

Time And The Law

The Attorney-General, the Hon. Walter E. Darby, has expressed his sense of shock that the officials of a municipality incorporated by the Legislature should use their official position to call upon the public to evade the Provincial legislation establishing uniformity of time.

The fact that Daylight Saving Time is highly popular is no excuse for advocating such disregard for constituted authority. A very simple means is provided in the Act for bringing Daylight Time into effect throughout the Province. If it had been made clear to the Government that a majority of our citizens desire the change there can be no doubt that an Order-in-Council would have been passed establishing it for the summer months.

Assuming that there is not a majority in favour throughout the Province, although there seems to be reason to think there is, then the only proper action would be to try to have the Legislature change the law to permit municipalities to exercise control within their own limits.

All this is not to say that the law is a good one. The Legislature presumed a great deal in telling our people that they could only use one official time. Telephone calls to outside points necessarily require reference to other times, as does navigation and other activities. Certainly it is impractical to tell people that they must make their clocks keep correct time.

Fluoridation Approved

The Canadian Medical Association has given its unqualified approval to a report by its public health committee recommending fluoridation of water supplies for the purpose of reducing tooth decay. This would seem to be the final seal of approval which the most cautious authorities in this country have been waiting for before committing themselves on the proposal.

Previously the Canadian Dental Association and the Maritime Branch of the Canadian Medical Association had thrown their weight on the side of fluoridation. The British Medical Association had already announced itself favorable.

That the decision is a wise one is obvious from the many reports of the value of the treatment to the teeth of children under the age of eleven and the corresponding lack of any reports of undesirable developments when the system has been deliberately adopted. Reports of "mottling" have been confined to areas where the fluorides naturally present in the water are far in excess of what is required.

It will be recalled that public health scientists in the United States published the result of a survey a short time ago comparing 32 cities which have natural fluorides in their water with corresponding cities which have none. The death rates for each of the "pairs" were compared for the leading causes of death. The death rates per 100,000 for the cities with and without fluorides were: from all causes, 1,010.6 and 1,005.0; from heart diseases, 354.8 and 357.4; from cancer, 135.4 and 139.1; from intra-cranial lesions, 111.5 and 104.8; from nephritis, 21.9 and 26.7; and from cirrhosis of the liver 6.6 and 8.2. There seems to be little danger that Canadians will regret taking advantage of this means of greatly improving dental health.

Breaking Sky Frontiers

Balloons carrying science's instruments to the upper edge of the stratosphere fore-shadow the day man himself will make a 100,000-foot ascent. A rocket-powered plane probably will take the first human past that altitude. Animals encased in research rockets already have soared far higher. Yet over the years it has been by balloon that man has edged steadily upward, and by balloons he still probes the way ahead, says the National Geographic Society.

The all-time altitude record for balloons stands now at 136,000 feet, almost 26 miles. It was set October 4, 1949, over Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, by a five-balloon hitch carrying 11 1/2 pounds of instruments in a cosmic ray research program sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.

Twenty years ago this spring the Society and the U. S. Army Air Corps began an historic series of manned balloon flights into the stratosphere that set another record. On July 28, 1934, the Explorer I a 3,000,000-cubic-foot hydrogen bag, rose to 60,613 feet over the Black Hills of South Dakota. It carried Major William E. Kepner, Captain Orvil A. Anderson, and the late Captain Albert W. Stevens. At 11 1/2 miles above sea level, the balloon tore across the bottom, plunging earthward. The three airmen rode it down to within half a mile of the ground. They parachuted to safety just as the giant gas bag exploded.

By the following summer a second balloon was ready. Explorer II, with a capacity of 3,700,000 cubic feet, was the largest free balloon ever built. It used helium in place of hydrogen. On November 11, 1935, it carried Anderson and Stevens to a height of 72,395 feet, 13.71 miles, a world altitude mark still recognized. Not until 1951 did any man go higher. Then a United States Navy Skyrocket plane climbed 79,000 feet. Two years later, on August 21, 1953, a second Skyrocket roared to 83,235 feet, piloted by Lt. Col. Marion E. Carl of the U. S. Marine Corps.

