THE GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1955

Bastille Day

Among the many notorious prisons of medieval times none was more infamous than the Bastille of Paris. Built in 1370, it became under the French monarchs a dungeon for the imprisonment of political dissidents. Many prisoners remained there for the rest of their lives without trial and without any contact whatsoever with the outside world. By the time of the Revolution the Bastille had been regarded by succeeding generations as a symbol of despotism, injustice, and cruelty. When the Revolution started it was the first building to come under the fury of the mob. "Down with the Bastille" was the cry of men battling against tyranny; it was heard around the world.

A hundred years before, a prisoner had written on the walls of his damp, dark cell these prophetic words: "The Bastille shall one day be demolished, and the people shall dance on the area where it stood." The prophecy was fulfilled on July 14, 1789, when not one stone was left upon another in the place where the hated Bastille had stood for 400 years. Its destruction was ordered by Lafayette, one of the heroes of the Revolution, who sent a model of the prison and a key of it to General George Washington with this message: "I send you the main key of the fortress of despotism. It is a gift which I owe as a son of liberty to its patriarich."

Where the hated Bastille stood there is now a public square where, doubtless, boys and girls dance in the gaiety that belongs to youth, and where their elders, despite the political confusions of their times, reflect on the freedom which is theirs to preserve and to pass on to posterity in the good French tradition.

Bottles And Beaches

So much attention is directed to the evils of drink that relatively little is given to those of the containers of liquid refreshments, alcoholic or otherwise. Anyone, however, who has seen a child returning from the beach crying and with a bleeding foot is apt to feel that the one is not greatly less than the other.

Glass containers are used for an almost infinite variety of purposes and indeed are so common that many people seem to forget that they are serious sources of danger. If explosives were scattered about in anything like the way broken glass is there would be an immediate uproar until the culprits were discovered and suitably punished.

Motorists, of course, take a very dim view of glass being scattered on the highway, but sharp splinters in less obvious places may well be the cause of more serious damage and injury. A barefoot child is more apt to be cut by sharp objects along the roadside, at a picnic spot, or on the shore, than by similar pieces on the highway itself.

It is not good enough to say that "somebody" should do "something" about it. Only by every citizen feeling a responsibility to avoid discarding bottles and glass, to pick up any that he or she comes across, and taking measures to prevent thoughtless persons from throwing away the dangerous litter can safety be assured.

The Shakespeare Festival

The shakespeare Festival at Stratford, Ontario, continues to grow in importance and in cultural usefulness. Now in its third season, it has more than justified the faith of its founders; and its permanent establishment as the centre of Canadian drama has been assured. Two years ago 67,000 persons came to the Festival; last year this number was nearly doubled; this year 160,000 are expected.

The success of the Festival shows two things principally: (1) notwithstanding the many non-literary theatrical productions that come from the pseudo-dramatic assembly line, and that seem to captivate the popular fancy for a time, there is still a place for serious drama that requires skilful reception as well as skilful presentation; (2) Canadian dramatic talent is by no means the rare commodity we had been led to believe by those critics who are in the habit of rendering verdicts on slender bits of evidence. While experts from outside were largely responsible for the introductory phases at Stratford, Canadian players have been in prominent places from the start and soon the Festival will be an all-Canadian institution.

Meanwhile, in Stratford, Connecticut, another Shakespeare Festival is under way, having been opened on Tuesday, the 12th, with great pomp and splendour. The drama of the American sponsors is much more magnificent and supported by a great deal more money than was the case with the Canadian venture. Nothing less than artistic perfection, with their town the Alpha and Omega of dramatic culture, is their aim, if one may judge from reports. Canadian Stratfordians, who already know that it is both pleasant and profitable to "make room for Shakespeare" will wish their American friends every good fortune in their high hopes; for, if it be true that Shakespeake "was not of any age but for all time", it is equally true that his genius transcends geographical boundaries and national barriers. Yet, back home in Stratford on the Avon, citizens need not fear that the fame which they and their forbears have known is in danger of being transferred across the sea to either Ontario or Connecticut. The essential glory of him "who did the stars and sunbeams know" is for ever England's.

