

Diplomatic Front

On Saturday Britain accused two Soviet diplomats of attempted spying and gave them ten days to get out of the country. It is nothing new, of course, that Russian assistant military attaches should engage in espionage in addition to their more legitimate information-collecting activities.

From one point of view the incident has considerable value. It has long been a difficulty about negotiating with Russians that a willingness to make concessions in seeking agreement is invariably taken as a sign of weakness.

At the present time the nations of the free world and particularly Britain, are indicating their willingness to give and take in the interest of arriving at a workable solution to the complex problems of Korea and the Far East generally.

The forthright action of Prime Minister Churchill in demanding the immediate recall of the diplomats guilty of undiplomatic conduct should serve notice on the Kremlin that Britain, at least, is not in the mood to play the doormat.

Red Chain Letters

Top Communist strategists have hit upon a fad of earlier decades in their drive to halt tests of the hydrogen bomb in the western world. A campaign now is underway in the United States to build up thousands of chain letters, addressed to President Eisenhower.

Reporting the strategy, the New York Herald Tribune says the letter-writing fits in with similar moves in Britain and France. It adds that the value to Communists of such a campaign is threefold: it is comparatively inexpensive, produces a large quantity of letters and usually manages to get the backing of well-meaning persons unwittingly misled by intermediaries.

It is significant that Communist-inspired petitions are never directed against Russian leaders—men who have consistently refused to co-operate with the West in international control of nuclear energy.

It is quite possible, notes an exchange, that the letter campaign will spill over into Canada. If it does, it would be well for Canadians to recognize the spurious character of this scheme.

Foreign Trade

The need for a more efficient cost-price structure in order to make Canadian goods competitive in foreign and domestic markets, says the Commercial Letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is likely to become more urgent in the months ahead if Canada is to retain her relative place in world trade and maintain a sound international financial position.

The year 1953 saw a reversal of the favourable balance in merchandise trade experienced in 1952. Largely responsible were the efforts of soft currency areas to minimize dollar purchases, a high level of domestic consumer demand which sharply increased imports and stiff competition encountered by Canadian exporters in foreign markets.

For the second successive year Canadians spent more on travel outside Canada

than was spent by foreigners in Canada. Also adding to the current account deficit were heavy payments of interest and dividends on foreign capital invested in Canada. However the total current account deficit amounting to about \$467 million was offset by heavy direct investment in Canada.

The outlook for trade still appears uncertain. Although there has been some improvement in sterling area dollar reserves there is no prospect of an early return to convertibility. Much of the hope for eventual convertibility and a sound financial position in the sterling area rests on a high level of trade with the United States and on United States foreign policy.

Compensation To Maritimes

It is to be hoped that more will be heard from our representatives at Ottawa on a subject touched upon recently in the House of Commons by Mr. A. J. Brooks. There is soundness, comments the Moncton Transcript, in Mr. Brooks' contention that the Maritimes should receive some compensation now that northern Quebec and Ontario and the western provinces are deriving tremendous wealth from the development of natural resources.

In view of the fact that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia—two of the original provinces of Confederation—and Prince Edward Island, cannot be extended territorially, it seems no more than justice that they should receive compensation in some other form. At the present time plans are underway to pipe gas and oil from the western provinces to Eastern Canada—but not to the Maritimes.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Inspection by the public as well as by the inspecting officer is invited by the Charlottetown Garrison units of the Canadian Army Reserve Force turning out this evening.

Seamen seem to be much the same whatever their nationality. The Spanish sailors who observed "unseamanlike" uniforms and women crew members aboard two Soviet trawlers on the Grand Banks were looking with the eyes of seamen rather than of Spaniards.

War pensions in this country are only about three-quarters of those of the United States, but they are far higher in real value than those of any other country, according to a table published in the World Veteran.

Protesting against indirect taxes which result in such things as a total Federal tax on a low-priced car of \$350 as against \$90 in the United States, a vice-president of the B. F. Goodrich Rubber Company feels that it is no wonder that a new born baby cries, "The poor thing is hungry, naked, and already owes the Government \$1,400."

Spencer Perceval, English statesman, was assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons this date 1812. He had been a practicing barrister until the age of 36 when he entered Parliament. He held office under Addington and was chancellor of the Exchequer under Portland.

