The Guardian

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

PAGE 4 SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 1957

Many Obstacles

If all the European nations which have grievances against Britain and the United States bring them up at the forthcoming meeting of NATO, there won't be much time in the three days for consideration of other matters.

The French are still disgruntled over the shipment of British and American arms to Tunisia. What is more, they are a little suspicious that some of these arms have already found their way into the hands of Algerian rebels. The only word they can get from either London or Washington is that Tunisia has given "assurances" that the arms will not be used against the French. Whether these assurances can be relied upon is, of course, an interesting question—to the French.

As for the West Germans, they are irritated by American and British demands for additional support of their military forces on German soil. The United States wants an extra $77 million, while the British are willing to settle for $43 million. It's not only the money that is bothering Bonn officials but the implication that West Germany is not doing its full share in the defense of Europe.

The Duch, too, are showing signs of discontent. Their particular grievance is British and American reluctance to give them any practical support in their dispute with Indonesia over East New Guinea and other problems. The Americans are especially wary about this, since outright support of the Netherlands in such a delicate matter would not fit in very well with their much publicized opposition to "colonialism", which of course is regarded as a very, very bad word all over Asia.

Taking one thing with another, it looks as though the United States—and Britain to a somewhat lesser degree—will have many obstacles to face at the NATO meeting, quite apart from Premier Bulganin's obvious attempts to sow cockles among the wheat.

The Closure Question

The Prime Minister has given notice of his motion to remove closure from the Commons book of rules. On the wisdom of this, says the Ottawa Journal, there ought to be considerable debate. Closure was abused by the Liberal government last year in that it was applied arbitrarily before time had been given for discussion. It remains a fact that the business of the country, when impeded by unreasonable opposition "stonewalling" on an issue, may be better done if closure can be properly applied.

The Liberals in self-defence should be prepared to explain the advantages of closure when the Prime Minister's motion is discussed. If they fail to do so, and vote for this as for other government proposals, their surrender to opportunism will appear complete.

Without closure, what is left? There is the device known as the "previous question". Under it a member at any time during a debate may move that "the question be now put". No amendment is permitted to this motion and if it is approved the main motion under consideration must be put at once.

This rule is designed to prevent the indefinite blockade of government proposals by an endless series of amendments each of which can be debated. But the "previous question" rule has its limitation, with not the least of them that it may be abused more easily than closure.

Any parliamentary rule which may cut down debate, even after it has continued to extraordinary length, should be used carefully. It is evident that the Liberals' abuse of closure, and the results of the general election, give fair warning to any future government that they will employ, let alone abuse, closure or the "previous question" at their peril. But that does not say that a government's authority to deal with an emergency situation for the national good should be removed entirely.

Price Supports

The new farm price support program as outlined by Agriculture Minister Harkness is a step in the right direction. It does not go quite as far as the pre-election promise to consider the establishment of parity farm prices—prices, that is, which would insure farmers a fair income regardless of increase in costs of production; but it does make an attempt to bring a reasonable measure of stability to the agricultural industry as a whole.

The "key commodities" under which there will be mandatory price floors were not listed in the preparatory resolution. Evidently, that is a matter to be worked out by the price stabilization board, to be set up under the legislation, and an advisory group of farm organization representatives. They will almost certainly include potatoes, and dairy and meat products, items in which local producers have a particular interest.

The formula—80 per cent of the average price of the three preceding years—is subject to some criticism, in view of the fact that the last three years have not, in general, been good ones for farmers. However, as the Minister pointed out, the plan is a flexible one; and, no doubt, as time goes on certain changes will have to be considered. The best thing about it is that it indicates governmental recognition of the necessity of some sort of machinery for keeping farm costs and farm incomes in a reasonable state of balance. From that standpoint, the proposed legislation can be considered a distinct improvement over the agricultural policies of former Governments.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Lady Ann Ross, the head of the famed and prolific Ross Clan, died recently in New York where she had extensive business connections. Her sister, a Mrs. Grobin, lived in St. John's, Newfoundland, for many years. She now resides in Toronto.

