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 "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."
 THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1955

Up To The Legislature

In their brief before the Legislature the spokesmen for the Federation of Agriculture called attention to the "obvious flouting" of the Uniform Time Act by the municipalities last summer, and recommended that the Government "strive toward the maintenance" of the law in future. While there was considerable discussion on other recommendations in the brief, the issue raised under the Uniform Time Act does not appear to have provoked much interest. It is the Federation's view that in this small Province it is desirable to have but one time system, and that the majority of rural people favour Atlantic Standard Time. It is equally obvious, from the action of the municipalities last summer, that Daylight Time is preferred in our urban centres, and that the Act as it stands, calling for uniform time, is a dead letter so far as they are concerned.

There is a responsibility here for our legislators to face, much more important than determining the convenience, one way or another, of any section or group of communities. Has the law as it stands been flouted, and if so can this state of affairs continue without detriment to the prestige of our lawmakers and to law enforcement interests generally? It happens occasionally that laws defeat their purpose by being either too drastic or too ambiguous in their phrasing to be satisfactorily enforced; in which case they should be repealed or amended. In any event, it is not a matter about which any member of the House can afford to remain indifferent.

We know what happens in countries when laws fall into general disrepute; responsible government collapses and some form of dictatorship takes its place. A little study of the subject should convince anyone that conditions of this kind do not arise overnight, but by a slow and almost imperceptible progress from one little irregularity to another, until the whole legislative system collapses. We are a long way from that fate in Prince Edward Island, but the danger signal is out. Our elected members should be the first to note its significance and take stock of their responsibilities.

A Slim Hope

A sub-committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission is meeting soon in another attempt to bring about some measure of agreement in this important question; the hope is that a small group of experts from the major powers may be able to do what the full commission which convened last summer failed to accomplish. It seems clear, however, that the size of the deliberative body is of far less relevance to the chances of success than is the position of the Soviet leaders who, while they cry out for prohibition of nuclear weapons and drastic reduction in conventional armaments, are just as adamant as ever in their refusal to allow international control of any formula that might be worked out.

There had been a rumour a while back that this unreasonable stand might be subjected to a little flexibility—enough, at any rate, to warrant another try at settlement. But there has been no confirmation of this in any of the major speeches made in Moscow during the last two weeks, no hopeful hint in the Soviet press, and no encouraging word from Communist spokesmen in the United Nations or elsewhere; in short, the whole problem seems to be just about where it was in the beginning. There is, of course, a possibility that when the sub-committee gets down to business something constructive will be suggested by Soviet representatives. It will have to be something more substantial, however, than word of mouth protestations of good intentions. There has been an abundance of these all along; so many of them, indeed, that Western Governments are showing increasing weariness regarding them. Should this new conference start out on the same sorry note that has featured previous efforts to put the idea of disarmament on a realistic and workable basis, we may expect it to be of short duration.

Camp Gagetown

Camp Gagetown's 287,000 acres makes it the biggest military landscape in Canada; yet according to the Fredericton Gleaner few if any New Brunswick natives, uninitiated by having been there before, could spot it correctly. This is because there are at least four Gagetowns in our sister Province: Gagetown, Upper Gagetown, Gagetown Parish and Camp Gagetown. The headquarters of Camp Gagetown is nowhere near any

of the other Gagetowns. Instead, Camp Gagetown townsite borders Oromocto, which is 20 miles from Gagetown. And at no point does the balsam perimeter of the camp area come within two miles of Gagetown.

Such geographical confusion already has sent scores of visitors serenely down the river, 40 miles out of their way looking for this spectacular military establishment. By the time they arrive back at Oromocto to look over the main area of Camp Gagetown, their tempers are anything but disciplined, which it seems would make for unfortunate army public relations.

None of this, concedes The Gleaner, was the army's intention when the place was named some 18 months ago. Instead the army's name-choosing department must have been at its most high-minded. Camp Gagetown and all the other Gagetowns were named for the illustrious old British General Thomas Gage, the fellow who as Governor of Massachusetts did his unpleasant duty enforcing the act which precipitated the Boston Tea Party and set off the American War of Independence. All this honor to the onetime commander of British forces in America indicates deep historical perspective and a commendable sense of tradition, but the practical effect is confusion to the point of absurdity.

Camp Oromocto or Camp Sunbury are euphonious names which would head off traffic confusion, and incidentally be inoffensive to sensitive U. S. tourists. "Unless the name is changed now," argues our Fredericton contemporary, "the army will have initiated an error which is the father to a long future history of errors of incalculable cost in time, money, effort and chagrin."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The London Daily Express hopes Canada will soon be making hydrogen bombs. No one need have any doubt on that score. Not only Canada but every nation on the face of the earth will get around to it in due time.

A Peiping radio report makes much of the fact that the Mayor of that city, Mr. Peng Chen, has just been re-elected for the third consecutive term, by secret ballot. Mr. Peng's victory would be a bit more impressive if other parties besides the Communists had been permitted to enter candidates.