Just as they pioneered the path to the stratosphere, balloons were man's first practical means of flight. As far back as the 13th century, Roger Bacon theorized that a hollow globe filled with "ethereal air or liquid fire" would float upward on the atmosphere. It was not until 1783, however, that the Montgolfiers of France first sent aloft a large linen bag filled with the hot air and smoke of a straw fire. They imagined that some mysterious vapor peculiar to burning straw lifted the bag, realizing only later that heated air was the actual lifting force.

Hydrogen was first used in a balloon in the same year, and the first human balloonist went aloft. Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier, a court official of King Louis XVI, reached a height of some 3,000 feet. By 1862, the Britishers Galisher and Coxwell were riding a free balloon to an altitude of nearly seven miles. They became the first men to pass the threshold of the stratosphere, the region of bitter-cold rarified air, above all dust and clouds, the doorstep of space itself.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The medical profession is now telling girls with heart troubles to marry, a course which generations of them have followed with or without advice.

In the excellent report of the Canadian Construction Association is included a series of papers on "Better Transportation." Introducing them, President John Flood pointed out that "You cannot build any project or use it after construction unless there exists means of access and transportation to and from it."

The public squares of Charlottetown are showing the results of a large amount of planning and work. Lawns and flower beds are looking their best. It is unfortunate that the protective measures necessary to preserve these areas must be so formidable.

More ducks in this country, with this Province following the general trend, may mean larger bag limits according to a story from the 18th Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference. It is a long time until the season opens but gunners can at least enjoy the extra shooting in anticipation.

The Health League of Canada is concerned about the selfish and indiscriminate use of gamma globulin. The supply is strictly limited and it is pointed-out that its value seems to be limited to a period of one month at most. Authorities are anxious that it should be used only at times and places where there is heavy infection, and actual polio epidemics.

The failure of the Geneva conference leaves unsettled the problems of Korea and Indo-China. In the case of the former, the situation is unsatisfactory but not greatly different from what it was before the initial aggression. The attitude of the free world must be a constant readiness to resist further aggression and at the same time a willingness to seek solutions to all the individual problems which present themselves.

Charles Francois Gounod, French composer of sacred music and later of opera, was born this date 1818. Of a musical family, he early showed promise. For a time he intended taking holy orders and although he finally did not do so much of his music is of a religious nature, including his well known "Ave Maria". His "Faust" is probably the most popular opera ever written. Also popular is his "Funeral March of a Marionette."



Not Breaking Anything, Just Bending It Somewhat

OTTAWA REPORT

General Gruenther's Visit

By Patrick Nicholson

Are the United States and the NATO Generals flirting with the seductive mirage of a quick and successful war of deterrence against the Soviets? This is the question being asked in Ottawa in the anxious wake of last week's visit by General Alfred Gruenther, Supreme Commander of the NATO forces in Europe.

The American General surprised a parliamentary audience here by stating that the West could at the present time defeat Russia, through our superiority in atomic weapons, and that his NATO forces are in a position to use these and likely to do so in any war against Russia.

The co-operation of German manpower, within the political framework of some acceptable formula is welcomed here. But the assumption that any and all of the terrible arsenal of atomic and thermonuclear weapons would be used came as a definite shock in Ottawa.

The decision to use these weapons would be a political decision, made by the allied governments through their representatives on the NATO Council, according to the four-star General from Nebraska. "But our arrangements are such as to permit the immediate implementation of such a decision."

The essential speed of this decision would not leave time for Parliaments to review the pros and cons, or to assess their country's

preparedness to fend off similar attacks. The General expressed his doubts that anyone could be called a winner after an atomic war, and he could offer no solution to this problem. Not to use the A-bomb would lead to the undesirable alternative of committing our armies to what he called "A War of Flesh", similar to the recent battle of Dien Bien Phu. In that carnal, 10,000 gallantly resisting soldiers of the French Union were finally overwhelmed by 40,000 Communists who were repeatedly ordered to the attack with complete disregard for life.

A-bombs, the General explained, would be used not only against troop concentrations, in tactical support of ground forces, but also would be carried by the B-47 bombers against targets in enemy territory. By this, he presumably meant civilian targets, munitions plants, strategic airfields, and so on.

General Gruenther's speech here closely matched the speech he had made three days earlier as guest of the English-Speaking Union in London, when his audience included Sir Winston Churchill and the Duke of Edinburgh.

