

THE GUARDIAN

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The Fourth Reich?

When Berlin fell in 1945 and the utter collapse of Hitler's Third Reich was assured, it became fashionable to assume that Germany was no longer a factor to be reckoned with in the councils of Europe. The partition of Germany, accomplished by diplomatic subtlety at Yalta and made a fact by the presence of Soviet forces in overwhelming strength hovering on the threshold of a war-weary western Europe, gave substance to the illusion that a nation as well as a regime had vanished from the scene.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of Western Germany has effectively dispelled any such illusion. The decision of Herr Adenauer to set definite terms for German participation in a six-nation European army makes it clear that the Fourth Reich no longer exists merely on paper, but rather that it is a political reality to be reckoned with in the council chambers of the western democracies.

German demands as a condition precedent to full co-operation within the framework of Eisenhower's plans for the defence of the West are blunt and unequivocal. Chancellor Adenauer asks two things. Full membership for Germany in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and a satisfactory settlement of renaissance Franco-German dispute about the Saar.

It would be indeed a tragic paradox were the ancient feud between the French and the Germans to prove the Achilles' heel of western security. Yet it is the French who, understandably enough, have occasioned Chancellor Adenauer's decision to ask what he has for German participation in Eisenhower's forces. The French have consistently opposed German rearmament. French diplomacy in recent weeks has skillfully created the impression in Germany and elsewhere that separation of the Saar from the Fourth Reich and permanent annexation of the strategic industrial area to France is to be the French Government's quid pro quo for the inclusion of German troops in Eisenhower's army.

The French are fully aware of the unlikelihood of the Germans acceding to such demands. Thus, by making an issue of the Saar, they appear to have succeeded in blocking the determination of their NATO partners to rearm Germany and bring her within the framework of European defence plans.

Against the background of such an impasse, borne of ancient hates, prospects for a united front against Soviet aggression in Europe appear far from promising and the increased commitment of another five hundred million dollars by Canada to NATO a futile expenditure. It is a situation from which no one but the Russians can derive any satisfaction.

Y.M.C.A. Campaign

The general maintenance campaign for the Y. M. C. A. opens today, and from the favorable response received by the special names committee, should prove very successful. The splendid work carried on by the "Y" is known to all our citizens. The activities are being broadened continually, and now embrace daily and nightly programmes of a wide variety of interest, not only to children of school age but to college students and adults as well. The work is supervised very capably by Mr. Fred Gamble, the general secretary, and his competent assistants.

The facilities now provided by the organization are creditable to any community, and it is hoped that public support, which has been generous in the past, will be equally so on this occasion. The canvass will be in progress for one week, and the committees are all giving of their time and efforts voluntarily.

Sound U.S. Comment

The United States has everything to gain in security and prosperity through Britain being strong. Reason therefore to halt the good sense of a recent New York Herald Tribune editorial which was addressed to the United States in the following words: "Let us press for a mutually beneficial long-term arrangement for acquiring tin and rubber and wood and ensuring a flow of steel and reasonably priced additional items to Great Britain. Let our efforts be

increased to make the good offices of the World Bank effective in settling the Iranian oil dispute with respect for Britain's contribution there as well as Iran's sovereignty. To Britain and every partner in the free world let us extend freer opportunities to sell us goods we can use; Let us at last abolish the customs red tape that hampers imports. In short, let us take every opportunity to help build strength into the British economy and to draw strength from it and its sterling area partners."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Shrove Tuesday.

Lent begins tomorrow.

Drives are the order of the day for "Y", for Musical Festival, for Scouts, for Catholic Social Service.

The first meeting of the new City Council tonight, postponed from Friday, will find that there remain many old problems to solve as well as plenty of difficult new ones.

More and appreciated bursaries and scholarships for P. W. C., which has now also been placed on a level with mainland universities for grants and loans for third and fourth year students. We are moving ahead.

Quebec and Newfoundland are bombarding Parliament with divorce petitions, having no divorce courts of their own. But the C. C. F. party has intimated they will, on principle, hold up all such petitions as long as possible.

The decision of the Atlantic allies to give General Eisenhower a one-uniform army is most important and effective but it means the beginning of the multitude of problems of co-ordination rather than their solution.

Down south they are "enjoying" weather the exact reverse of our own. Drenching rain has recently brought some relief to drought-parched grazing lands in New South Wales, checking brush fires which have claimed 17 lives and caused more than \$22,000,000 damage in the last two months.

Imports from the U. K. during 1951 totalled only \$421,000,000, up only slightly from \$404,200,000 in 1950. Exports to the U. K. increased to \$635,800,000 from \$472,500,000, resulting in a surplus in Canada's favor of \$214,700,000, compared with only \$68,300,000 in 1950.