Loans For Fishermen

Bill 452, respecting loans to assist fishermen engaged in a primary fishing enterprise should do much to provide fishermen, through loans, with better equipment and the necessary facilities to handle their catch. Senator Gordon B. Isnor, however, has an important point in asking why a provision is not included whereby a group of fishermen could join together and enjoy the benefits of the legislation.

The tendency in the fisheries as in most enterprises today is towards larger units and more efficient methods. Individual loans up to $4,000 would help the fisherman to have the best equipment that he can individually operate but that falls short of the best and most economical equipment for exploiting our fishery resources.

The Bill is based on the Farm Improvement Loans Act, which also has the $4,000 limit. But that limit is hardly appropriate to fishing, particularly large scale fishing where, as a Senator from Newfoundland pointed out, the cost of boats runs as high as $100,000.

It may be that the cost of financing large-scale operations would be in excess of what the Government feels it can afford for such a purpose. But it would seem that the proposed limit would be directly contrary to the overall policy of really modernizing the fisheries and making them fully productive.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A government not in debt is a rarity these days. That, however, is the present financial condition of the State of Kansas which paid off its last outstanding bonds a week ago. Congratulations are in order.

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Prime Minister Nehru calls war "a relic of a barbarous past which has no meaning today for intelligent human beings". It may have no "meaning"; but it certainly receives a lot of attention from intelligent persons.

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A three-day Canadian Writer's Conference will open at Queen's University July 28 on the subject, "The Writer, his Media, and the Public." Whatever may be said of the scope of Canadian literature, there is nothing narrow about the agenda of the conference.

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The Centenary Supplement of The Scotsman, Edinburgh, like Charlottetown's Centennial, does not imply an age of merely one hundred years. Although a daily for that period, The Scotsman came out originally on Burn's Day, 1817 and has ever since been a champion of Scottish rights, letters and nationality.

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Another proof that money talks: Before the pay increase for military personnel was voted by the United States Congress, the rate of re-enlistment for discharged airmen was around 26%; the current rate is 31%. In the Army re-enlistments are much higher, about 63% as compared with 52% under the old wage scale.

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Some Western officials are said to believe that now the Soviet Union has almost caught up with the West in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and, consequently, has no reason to feel "inferior", it will be easier for the two sides to come to terms on the disarmament issue. There may be something in that; nevertheless, it would be wise to keep in mind that equality, like inferiority, has been known to cause trouble.

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Limited Senate appointments, rather than for life, has been advocated in the House of Commons as a means of making the Upper House more efficient and able to perform a useful function in the parliamentary system. There may be some point in the proposal but the really essential reform is the curbing of Senate powers. Like the atom bomb, they cannot be used without danger of self-destruction. A Senate with power only to delay rather than to kill legislation would be much more ready to use those powers.

Ill-Equipped Traffic Officer

OTTAWA REPORT

Parliament Attendance

By Patrick Nicholson

Our protracted spell of hot weather is encouraging growth not only on our farms. There has been a shameful growth of absenteeism among the ten thousand dollar a year men constituting our two Houses of Parliament here.

The majority of the Commons is absent from most votes these days, and this gave Guelph's Henry Hosking a terrible shock one morning last week. As the Ontario Liberal Whip, he quickly counted heads on the Government and on the Opposition benches when he foresaw an unexpected vote pending. There were, he saw to his horrow, but 51 M.Ps on the government side and these were exceeded by the 54 opposition members in the House. Full attendance would give the government a majority by just over 170 to just over 90 members.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Government Whip always to keep enough government supporters available to constitute a majority on a vote. It is the responsibility of Henry Hosking, as the Ontario Whip, to make sure that whatever quota of members is called for from his province will always be in attendance.

On this occasion, the government was saved from defeat by a split Opposition and by a few chance last minute Liberal arrivals. For example, one Liberal just walked up the Hill to fetch his car from the Parliamentary parking space, and was about to drive out of town when he heard the division bells ringing. He rushed into the Chamber, entirely ignorant of the subject of the vote, and dutifully added his voice to that of his party.

This episode raised the question why every vote in Parliament need be regarded as a motion of confidence in the Government. Why should not most votes, especially upon the less important topics, reflect the considered and majority opinion of Parliament, rather than give us the pantomime of a group of human beings acting like trained seals.