* * *

Frank E. Gannet, the noted American publisher who died a few days ago at the age of 81, was secretary to Jacob Gould Schurman in 1899. Mr. Schurman, a native of this Province, was at that time President of the U.S.-Philippine Commission, the beginning of a long and distinguished career in the U.S. diplomatic service.

* * *

From the "Churchman", a religious journal published in Connecticut, comes this example of journalistic confusion: A bishop, spotting a newspaperman making notes of his address, asked the reporter not to quote any of his jokes because he hoped to use them in other churches of the area. The following day in the newspaper account of the meeting the bishop read—"The bishop told some stories which unfortunately cannot be repeated".

* * *

If Mr. John Foster Dulles is as unpopular in Europe as some of his critics say he is, the poor man would be much better off, if he were to resign and thus remove himself from controversy. Returning from an extended trip to Europe, Representative Emanuel Celler of New York said that "Mr. Dulles is the best-hated man in Europe. His usefulness with our allies has vanished. He is the chief architect of Western disunity. In this atomic-age fever he is bad medicine".

* * *

Professor Denis Brown, noted British writer, suggested during an interview in the United States that Americans should contribute to the upkeep of the Royal Family, on the ground that "while the British taxpayer pays for it, much of its entertainment value is picked up by others". The professor's words were, of course intended as a joke; but apparently some people in Britain thought he was serious about it. Asked the angry Daily Mail: "Who will respect us if we go grovelling around the world, cap in hand, with miserable ideas like that?"

MORE GOOD REPRESENTATION

UNITED KINGDOM OPINION

Annoying To The Scots

By "Onlooker"
Thomson Newspapers, London, England, Bureau

Once more those doughty inhabitants in the northern parts of this tight little island are giving the Government officials down in London trouble — and supplying more fodder for the "Home Rule for Scotland" element. True there will be no march on London under a present-day Bonnie Prince Charlie. But there is unrest growing in Scotland regarding the way Scottish affairs are being handled in Westminster — four hundred miles away from the two main Scottish cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, a thousand miles away from the northern islands.

During one day the Government managed to announce two distinct measures designed to annoy the Scots. First Defence Minister Duncan Sandys announced that, after having disrupted the lives of scores of islanders in the two Hebridean islands of South Uist and North Uist, he will be disrupting them still more. The disruption came when it was announced that a new rocket-range would be set up in the islands. A $54 million project was promised. The Highlanders opposed it, but they finally accepted the idea.

Now up pops Sandys in the House of Commons to say in effect: "Sorry you've been troubled." He discloses that he is cutting down expenditures in the islands to a quarter of what was at first envisaged. In the meantime, scores of the natives have given up their jobs to work on the range.

DOMESTIC M TTER

To follow Sandys came one of his lieutenants, chubby Mr. John Hare, the War Minister. He sacked two famous generals who were honorary colonels of two of Scotland's most famous regiments, the Highland Light Infantry and the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

I've already talked about the hoo-ha that has sprung up between these two regiments after it was announced that they were to amalgamate. But they loyally got together and produced an amalgamation plan that would have been acceptable to the regiments — only to get the idea turned down by the War Office in London's Whitehall.

Main point of disagreement: the new regiment wanted to wear the kilt, the War Office said that they must wear the trews, or tartan pants. Everything else had been agreed upon between the two regiments, and they were quite willing to get together. But the colonels fought for the kilt—and so Mr. Hare sacked them.

Two clumsy moves in one day. Not bad going.

PEA-SOUPERS

Dickens made one of his characters call the special type of fog that London endures a "London Particular." Londoners themselves call the fog many things, many of them unprintable, but the most popular expression is "pea-souper". With this year's crop of pea-soupers has come one of the worst rail crashes in London's history, when three trains piled up on a suburban line just outside London. The trains were packed tight with commuters getting home.

Cynical newsmen over here say that, with or without fog, the onset of Fall over here produces one disaster, and now the clamour for this type of crash to be eliminated by the use of radar is starting again — only to die, I suspect, as the weather improves. But radar-equipped trains would only represent minor surgery. What is needed is a major operation, a dispersal of industries in Britain away from the areas like London (which is the biggest) so that the fog gets no chance to collect.