There is sage advice and comment in the monthly letter of the Royal Bank of Canada, devoted to the search for happiness. If pattern living takes over the routine tasks, freeing us from the necessity of deciding less important things afresh every day, that is a good thing, but we must not carry habit to the point where it becomes our master.



Another Sheet For The Paper Curtain?

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.

MR. PRATT REPLIES

Sir,—Our critique expressing our personal views on bureaucratic encumbrances seems to have aroused quite a volume of protest.

Now that man has the power to destroy civilization, he had better read the hand-writing on the wall—while there's still a wall.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Once more we are impressed by wonderful, foresighted Nature. Before anybody knew that some day there would be an atomic cloud she designed the mushroom for it to be compared with.—Winnipeg Tribune.

He questions our right to comment from the standpoint of either a dealer in or grower of potatoes. It has not been our practice to recognize anonymous writers. For the sake of others however who may entertain the same doubts, we may say that for fifteen years we were among the largest shippers in King's County, and have fair knowledge of marketing. Our health broke down and we were forced to quit. We grew potatoes until a year ago. Our reason for quitting is the subject of this correspondence. We objected to Mr. Dewar's claim to playing a part in a two million dollar business, in our opinion has cost the Prince Edward Island potato grower a lot of money and a loss of market potential.

Our anonymous friend states in one breath that Mr. Donald McDonald and Mr. Leo McIsaac were too busy to talk to him. He will find the case invariably where ex-farmers are suddenly elevated to positions of authority. In the next breath he states that these men both grew up on farms and sold potatoes for six cents per bushel. Notwithstanding their frenetic hurry to catch up with the market reports they must have taken a minute or so to tell him all this. If the writer so blithely and so anonymously lays the blame for the six cent price at the feet of the dealer on P. E. Island instead of attributing it to the greatest world depression ever known, then he must give this same dealer credit for the boom prices up to \$3.60 per bushel, which we personally paid a very short time before that. It is the same story as it always will be. Supply and demand. We take no blame for the one or credit for the other.

We will say here, however, that the dealers and shippers of this Island and in the Maritimes explored and pioneered markets and should be given credit for it even if the motive was profit. They took plenty risks and plenty losses, which they did not ask the farmer to make good. Our friend who so anonymously waxes emotional over the welfare of Mr. McDonald in his ten mile drive in a late model car to his hundred and fifty year old farm, falls to touch a responsive chord in us. Mr. McDonald it is alleged is very well paid for it and can hand over his job to any one of a multitude of job seekers who are just waiting for the opportunity to climb on the band wagon, if and when he tires of it.

In conclusion we assert that we are proud of our status and efforts as a member of the most essential class of all society. But we also believe that the conscientious banker, the honest trader, and the professional man are as necessary to complete our composite society, as are we the farmers who supply the ammunition for the continuance of life. We deplore the effort toward classified and coercive legislation, that does not cohere, but excludes, prevents, and eventually disintegrates.

I am, Sir, etc., S. C. PRATT, St. Peter's, P. E. I.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Among U. S. children, we understand, "Cops and robbers" has been replaced by "spectators and congressmen."—Edmonton Journal.

Standing on your dignity is all right, but some people can't cope with the itchy feet.—Hamilton Spectator.

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"A group of mathematicians reports the discovery of an entirely incomprehensible shape. It must be the one the world's in today."—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

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The best part of spring for poor old Dad is that he can get out of the hammock again. You can figure so much florid strategy from a hammock.—London Free Press.

"We read of a woman who found a \$10 bill, turned it over to the police, and shortly afterward discovered that it was her own money. Her difficulties in giving herself a proper reward leave us stunned."—Peterborough Examiner.

One thing to be said for Joe McCarthy—he's versatile. As near as we can make out from watching those hearings on TV, he's acting simultaneously as accused, prosecutor, counsel, clerk of the court and one-man jury.—Hamilton Spectator.

We now learn that the toothbrush was invented by William Addis, a convict in a London prison in 1856. He made it from a bone he found in his food, and some bristles from a scrubbing brush. This places him with Bunyan and Cervantes, who also did great things while in jail.—Peterborough Examiner.

It is not often that a three-year-old boy is bright enough to save his home from fire but this is what the warning of little Jay Morrison did in Gould last week. Jay was playing outside the house when he saw flames. He ran in to tell his mother, Mrs. Roscoe Morrison, who was busy with her household work. As most mothers would, Mr. Morrison thought, at first, that it was only his imagination. When he continued to insist, she came to the front door to see the porch roof on fire.—Sherbrooke Record.