These two occasions were the first when it had been stated in public that NATO forces are prepared and expecting to wage atomic warfare in the event of an attack by Russia.

The belief that the West has now temporarily achieved military superiority through the A-bomb has caused many politicians here to fear that U. S. A. is toying with the idea that Russia and China could be overcome in a cheap and easy war.

This possibility might induce Washington, in its present mood of impatience, to trigger a preventive war on a global scale.

Far from reassuring Ottawa, General Gruenther's optimistic assessment of current allied superiority has created a mood of anxiety paralleling that which he left behind him in London.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Ontario motorists may be asked to pay highway tolls. Seems to us the highways are exacting their own. -London Free Press.

Another "unsinkable" ship has been sunk in a storm. It is always unwise to give the direct challenge to Nature in this fashion. -Edmonton Journal.

One mathematical riddle no one ever seems to solve is how just half the clothes you need on a holiday trip always works out to twice as much as you use. -Hamilton Spectator.

Parents of youngsters who want to quit high school before completing the course might find it useful to draw their attention to the fact that one of every three persons in Canada now registered as seeking work is unskilled. When the labor market shrinks, it is the unskilled who have the least chance of keeping a job. -Brantford Expositor.

Efforts to convert sunlight into power are developing slowly, and with a tantalizing promise. The latest research points to the improvement of a generator expected to produce enough energy to run a home. One advantage claimed for this solar energy is that it can be stored. That is where electricity has let us down. There is no way of storing the stuff to serve future needs. It just won't keep. -Windsor Star.

The Stratford miracle is now, let us concede, a shining reality. With Shakespeare's Measure for Measure and The Taming of the Shrew and Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, the tented stage is set for next June 28. There are actors like James Mason and Douglas Campbell, and Frances Hyland is renowned for her talent, but the heart of it is Ontario's Stratford

as the dream was born there and fulfilled. The miracle we trust, is here to stay. -Hamilton Spectator.

Prospectors have staked more than 10,000 claims in the 780-acre area around Beaveridge Lake in Saskatchewan. It is the biggest known concentration of uranium in Canada. -Hamilton Spectator.

An American rocket sled has hit a speed of 421 m.p.h., which reminds some of us that in our youth we'd have settled for a sled that would go one mile an hour -uphill. -Windsor Daily Star.

Dr. Loh Seng Tsai, a professor of psychology, has demonstrated to the International Congress of Psychology at Toronto that cats and rats, traditional enemies, can co-operate and live together in peace. From this he draws the conclusion that it is not impossible for humanity to live in peace. To compare the behaviour of lower animals with that of human beings on the level of instinct only, and to draw conclusions from the comparison, seems to us to degrade mankind. The challenge that faces the world today is to find some outlet, less violent and destructive than war, for mankind's instinctive desire for conflict, while still allowing his yearnings for peace to find expression. After all, who wants to see a play or movie, read a book or watch a game in which the two sides are equally matched and neither desires to excel? -from an editorial for young people, Hamilton Spectator.

Shad flies are due next month. These pests of river-front communities appear by the thousands, penetrate any unscrubbed buildings, smash against autos, settle on the roads to die under the tires and come in ever-increasing num-

The Poet's Corner

Unfathomable sea: whose waves are years, Ocean of Time, whose waters of deep woe Are brackish with the salt of human tears! Thou shoreless flood, which in thy ebb and flow Claspest the limits of mortality, And sick of prey, yet howling on for more, Vomitest thy wrecks on its inhospitable shore; Who would put forth on thee, Unfathomable Sea?

The Age Old Story

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever. ... Westeners, including Russians, say that things are either good or bad, right or wrong, black or white, true or false, big or small or short, dry or wet, dark or light, clean or dirty, religious or secular, liberal or conservative, and so on, ad infinitum. There is no such "either-or" concept in the Chinese language or in Chinese thought. While we say, for instance, that one man is tall and another short, the Chinese say that longness and shortness are mutually related. A man is neither tall nor short; he is a little of each. Again, we speak of one task as being difficult and of another as being easy. The Chinese don't understand that kind of assumption at all; they say that every task is a little difficult and a little easy. There are no such absolutes as right and wrong, good and bad. Everything is partly right and partly wrong; partly good and partly bad.