NO CHANGE — YET

After lying fallow for months following its publication, the much - discussed Wolfenden Report on Vice in Britain gets another airing in the House of Lords. And, as expected, the Government speakers declared that they intend to take no action on one of the most controversial aspects of the report — that homosexual conduct between consenting individuals in private should no longer be illegal.

The Government has declared that the community as a whole were against the committee — which was set up quite independently of the government — in that particular matter. Allowing such a suggestion to go through would mean, said Lord Kilmuir, for the government, that it condoned the behaviour and saw nothing wrong in it.

What the government does intend to put on the Statute Book as soon as possible will be increased punishments for prostitutes — including jail, perhaps, on third offence. At the moment the limit is a £2 fine, which is easily absorbed.

SAVING THE CARDS

A big industrial firm over here was decided not to send out any Chrstmas cards this year. A sign of poverty? Hardly. The firm is Rolls-Royce, which should be, one way or the other, doing very nicely for itself. Their reason Christmas cards are getting too commercial.

I agree. I'm poised to receive my first one, which will probably be a not-very-heavily disguised ad from one firm or another. I hope Rolls-Royce's lead is followed by other firms. Maybe it will, but it will take a few years yet before we get some sanity into the business.

OTTAWA REPORT

A Testing Period

By Patrick Nicholson
Special Correspondent for The Guardian

Ottawa: The new conservative Ministry is nearing the end of its freshman term with a record of excellent marks for outnumbering the flunks.

Collectively and individually the class has deserved and received one or two black eyes in the parliamentary brawl. But nobody is more surprised than the Liberal Opposition that the bruises have not been more plentiful and more severe.

The two great Government surprises have been caused by the public performances of Transport Minister George Hees and External Affairs Minister Sidney Smith.

Hon. George Hees evidenced immense energy when he was president of the National Progressive Conservative Association two years ago. Now an unexpected flair as a parliamentarian has replaced the sometimes flippant attitude which had led even some of his colleagues to regard him as a maverick. Both his energy and his flair are now put to full use, for in Parliament and out, he is carrying the heaviest load in the Cabinet apart from the Prime Minister.

The Department of Transport is, by sheer weight of volume of administrative detail, the Cabinet's most burdensome task. In fact the Liberal government was planning to split it, into "transport" and "communication," because they found it too much for one minister. In addition, Mr. Hees is the only Minister who finds not one but two predecessors sitting in opposition, and alert to attack him with all the sting of their own previous intimate knowledge of his job.

Thus the new Minister of Transport has had to face more jolting tackles than any other Conservative; but ex-Argonaut lineman Hees can throw a jarring block himself, and ex-heavyweight boxing champion Hees can also lead with an effective straight left, as ex-Transport Minister Lionel Chevrier especially has had cause to discover.

SANTA SIDNEY

When an opponent's question genuinely seeks information, and contains no concealed needle, Mr. Hee's political judgement quickly spots its merit; then he gives a full and helpful answer, from his quickly acquired wealth of knowledge of his department, with a courteous and reciprocated smile.

With equal charm and courtesy External Affairs Minister Sidney Smith meets his questioners, in the House of Commons and in committee.

But there all comparison ends. Mr. Smith looks and acts like a Santa Claus who has come down the wrong chimney, landing unexpectedly in a board-room to become the part-time director of a bankrupt company. He is a Santa who has come for a slayride and shows no claws before his opponents. The jolly fellow is most gracious about it all, but the agenda obviously has him out of his depth. He should be spreading good cheer around the world, but here are some tiresome men bothering him with questions about "Norad" and "Sunfed" and "Unef." These questions bother him, and he frequently brushes his chubby hand up his ruddy countenance and back over his thick white mop while he thinks; or he draws lavish circles in the air with his constant cigarette in its long holder, while he replies that he will seek the answer.

THE FRESHMAN HAZED

Perhaps the greatest surprise of this session, discussed by everyone in parliament, is the unconvincing performance of this new minister. His maiden speech on External Affairs dismayed even his party colleagues; his vulnerability to attack in committee by Nobel Prizeman Mike Pearson astonished every observer. Here indeed was a parliamentary and Cabinet freshman being hazed by more experienced tormentors.

