are found to be about two-thirds full in some instances. What about the tubes of tooth paste and shaving cream which occupy only about half the room in their large, attractive boxes? —Orilla Packet and Times.

To understand the danger one must realize that electricity,

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Medically Speaking

AN OCCUPATIONAL ILL

Remember those penmanship lessons you had back in elementary school? I hope all of you, bookkeepers, clerks and anyone else who has to do a lot of writing benefited from them. If not, eventually you might develop writer's cramp.

Frequent Victims

Most often bothered by this condition are men between the ages of 30 and 60 who make their living with a pencil or pen. Secretaries, however, usually aren't troubled by this occupational hazard if they use shorthand. The first sign of writer's cramp occurs when you lose control of your pen or pencil occasionally and notice minor disfigurements in your writing. You grip the pen tighter than is necessary and consequently your hand becomes tired and begins to ache. In time you won't be able to move your hand or index finger freely enough to move the pen. By this time your writing is jerky. Unless you quit now, your entire forearm will be bothered as the muscles are stricken with spasms.

The cause of these cramps is simple. You're not writing correctly. Remember, the penmanship classes stressed the importance of moving your whole arm when you write. If you write only by moving your thumb and index finger, or maybe your wrist, too, you're inviting trouble. By doing this, you throw the greatest strain on a small group of muscles.

Rest is the best cure. You'll have to stop writing entirely for six months or so. Then, when you resume writing, use a broad pen point and a thick penholder.

present in any electrical equipment, tends to seek any available path to earth. Wet hands, which may overcome the ordinary shielding in such equipment, with another part of the body touching a perfect ground such as provided by water or waste pipes, provides this ready circuit. The shock under such circumstances may paralyze the heart action, or an unconscious person may drown in a bathtub as a result. No one should ever touch an electrical appliance while any part of the body is in contact with any metallic object or water system which runs to earth. And the possibility of accidental contacts should be removed by the proper placement of electrical outlets and appliances. —Saint John Telegraph - Journal.

More Equal Than Others

All Canadians (to paraphrase George Orwell) are equal, but some are more equal than others. For example, members of the Senate and House of Commons, who enjoy a wide range of privileges denied the ordinary citizen, and are by no means averse to extending it. Last year, the MP's and senators demonstrated their greater quality—their plus-equality, as Orwell might have put it—by voting themselves salaries of \$10,000 a year. Two years before, the MP's bolstered their plus-equal status by giving themselves an extraordinarily generous pension scheme. They have done nothing (so far) this year to broaden the rather wide gap which separates them from the common herd. What they have done is to remind the common herd that the gap exists, and that it is very important to them; in short, that they are determined to keep on being plus-equal.

As is generally known, members of both Houses enjoy the privilege—they bestowed it on themselves many years ago—of "free transportation on any of the trains" of any railway in Canada. Recognizing this privilege, but recognizing also its duty to the travelling public, the Canadian Pacific Railway has politely asked the MP's to let revenue-paying passengers have first place on its new transcontinental streamliners. It has got in return what the common herd would call a kick in the teeth. The Socialist leader, Mr. M. J. Coldwell, told the House of Commons on Wednesday that the railway's request should be ignored. "Members of all parties" were informed "thumped their desks in applause."

What this decision means—we take it as such—is that the MP's and senators are going to be

plus-equal in a most gratifying way. Hitherto, they have only their free riding on trains, other, pebble-traveling on passes. But there will be no passes on the new CPR trains; they are reserved exclusively for paying passengers. So the MP's and senators will be the only free riders on them. And it means a paying passenger has to be turned away—which will be the case if the new trains are as popular as the CPR expects them to be—well, so much the worse for him; and for the railway. The only satisfaction we can take from this is that part about members of all parties thumping their desks in applause. If the MP's thumped their desks, they must have been sitting at their desks, and that is not often the case. At one point during the employment debate last month, only thirty-five members (out of 264) were in the House; and at one point during the foreign policy debate this month, attendance was down to thirty-one, barely enough for a quorum.

Mr. Elmore Philpott, Liberal member for Vancouver South, reported recently that one MP had been in the House only twice in two years; and that several others only show up for the most important votes. Where do they all get to? The suggestion which the House greeted last month with a most polite plea suggests an answer. They are riding the trains hither and yon, and admiring the beauties of the Canadian scene—the rivers running, the leaves dancing, the birds flying, the taxpayers walking.

The Poet's Corner

TWILIGHT Silent are the woods, and the green hedges are hushed in the twilight; yonder, is the path through the apple orchard, is a tired plough-boy. Calling the cows home. A bright white star blinks, the pale moon rounds, but still the red, livid wreckage of the sunset. Smoulders in smoky fire, and burns on the misty hill-tops. Ghostly it grows, and darker, the burning. Fades into smoke, and now the gusty onks are a silent army of phantoms through a land of shadows. —John Masfield.

HOW TO SAVE TIME WITH B.N.S. "One-Stop Shopping" Before you next visit your branch of The Bank of Nova Scotia, do a little planning. Take a minute to jot down all the things you need to do regarding money matters, then check the Bank services (some of the principal ones are listed below.) Ask yourself whether you're getting the full benefit from them. Then, when you pay your call, you can really take advantage of BNS "one-stop shopping"—the time-saving advantage of a comprehensive banking service under one roof.

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