The Passing Scene

By Observer A MATTER OF LANGUAGE

There are two common views with respect to the relations between Russian Communists and their Chinese brethren. The first view is that the political alliance will continue and even grow in strength and influence as time goes on. Mutual interests will keep them together. The second view is that the Chinese, being intensely nationalistic and opposed to all interference by all outside powers—even friendly ones—eventually will throw off all Russian influence and direction and settle down within their own borders and make the best of it.

This would not necessarily make them more friendly with the democratic powers than they are now, but it would mean that they would not give much active support to Russia in any crusade upon which the latter country might decide to embark. There is no doubt that Free World governments would like to be sure that this latter possibility might be converted into reality; it is equally certain that the Russians would like to be sure that there is nothing to it. At present no one seems to know much about it, one way or the other.

A Chinese (Nationalist) writer by the name of Chang Tung-Sun, writing in a quarterly magazine, predicts that a break between the two Communist nations is inevitable. Curiously enough, he bases his prediction not on politics nor the Chinese passion for complete independence, but on the structural character of the Chinese language. His argument is most interesting and, while it is a little difficult to follow in places (any translation from Chinese into English is like that), it gives good evidence of an entirely new insight into the causes of at least some East-West frictions.

To begin with, Mr. Chang puts Russia with the West for purposes of linguistic study. He points out that the Russian language, like English, Italian, French, German, Latin, Greek, and some others, is an Indo-European language; and, like the others named, it uses the well known subject-predicate form. The Chinese language has nothing as subjects and predicates; consequently, no Chinese, whether educated or uneducated, knows anything about them.

Again, English and the other Western languages are "two-valued" in character and expression. Chinese, on the other hand, is "multivalued." All of which, being interpreted, means that in Chinese thought there are no absolutes; all things are relative.

Metaphorically speaking, the only colour the Chinese know about or recognize is gray. This applies to everything, whether of race, religion, philosophy, culture, matter, it applies also to ideologies and politics; this, of course, is immensely important, and on it, Mr. Chang believes, will depend China's position with the rest of the world.

Russian being a "two-valued" language (like English and the others), the position of the Russian Communist leaders is that Communism stands four-square and resolute against Western Capitalism. Sooner or later, one or the other will have to give way. A man can support Communism or Capitalism; he cannot possibly have any trace of sympathy for both.

Mr. Chang believes that this concept will never be accepted by the Chinese people. It isn't that they are half-hearted in our understanding of the word, with respect to Communism; it is simply that they are not capable of building up or accepting one-sided doctrines about anything. There is nothing moral or unmoral about this; it is just a matter of thought and language structures.

Fundamentally, Mr. Chang thinks, the Chinese way is the middle way. Even the most hardened Communist believes there is nothing free from error—not even Communism—and nothing devoid of virtue—not even Western Democracy. If that is so, all this Russian-Chinese solidarity we are hearing about these days is more apparent than real.

Old Charlottetown

and P. M. L.

IMPRISONED DEBTORS

"We are truly happy to observe that the Grand Jury have made an important suggestion to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, which we hope soon to see acted upon; namely, the extension of the rules or bounds of the Jail to prisoners for debt. If our Legislature is not yet prepared to abolish altogether the barbarous practice of imprisoning unfortunate debtors—a practice which incinerates humanity, and is incompatible with the mild precepts of the gospel—the adoption of the proposed plan will, at least, so modify the evil as to reconcile it, in some measure, to justice and sound policy. That there can be no legal objection to its adoption is evident from the practice in various parts of the British dominions."

—P.E. Island Register, Feb. 24, 1829.

MILITARY MUSEUM

CALGARY, (CP)—A new regimental museum was opened here by the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Its prize collection includes the shrapnel-pocked original colors presented in 1914, and a dollar bill dated March 17, 1917, bearing the signature of Lady Patricia Ramsay, honorary commander-in-chief.

LEADERS CHARGED

BERLIN (AP)—Four Germans charged with leading the June 17 revolt last year against the Soviet zone Communist government were sentenced Monday to long terms at hard labor. The East German supreme court imposed 15 years each on Wolfgang Sigradt and Werner Mangelsdorf, 10 years on Hans Fuedner and five years on Horst Gassa.

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