But the truth must be recognised: on Labour Day, Dr. Sidney Smith was president of the University of Toronto. In three months from that time, he entered politics, was sworn into the Cabinet, found a riding where he could woo the voter, fought a by-election and won it, led the Canadian delegation to the United Nations, took over and began to learn an important government department, made his debut in the House of Commons, and then faced hostile questioners to defend in committee departmental estimates prepared by his political foes.

It was too much.

But many critics and enemies are laying in wait, ready to draw comparisons between Hon. Sidney Smith and his predecessor in office, Hon. Mike Pearson. In the short run, the odds are stacked against Mr. Smith. But when the freshman has had time to do his homework, and not before, it will be fair to judge whether he is better or worse than the sophomore.

DEADLY INGREDIENT

CHICAGO (AP) — A 54-year-old babysitter Finish Kittinger and two - year - old Roger van Horne died, police said, poisoned by cockroach powder that Thursday threatened the lives of the boy's two young sisters. Police said the cockroach powder was mistakenly used for flour in preparing a chicken dinner.

RADIO SALES INCREASE

OTTAWA (CP) — Domestic sales of radios increased in October from the same period last year but sales of record players and television sets were down, the bureau of statistics reported Thursday. Radio sales increased to 77,015 units from 76,618 but record players decreased to 27,026 units from 30,122 and television sets to 67,519 units from 83,837.

One May Cause Own Headaches

By Herman N. Bundsen, M.D.

A person who tries to be perfect in everything he does will very often find his reward is—a headache.

I don't want you to use this as an excuse for not really trying in everything you do. But the fact is that those of you who work too hard to do too much are perfect candidates for migraines.

ATTACKS ARE SEVERE

Migraine headaches are caused by a painful distension of the head's blood vessels. Often they are very severe and throbbing. In bad attacks, you may become ill and even vomit.

While they can begin any time, they usually start early in the morning. You might have one when you awake.

What can be done about them?

As you know, I've always urged you to see your doctor when you are ill. his advice is just as applicable in a case of prolonged and repeated headaches.

TAKE IT EASY

However, two out of every three persons with headaches can do a great deal toward helping themselves if they will only take things a bit easier and not try to do everything just right.

A couple of aspirin or other headache remedies probably will give prompt relief. But that's only temporary help. You want to prevent these headaches from recurring.

To do that, you've got to change your attitude about a lot of things.

For one thing, don't insist on perfection in everything you do. Do your best, but don't try to work beyond your capacity.

TOO MANY JOBS

Don't tackle too many jobs in one day. Believe it or not, most jobs can be done just as easily tomorrow.

Take time out to relax. I know you housewives have a lot of chores to do about the home. Nevertheless, try to set up a regular time for just sitting and resting.

One more thing. Try to accept people as they are. Don't expect too much from them — or yourself.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

P. J. N.: Are brain tumors curable?

Answer: If it is discovered early enough, and if proper treatment is instituted before it has progressed, brain tumor may be helped by surgery or X-ray.

The Poets Corner

COLOR ON THE DARK

The wood was far too bright to last —
Nothing can flame and not burn down
In fire like this; now day is past
And darkness edges toward the town.
A kindled sunset lingered late
With colors rivalling the trees,
Then every hearth was banked for night
And shadows drenched the leafy blaze.
The stealthy fox alone can wear
An autumn color through the dark,
Carry a brush of russet fire
Yet go unseen about his work.

— William Vincent Sieller
In the New York Herald Tribune.

The Age Old Story

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Dec. 14, 1932)

The port of Summerside recently closed a successful shipping season. Approximately 327,000 bushels of potatoes have been loaded from the Marine and Holman's Wharves and sent to Montreal, Toronto and New York markets, besides about 18,000 bushels of turnips 9,000 bushels of oats. Nine steamers called during the season, several making three trips to the port. Last year the season closed on December 6th over a week earlier.