If every M.P. must always vote in acordance with His Master's Voice; if the long debates can never make even one of our highly-paid robot voters change his opinion and his vote; is our Parliament really necessary? Or has it already been beaten down into the insignificance which so many of us fear will happen as the Cabinet and the Bureaucracy gradually usurp the power of Parliament?

THE WHIPS SUPREME

The 172 Liberal Members of Parliament are used as nothing more than Yes-Men who will vote in accordance with Their Master's Voice, at the crack of the Whip wielded by Henry Hosking and others. On many occasions, they not only do not want to speak; they are not even permitted by those Whips to speak.

93 Liberal votes would give the Cabinet a majority over all possible Opposition in the House of Commons. The surplus of 79 Liberal M.Ps could, without detriment to the present machinery of government and with savings to the public pocket, be permitted to die out without replacement, as is happening to the Senate.

Our party political system, as seen in action in the House of Commons today, has become highly regimented, predictable, impersonal—and as dull as ditchwater. Advocates of this system say that it gives efficient government, and declare that without such regimented parties Parliament would be a mere scene of anarchy. Yet our great grandfathers had neither Whips nor anarchy in their parliaments; our big business corporations today do not have party rule in the directors' boardrooms. At the very least, today's system perpetrates the waste of converting an able human being into a robot so long as he sits on a back bench.

Coming To The Summit

It is over two years since Sir Winston Churchill, then Prime Minister, threw out the idea that perhaps a "conference on the highest level between the leading powers might be one way of securing a lessening of tension between what the Communists call the two camps".

The idea which he outlined to the House of Commons on May 11, 1953 was that there should be a meeting of those "at the summit of the nations". As so often with Sir Winston the phrase has caught the imagination. This month's meeting in Geneva has come to be called everywhere the "summit meeting".

What was in the then Prime Ministers mind was a meeting of the heads of Governments, private and informal with no "nopderous or rigid agenda", not seeking or expecting to reach "hard-faced agreements", but rather to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding in which agreements on detailed and specific questions might become more easy to attain.

There was eager welcome for the idea from large sections of public opinion but at the time no enthusiasm for it either in Washington or in Moscow. And it went as it were into cold storage for a while. Instead, it was thought better to try the alternative method suggested by Sir Winston in the same speech — to seek to settle some of the specific "difficulties" with the Soviet Union. This "might lead to easement in our relations for the next few years which might in itself open new prospects to the security and prosperity of all nations and every continent".

Much Has Happened.

Much has happened since then. The policy of seeking to settle particular problems has been tried with mixed results. There have been successes. The ending of the Indo-China war and the signing of the Austrian State Treaty stand out. But there have also been failures. The Berlin Conference of January 1954 on Germany and on associated European questions ended in a deadlock which has not been broken since. And some understanding on these is essential if there is to be any real entente. Settlement as distinct from mere armistice has still to be found in Korea. A menacing cloud — though less immediately menacing than it seemed a few months ago — hangs over the Formosa area.

There have been other and important developments. One of the lessons of the Berlin meeting was that there was little or no prospect of fruitful discussions on Germany so long as the process of completing the integration of the N.A.T.O. system by inclusion in it of Western Germany was still uncompleted. Once that had been done the time seemed to the Western Powers ripe for a new approach. And the most hopeful line of approach seemed that which the United Kingdom Prime Minister had suggested two years before.

Basis for "Summit Meeting"

So a few days after the Ratification of the Paris Agreements and the German Federal Republic's entry into N. A. T. O., Britain, France and the United States invited the Soviet Union to "a new effort to remove sources of conflict between us". There would first be a meeting of the heads of Governments, accompanied by their Foreign Ministers, who would devote themselves to formulating issues to be worked on and to agreeing on the methods to be followed in exploring solutions. They would seek to "lay the foundations for a second stage in which the problems would be examined in detail by such methods, organs and participants as it appears will be most fruitful according to the nature of the issues".

This is the invitation which has been accepted by the Soviet Government and which is the basis for the "Summit Meeting" which opens in Geneva on July 18. It is not intended or expected to perform miracles or even to produce dramatic results. Its purpose is to open the way to a continuous and possibly long process. Yet the outcome and perhaps even more the character of the Geneva meeting may be decisive for the success or failure of the "second stage". One awaits it hopefully but anxiously.