—In Wisconsin six people out of every 10,000 are in jail. The United States average is almost twice that much. In fact, of all the states in the union, Wisconsin has the fewest people in the hoosegow. This could mean several things. Maybe we are more law abiding. Or maybe our law enforcement is slack. Then, too, it could mean that our criminals are smarter than most. A Green Lake county farmer had a different view. "It's these damned crows," he complained. "A man playing nurse maid to a bunch of crows just naturally doesn't have time for any devilment."—Wisconsin Farmer.

A Liberal M. L. A. at Victoria questioned an item in the public accounts for brief cases for Cabinet ministers and a travelling bag. This is getting down to pretty small potatoes on the part of the opposition. The Canadian Parliament and the various legislatures have always provided brief cases and other such necessary articles of office for Cabinet ministers.

At Ottawa, a range of such articles is supplied to every elected member. The range even includes, for each member, silk screen reproduction of two paintings from the National Gallery. These are to brighten his room and thus provide him with uplift and inspiration. —Vancouver News-Herald.

The Poet's Corner BUS TO TARBERT

The bus goes to Tarbert, And there's my man's way. With his mind on the herring And the work of the day. Oh, it's Monday's the bad one Of all the days in the week, For the bus goes to Tarbert And love's ill to seek.

He turns from the pillow And his thought has gone far, He pulls on the blue jersey That smells of the tar. Oh, it's Monday's night's cruel And my bed like a stone, For the bus goes to Tarbert And I'll be alone.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

BARON KANEKO'S SPEECH

A news item quotes a Japanese diplomat as saying, "Japan and the West will be for ever friends." As an unwritten-law of coincidence would have it, just before the item caught my eye I had been reading an interesting and eloquent speech delivered in early Summer of 1905 by Baron Kaneko, a leading Japanese statesman.

Admiral Togo, the "Nelson of Japan" had just administered a crushing blow to the Russian Pacific fleet, which meant that the war with that country was drawing rapidly to a successful conclusion. Englishmen, Americans, Frenchmen, and, of course, the Japanese themselves, were calling Admiral Togo's victory the "greatest naval triumph since Trafalgar."

How did this great victory come about? Well, Baron Kaneko explained it this way: "From the day of the Mongolian defeat (624 years before) the Japanese people, moved by the union of loyalty, devotion, and spirit that we call 'Bushido'—the soul of Japan—have given themselves not only to the development of their military and naval strength but to the development also of strength and individual and national character."

Not only the East, but Europe also, would profit immeasurably. "With Russia dwarfing day by day in international importance, and with France and England on terms of cordial understanding, the peace of Europe is safer than it has been for many a year."

Baron Kaneko's audience must have got the impression that henceforth the British, the Americans, and the Japanese would be one happy family. "With England," he said, "we are bound by common sympathies and by formal alliance; with the United States, although the American foreign policy forbids an alliance such as that with England, we are bound no less closely by common ideals and common aims."

Wherefore, my beloved, as we have always obeyed, not as in presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

"No Speak English" At the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa prior to the espionage disclosure there was a most pleasant military attaché. But he had considerable difficulty at embassy parties of other diplomatic functions. Fluent in French, he couldn't speak English, or so he let it be known. He would politely explain: "No speak English," and move to a group where French was being spoken. It was rather unusual, for the other Russians showed a remarkable ability to learn and speak English.

On a certain trip which took him out of Ottawa and away from the eagle eyes of his colleagues, the military attaché got drunk on rum. Those with him found, to their amazement, he could speak English eloquently—or as eloquently as his intoxication permitted. "He speaks English better than I do," observed one who was present.

It evidently was the duty around the embassy to concentrate those who spoke French or, pretending lack of ability to understand English, to pick up any remarkable remark anyone might make, thinking him ignorant of the language.

This comes to mind with the story from Geneva of the Chinese girl, Kung Peng, described as the mouthpiece for Foreign Minister Chou En-Lai. She indicated she could speak nothing but Chinese. It so happens some news correspondents there knew her several years ago in Chungking, and recall she then spoke English so well she could indulge in American slang.

These are additional examples of the wily ways of the Communists.

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