There is no such designation as "King Consort" as suggested by a London newspaper. The only title to which the Queen's husband is entitled is the Duke of Edinburgh, though later he may be given that of Prince Consort, as Victoria gave to the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

Conservative supporters of the Churchill Government are beginning to find that interference with the Labour Party's health socialization plans is not popular, and pressure is being brought on the powers-that-be to keep their hands off. Something for nothing in the way of health has a strong appeal at a by-or any other-election.

The resignation of Britain's boss of the steel industry, Mr. Steven Hardie, is not surprising after his comment that the new Government would not be able to denationalize steel as promised. The immediate cause of his resignation had to deal with prices but the parting would probably have been necessary in any case.

The astonishing list of matters which Quebec's Solicitor-General proposes should be Provincial matters would seem to indicate that agreement on a constitution is many years in the future. Fortunately the machinery for amendment can be settled on, without going into the subject matter of possible amendments.

The new two and three-eighth minimum for lobsters by carapace measurement, back of eye socket to end of body shell, is considered equivalent to the former overall measurement of seven inches which applied to Island waters. Massachusetts has a larger limit for lobsters marketed there, recently increased from three and three-sixteenth to three and one-quarter inches.

Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, died this date 1723. He first studied astronomy but at the age of thirty turned to architecture becoming assistant and then successor to Sir John Denham, the surveyor-general. His plan for laying out London after the Great Fire was not adopted but numerous individual buildings were designed by him. Wren's masterpiece is St. Paul's Cathedral.

Hard Words

NEWS ITEM - A LEADING BRITISH AGRICULTURALIST, URGING GREATER HOME PRODUCTION, STATES THERE IS A REAL DANGER OF "AUSTERITY" BEING REPLACED BY "DOWNRIGHT PRIVATION."



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.

SOBERING REFLECTION

Sir, - I wonder just how many of us are amazed and shocked, when by released statistics we are informed that our country is speeding as fast as the wheels of time can carry her toward a mark where we shall soon identify ourselves as a nation of inebriates. We are told that our present current consumption of liquor is approximately 180,000,000 gallons per year, and that it is estimated that we are spending more than \$1,600,000 a day in liquor purchases. Startling, isn't it? Especially when one considers the staggering toll involved, not only in wasted wealth, but wasted lives. One doesn't have to live in our larger cities or travel extensively to testify to the fact that liquor with its aftermath is one of man's greatest curses. Any number of illustrations could be given to prove it, right at our own backdoors. It doesn't matter whether the booze comes from a fancy bottle taken from the cellar of a man of distinction, or from the steaming stills of a bootlegger, the results are the same, a moral and spiritual decline. I once sailed the high seas as a seaman in the foreign trade. During these years I met many young men in their teens who could be classed as confirmed alcoholics. Life for them meant nothing more than a bottle of liquor, or shaving lotion, anything to try and satisfy the demonic thirst within. Now I am convinced that one of the gravest sins of today is indifference, and surely our approach to the liquor problem is no exception. By our moderate drinking, our silence on the question, and our lack of concrete support of the things that fight this evil, we subscribe to this ever-increasing curse. The liquor business has grown into a huge, ugly, poisonous tree that spreads its attractive branches over our land. How many souls have found to their sorrow and the sorrow of others, that there is no shelter, satisfaction or peace in the dark shadows of this corrupt tree. Jesus said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down." John the Baptist said on one occasion: "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire." This corrupt tree has a trunk large enough for all Christians to gather around it, and there are enough axes for everyone. Have we a chip to show? I am, Sir, etc. ANGUS U. BROWN, Dundas Centre.

flight from the agricultural front, it occurs to me to suggest that a movement from the pavements to the intrinsic merits to be found in rural living and direct contact with the "good earth". If this latter happens at all, so far as I've been able to observe this rural-urban scene, it is strictly limited to depression periods, deglamorizing the one-time attractive city lights in the eyes of farm-trained youth (who will be fortunate, if still young!) tending to see the rural scenes of their childhood, and the bright green of the spring and the gold of the harvest-as Old Man Unemployment stands, it may be for the first time, on the corner of the street. So, therefore, heartily I support your correspondent in concluding, as he does, that: "... the best adventure can be found near home. Farming is just coming into its own. The tillers of the soil from now on will have more say as to what price they will set for their toil. We know this, because we see the young men organizing all over the Dominion." Yes, sir, this latter seems to me to be an authentic note of a fair deal, rural leadership, Victory! I am, Sir, etc. PRAIRIE-BORN.