A Dead Concept.

There is one point which I think needs to be stressed. It is this. There is — at any rate in the minds of the "western" three- no thought that this or any other meeting of the "Big Powers" shall decide or dictate the future of other countries and peoples "behind their back" and without their free consent.

The Geneva meeting will be one of the Four Powers only. There is general approval that this be so. But the restriction does not in any way imply any claim that the four have any sort of hegemony; or that the fact of their superior strength gives them any overriding authority. That in the West is a dead concept. It will not be revived. American, British and French heads of Governments go in a sense to Geneva as trustees and representatives on behalf of their associates. As the British Foreign Secretary said to the Assembly of the Council of Europe, "Great powers must act as trustees and not as principals". So the prelude to the "Summit Meeting" has been a full and free and frank discussion between the three Western powers and their associates.

The whole question of "Western" policy in negotiations with the Soviet Union or in any "future East-West conference" was discussed by the Assembly of the Council of Europe on July 6 — twelve days before the meeting at Geneva. The Council of the West European Union meets on July 15; the Council of N.A.T.O. on the 16. President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony Eden and M. Faure go to meet Marshal Bulganin fully advised of the views and wishes of the governments and parliaments of all the free countries of Europe. That is a new and very significant development. It is by no means the least important result of the creation of the Council of Europe and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Poor Man's Corner

THE POOR MAN'S PIG

Already fallen plum-bloom stars the green
And apple-boughs as knarred as old toad's backs
Wear their small roses ere a rose is seen;
The building thrush watches old Job who stacks
The bright-peeled osiers on the sunny fence,
The pent sow grunts to hear him stumping by,
And tries to push the bolt and scamper thence,
But her ringed snout still keeps her to the sty.

Then out he lets her run; away she snorts
In bundling gallop for the cottage door,
With hungry hubbub begging crusts and orts,
Then like a whirlwind bumping round once more;
Nuzzling the dog, making the pullets run,
And sulk as a child when her play's done.

—Edmund Blunden.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

SOME SOOTHING REMEDIES TO CURE ATHLETE'S FOOT

Athlete's foot, or dermatophytosis of the feet, is the most common fungus disease doctors are called upon to treat.

Unfortunately, persons troubled with this disease usually don't consult their physician until they've had it for a long time. For months it may not have caused discomfort, so they ignore it. If you have or have had athlete's foot, I'll bet you've done the same thing.

Causes Discomfort

You won't go to your doctor until the fungus, which has invaded the skin of your soles or toes, causes an acute vesicular or bullous eruption. The burning and itching finally causes so much discomfort that eventually you decide to seek treatment.

Usually, you'll contact athlete's foot from walking in bare feet on the floor around a swimming pool, in a dressing room, shower room or Turkish bath.

Slight Scaling

At first, you will notice a slight scaling under and between your toes. Most often the skin between your fourth and fifth toes of each foot is infected, although the webs between any or all of the toes might be involved.

The best way to avoid athlete's foot, of course, is not to go barefoot in public places. Also, it's essential to dry your feet and toes thoroughly after bathing

Soothing Remedies

Before attacking the fungi, it's usually necessary to employ mild soothing remedies on badly inflamed areas of your foot. This will also relieve any secondary infection which might have occurred through broken vesicles.

There are several fungicidal agents which have proven effective. Among them are formaldehyde, sulphur, salicylic acid, resorcin, gentian violet and ammoniated mercury. Castellani's paint and Tincture Asterol also are effective. It's up to your doctor to decide which is best for you depending upon the stage of the disease.

Daily Soaking

For acute intertriginous types, the affected parts should be soaked for ten minutes daily in a soothing solution of potassium permanganate.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

D. R.: What can I do to make my flesh firm — it is very flabby?

Answer: It is advisable that you have a physical examination to determine if there is any abnormal condition present. Exercises would be helpful to you. Massage might be of some slight benefit. You should employ a well-balanced diet and make sure that you are getting enough vitamins and minerals.