The S. S. Putten, Captain Hendriksen, arrived in port yesterday at 1 p.m. from Ghent, Belgium with a cargo of 3,500 tons of fertilizer. The trip was made in 20 days. The ship is being discharged at Bruce Stewart and Co. wharf, where the Fertilizer Company have their large plant erected.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Dec. 14, 1947)

Faced with a real problem about a month ago when it appeared as though the Crystal Rink might not function, the Summerside Kinsmen Club decided something would have to be done. Today through the efforts of the Club, and with the co-operation of Mr. George Williams and the Town of Summerside, the young people have a fine open-air rink complete with heated dressing rooms and lights.

City firemen were called out about 3.10 yesterday afternoon for a fire in the aft hold of the freighter "Marjory" which is docked at the railway wharf loading potatoes for Norfolk. The fire was caused when workmen upset an oil stove which set fire to the straw used for packing between potato bags.

U.S. POPULATION UP

WASHINGTON (AP)—The census bureau Thursday estimated the population of the United States at 173,327,000 last Nov. 1. The figure, which includes armed forces overseas, is an increase of 21,194,000, or 14 per cent, since the last regular census in 1950. It also is an increase of 3,035,000 or 1.8 per cent over the estimate for Nov. 1, 1956.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If we are so short of scientists, how does it happen that the government keeps on retiring scientists at the age of 65—retiring them at that age by regulation? Does the brain of a scientist cease to operate at 65? Or is it that we don't mean the things we say—or say them without conviction?—Cape Breton Post

Isn't it about time the doctors and others quit kidding the people about President Eisenhower's health? This business of trying to say heart attacks, abdominal operations and brain stoppages are good for people is absurd. Mr. Eisenhower isn't a well man and even an amateur physician knows that.—Windsor Star

A small child was explaining to her younger brother that it was wrong to work on a Sunday. The boy was obviously puzzled. "But what about policemen?" he said. "They have to work on Sunday. Don't they go to Heaven?" "Of course not", replied his sister with a disgusted look. "They are not needed there."—Ottawa Journal

In the liquor business the government has what must be the most perfect monopoly ever known to history: it sells a popular product at wildly inflated prices, it pretends to a highly moral reluctance to do so, and it manages to induce a mild sense of guilt in the purchaser by involving him in red tape as he spends his money. What could be sweeter?—Peterborough Examiner

It is a quirk of human nature that what is free often isn't valued as highly as when it costs something. This at any rate would seem to be the case with the public campsite at Lake of Two Rivers in Algonquin Park. Its facilities used to be free, but the policy was changed in 1955 when a charge of seventy-five cents a night or $4 a week was levied against visitors. Instead of frightening them away, the charge attracted more of them than ever. In the first year attendance almost doubled to well over 15,000.—Ottawa Citizen

A dramatic emphasis to the present reliance on credit buying comes from a report prepared in the United States by leading insurance companies on the financial standing of the middle class American families. According to this report, the average family is just three months away from bankruptcy — Kingston Whig Standard

The old-fashioned spelling bee has been replaced by many things in our schools of far less worth. When the fundamentals of education are ignored, the undermining process has been started. It is important to be able to spell correctly and the sooner those in charge of our educational system realize it, the better. —Edmonton Journal

A good place to keep away from is an area in Fonteville Forest south of Omaha, Neb., a nature preserve, where a poison ivy vine covers a 50-foot tall elm tree having a trunk more than 5½ inches in diameter. Forester Frank Pipal thinks it may be the largest poison ivy vine in the world. —St. Thomas Times-Journal

Manitoba's public works department has suggested that there be a special road emblem for the Trans-Canada Highway, so every motorist would know when he crosses it or is driving on it. Specifically, it suggests a green maple leaf on a white shield. The idea is a good one. This is a special road and should be properly identified.—Calgary Albertan

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CLARK'S FEED SERVICE

Electrical Examination

Examination for apprentice electricians wishing to qualify for journeymen will be held January 14, 1958. All apprentices must apply in writing prior to December 28, 1957 to Chief Electrical Inspector W. H. Poole, Electrical Inspection Department, Charlottetown.

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