RURAL YOUTH EXODUS

Sir, - One of your Public Forum correspondents says some very thoughtful things about some of the originating impulses behind the movement of rural youth to the towns and cities. I concur in the idea that "the craving for adventure is inherent in the nature of these young folk. On the other hand I do not agree with the thought expressed thus: "I do not think that meagre or small financial returns are chief cause of the exodus." In the first place, now that rural youth are being increasingly made aware of the fact that the farm dollar calls for from 50 to 100 per cent more labor energy than the city dollar, I do not believe we should be unduly surprised that this "economic differential" is one of the basic causes behind the "restlessness" to which your correspondent very properly points. In the second place, if the superior opportunities up in the city, to move away from the "meagre or small financial returns" characteristic of rural life, were not at the core of this

Canada's First Newspaper

Two hundred years ago Sunday Canada's newspaper history began. It had its start when John Bushell published the first issue of the Halifax Gazette in the province of Nova Scotia. The earliest journal to appear in what subsequently became Canada was a modest and unpretentious forerunner of the modern large and widely-circulated daily. A single copy of a current Sunday New York Times would have furnished enough newsprint to carry the entire press run of the pioneer paper for six weeks. Printed on both sides of a half sheet of foolscap, nine by 15 inches in size, the Gazette was distributed, at 20 shillings a year, to 72 subscribers. Its two-column page made use of the old-fashioned long "S" and the Germanic style of capitalized nouns. On either side of its nameplate were two woodcuts, one of a sailing ship and the other of a fowler hunting game. It had no streamer or news headlines. Human interest items also found their way into the first issue of the tiny paper. When the Prince of Wales's collector had taken ill, it was reported, a vial of poison had been given him by mistake instead of his regular medicine, and the poor man had died. In Holburn, so another account ran, a gentleman had saved an apprentice from crowd-violence when "the very officiously interposed his endeavours to appease the exasperated mob." The rescued man repaid his benefactor by robbing the gentleman of 18 shillings, three new silk handkerchiefs, his hat and cane. Editorial comment was injected into the news story in a manner modern editors would frown on when Bushell wrote: "As this ungrateful behaviour verifies the old Proverb, 'Save a Thief from the Gallows and he'll cut your Throat,' it is hoped that it will be a Warning to Gentlemen not to trust themselves rashly into Mob, where, though their Purse escape, they seldom come off without some Damage."

Another news tidbit related how a quarrel between two Bristol newlyweds had ended tragically when the bride had taken laudanum and died with the words: "Duty and obedience! This shall end all disputes." Something of the rigorous discipline of the times is indicated in Bushell's tart comment on another exchange: "They write from Copenhagen That, on the Occasion of the Death of the Queen of Denmark, his Danish Majesty has issued an Edict, forbidding for a Whole Year, all Plays, Balls, Operas, Concertos, &c. ... Heaven preserve us from such Mourning, which would send at least one half of our gay, polite Gentry to the Grave."

The first number of the Gazette contained three modest advertisements. These told of legal services, school instruction and property for sale. A few issues later Joshua Manger was to advertise the sale of Negro slaves in Major Lockman's store. Included were "a woman aged 25; two boys aged 12 and 13 respectively; two of 18; and a man of 30."

As well as depending on advertising revenue, Bushell looked to the government to help him finance his newspaper. It was a semi-official publication, since it published civil and religious regulations, proclamations of war and peace, and admiralty announcements. The Halifax sheet was first printed on the press which had been used for the Boston News Letter, North America's earliest newspaper. Jonathan Green the younger, son of the New England publication's first printer, had brought it to Halifax, but he had died before he could join Bushell in the new enterprise.

The Gazette did not bring a fortune to its owner. Rather too fond of the bottle, and constantly prosecuted for his many debts, Bushell was barely able to make a living. He added to his salary by doing job printing, and cut down employee expenses by teaching his daughter, Elizabeth, to become an expert compositor. When he died in January, 1761, he was able to leave behind only a weak and toneless journal. It took Anthony Henry and his successors to give it character and power before it finally left the competitive newspaper field to become the official government organ. But the honor of being the pioneer editor of Canada's pioneer newspaper belongs to John Bushell.