The Age Old Story

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! . . . Behold my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

GAS MAIN FLAMES

HAMILTON, Ont. (CP)—A workman was scorched and valuable equipment damaged when a construction company grading tractor accidentally ruptured a six-inch gas main Wednesday morning. Firemen said flames leapt 50-75 feet in the air for about 15 minutes before gas company workmen could turn the supply off.

PARLIAMENT HILL FIRE

OTTAWA (CP)—Fire, caused by a careless smoker, sent fire engines roaring to Parliament Hill Wednesday The fire broke out in the bush below the lookout — a wooden pavilion overlooking the Ottawa river behind the House of Commons. Fire officials said it was started by a careless smoker who threw away a lighted cigaret butt.

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SHIP MORE PLYWOOD

OTTAWA (CP)—Plywood shipments climbed in May and the first five months of 1955 from corresponding periods last year. The bureau of statistics reported Wednesday that plywood shipments rose during May to 102,948,000 square feet from 77,221,000 square feet last year.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If you want to become prime minister of Ontario you should arrange not to be born in Toronto. No Torontonian has ever become premier, although all premiers have been born in Ontario.—Peterborough Examiner.

Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil's two largest cities, have erected the world's tallest reinforced concrete buildings. Although this method of construction is not a Brazilian invention, the techniques were advanced there. Now foreign engineers visit Brazil to learn about concrete structures. — National Geographic Bulletin.

During the first Canadian Conference on reading, held at the University of Toronto, Mr. Walter F. Koerber of Jarvis School for Boys has given a cautionary word to those who deal with mentally retarded children. He asserts that these children can be taught to read if allowed to mature sufficiently first. They should be neither hurried nor permitted to vegetate, but given a program of suitable activities. Although the term "mentally retarded child" covers quite a few categories, Mr. Koerber's advice is relevant in many instances. — Ottawa Citizen.

Research is coming face to face with a teasing old question in London, Ont., this summer. It will try to measure the heat, or warmth potential, of beards. Science is full of gaps in this branch of thermodynamics, or whatever it's called. There are fair approximations of the heat factor in Hudson Bay blankets and sheer nylon stockings, but next to nothing on whiskers. Those who sported centennial beards through the heat of 1954 in Windsor will tell you they're "plenty hot." Now it remaines for biophysicists at the University of Western Ontario to resolve that to a formula, equation, or something.—Windsor Star.

School board members in Calgary demonstrate a sense of responsibility that might be copied by other school boards. Last December the board adopted an expulsion scheme under which "problem students" are expelled from high school. Twenty students have been penalized in this manner. The board took action on complaints from principals that students who might not want to study were obstructing those who did. Under the board's plan the obstructive student is first warned, then put on probation and finally expelled if he shows no desire to study. This form of discipline against the student body puts the high school in its proper light as an institution of learning. In the few years they have for such a purpose the students must acquire the education that is necessary to follow a successful career. There is no time for "fooling around." — Evening Reporter.

Although the Second Great War continued for more than three years, no noteworthy songs ever emerged. The ballads of the First Great War are, today, more frequently heard. The songs of the Second Great War were weak and dependent ("God Bless America") fatuous ("Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition"), feebleminded ("There'll Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover"), or childish in an effort to be martial ("Off We Go, Into the Wild, Blue Yonder"). — Halifax Chronicle-Herald

Details which have been released of the new Art Gallery which Lord Beaverbrook is going to build for Fredericton emphasize the magnificent nature of the latest gift which His Lordship is making to this city. The Gallery which is now in an advanced planning stage in the offices of a firm of local architects is to cost upwards of a million dollars. When it is completed Fredericton will have on its main street a structure which will be the pride of this and future generations. — Fredericton Gleaner

Russia, Sweden, and Great Britain, the only three European nations so far to give any attention to defence against atomic bomb attacks, are going underground. The three nations have created what are in effect cities beneath the earth. These underground communities contain hospitals, shops, recreation centers, in some cases workrooms, assembly halls and even theaters. Some have bakeries, modern hotel accommodation and hangars for aircraft. There are, in addition arsenals, offices for military and civil officials and even jails. The Swedes, further advanced than any European nation in civil defence, have constructed enormous caverns or underground installations for civil and military defence in case of war — Evening Tribune.

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