The Age-Old Story

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ... But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground, and the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The Passing Scene

By Observer IS THE WORLD GETTING BETTER? This question or some variation of it is bound to give rise to difference of opinion whenever and wherever two or three are gathered together. Perhaps no question with which people concern themselves has been more honoured by age and repetition. It has been discussed ever since man first discovered that right and wrong were words with distinct meanings. As one faces the question now at the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century or to put it another way, in the year 8 of the atomic age, it is just as perplexing as it must have appeared to observers, say, in the first decade of the Christian era, or even long before that in the unfolding days of the first known civilization. Nor is the answer easier to find now than it was then. You can read everything bearing on the subject within reach. You can consult eminent moral theologians, psychologists, historians, psychiatrists, men of science, and man of piety, but you will not find any appreciable measure of agreement. The out and out humanist committed to the doctrine of inevitable moral progress, will, of course, say "yes." In this view man is climbing slowly but steadily upward toward the stars. Each generation is better and wiser than the preceding one. To be sure, regressions occur from time to time, but they are mere incidents. In the long view and over-all picture they add impetus to man's moral and ethical advancement. Some day man will achieve fullness of stature. Only two things are needful - both of which may be counted on-time, and a wider diffusion of knowledge. Man is the arbiter of his own destiny. This view is much the fashion in the intellectually easy-going days of the last century and right up to the beginning of the First World War. Since then it has received a series of rude shocks, in consequence of which it has lost much of its former glory. It is still, however, a doctrine to be reckoned with. On the other extreme side, opposed to the humanists and all their works, are those who say "no." This view is much the fashion in the intellectually easy-going days of the last century and right up to the beginning of the First World War. Since then it has received a series of rude shocks, in consequence of which it has lost much of its former glory. It is still, however, a doctrine to be reckoned with.

tainly does not lend support to the gloomy assertion that mankind is getting worse and worse. Consider, too, the great advances in medical and social sciences in all their branches and the relief from so many forms of fear and suffering such advances have brought to multitudes of people the world over. Admittedly, it can be argued that, while all this has made for a healthier world, it has not added appreciably to the world's moral stature. In any case, there is an embarrassing hitch in the programme. While science has lessened the hold of disease on many people, it has also released many new forms of destruction, such as atomic and bacteriological weapons. This is a circumstance that has to be considered. It can, however, be over-emphasized, for the discoveries mentioned open up far reaching and tremendous moral possibilities which could, and are, being accomplished faster than the threat of war were eliminated. Whether that can ever come to pass remains to be seen, but the fact that more attention is being given to it than ever before in human history must surely, in itself, be of some moral significance.

The Poet's Corner

TO THE THAWING WIND Come with rain, O loud South-wester! Bring the singer, bring the nester; Give the buried flower a dream; Make the settled snow-bank steam; Find the brown beneath the white; But what'er you do to-night, Bathe my window, make it flow, Melt it as the ice will go; Melt the glass and leave the sticks Like a hermit's crucifix; Burst into my narrow stall; Swirl the picture on the wall; Run the rattling pages o'er; Scatter poems on the floor; Turn the poet out of door. -Robert Frost.

Old Charlottetown

As late as the year 1844 the Steam Navigation Company had reason to complain to the Government of "the great risk the St. George steamship (in constant operation upon the coasts of this Island) is subject to, by reason of the total absence of any lights by which to regulate the approach of that vessel to these shores during the night, or to guide her in navigating the entrance into the Harbour of Charlottetown at that season." Other shipowners and merchants also sent in petitions, urging the erection of "of light houses in suitable positions, as may for the future secure their vessels, and all other ships visiting these shores, from the imminent hazard they at present incur in the absence of the light." The petitioners complained that in 1841 a sum of £110 had been granted by the Legislature for this purpose, but had not been expended. It appears, however, that plans for a light house on Point Prim had been prepared, and the work was undertaken a few years later. The report of a commission comprising Messrs. Charles Hensley, James Frank, Andrew Duncan and Francis Longworth was presented in the Legislature in 1845, dealing with the expense of the project and the annual outlay required to maintain it. The report included specifications prepared by Mr. Isaac Smith.

It was noted that as the site of the light house was about twenty feet above the sea, the building itself would require to be sixty feet high. This elevation would place the lights at about seventy-five feet above the sea, rendering them visible on the horizon at a distance of eleven and one-half miles. Thus, says the report, "a person standing upon the deck of a vessel approaching the Light House, having his eye raised twenty-five feet above the sea, will be able to observe them at about seventeen miles and a half, which appears sufficient for emergency, by sending aloft a signal the light will be attained at a distance of twenty miles." The total cost, including keeper's cottage, was estimated at £469.3d.

British Character

People write learned discussions full of statistics which are intended to prove that Great Britain is finished as a great nation. We don't believe it and our distaste has been heightened by an item we just read in a British paper. The actors were playing "St. George and the Dragon" in which St. George is supposed to slay the dragon with his lance. But it happened that the dragon's lance hit the lance of St. George at an inopportune second and the dragon's lance went flying off the stage, grazing the nose of St. George in the orchestra. St. George never hesitated. He tackled the dragon with bare hands, took his lance away from him and slung him right on schedule. Full of the fluke player with the injured nose retrieved his lance, and continued to play, hardly missing a note. You can't look people like that.