Among the questions now being circulated to its members by a county Federation of Agriculture in Ontario is this one: "Do you think a farmer is entitled to a profit?" We may be wrong about this; but our guess is that the ayes will have it by a substantial majority.

It won't be long, say the scientists, before green vegetables, the chief source of solar energy for human beings, will be unnecessary, for the reason that the required energy will be extracted from sunlight directly. They do not suggest, however, any adequate substitute for gardening itself.

Every place has its drawbacks; but it is obvious that this winter we on this Island have been more fortunate, weather-wise, than almost any other area in the North Temperate Zone. While blizzards have howled fiercely on both sides of the Atlantic, we have not yet had a major storm. And Spring is just around the corner.

The director of the American Civil Defence Administration says that atomic war with its accompanying radioactive fall-out would not mean the end of the world. That may be, although there are many atomic experts who say otherwise. Anyway, to be on the safe side, it would be better not to put it to the test.

Ex-Premier Malenkov must be feeling sad enough these days. It was bad enough to be forced to resign for self-admitted incompetence; it is worse to have to follow the road to the Department of Electricity taken years ago by one of his luckless predecessors—Rhykof—who ended up before a firing squad on charges of treason and maladministration.

Aberdeen still holds its reputation for thrift. Saving figures for the third quarter of 1954 show that on an average the citizens of the granite city saved more than those anywhere else in Scotland or England. Average savings during the three months per head of population was 18 shillings and eightpence. England's best was Hull, yet it was five shillings and fourpence below the Aberdeen figure.

The remarkable contribution to the tourist traffic of Scotland by the author of the Waverley Novels is one of the points made in a new biographical study of Sir Walter Scott by the well-known English author, Hesketh Pearson. Mr. Pearson describes how, whenever a new Scott novel was published, there was an immediate and widespread interest in the area in which it was located. For many years now Scott's home at Abbotsford had been a place of international pilgrimage.



Possible Unforeseen Developments

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.

SCHOOL UNIT NO. 1

Sir.—On reading the Hon. Kier Clark's speech in the press regarding School Unit No. 1, I would like to point out a few of his remarks that I know he has been badly misinformed on. Mr. Clark states that meetings were held in the Unit Area to determine whether we should enter the Unit or not, and that these meetings largely endorsed the idea of amalgamation. This is not so, as being an active member of this Community I know of no such meeting. We were just told that as from Dec. 9th 1949 we were now a part of School Unit No. 1. Is this democracy?

From that time we have not had a school meeting to which we could go and voice our opinion regarding the matters of education over children. This also was done over our heads. Mr. Clark states that the argument of the people of Parkdale regarding sewage and water is not a strong enough one. Would Mr. Clark care to be drinking contaminated water which goodly number of the people of Parkdale have done; which day and daily continues to be contaminated? This matter, on the strength of our surveyor's figures, could be rectified by the use of the money which is now going out of our district towards the upkeep of School Unit No. 1, with little or no increased cost to our taxpayers.

Mr. Clark points out the great educational progress in the Unit area. If this were true why then are so many parents sending their children from this district to Charlottetown schools to be educated at an increased cost to themselves. Amalgamation of schools may be all right in some places but urban and rural areas certainly do not mix and I am pleased to see that for the first time since Dec. 9th 1949 we are to have an opportunity of voicing our opinion as taxpayers in School Unit No. 1 by means of a plebiscite. I am, Sir, etc.

NORMAN SHERRAN

Parkdale

The Poet's Corner

THE ANATOMIST

He many a creature did anatomize.
 Almost unpeeping water, air, and land.
 Beasts, fishes, birds, snails, caterpillars, flies.
 Were laid full low by his relentless hand.
 That oft with gory crimson was distained;
 He many a dog destroyed, and many a cat.
 Of fleas his bed, of frogs the marshes drained.
 Could tellen if a mite were lean or fat.
 And read a lecture o'er the entrails of a gnat.
 —Mark Akenside (1721-1770).

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OTTAWA REPORT

An Awesome Subject

By Patrick Nicholson

In Ottawa civil defence experts and nuclear scientists here are discussing with considerable awe the super H-bomb now being developed by the United States, and no doubt also by Russia.

The community of our national capital here consists of about one quarter of a million people. These live in the city of Ottawa, in the suburb of Hull across on the Quebec shore of the Ottawa river, and in the town of Eastview on Ottawa's eastern limits. This whole built-up area is contained in a circle ten miles in diameter.

One super H-bomb exploded on Ottawa's Capital Hill would, in the words of one scientist, "leave very few survivors in that Greater Ottawa area". I was invited to take part in a panel discussion on this subject at Ottawa University one evening recently. Under the chairmanship of Dean Gibson, of Carleton College, the panel consisted of Dr. Karl Stern, the brilliant Austrian psychiatrist who wrote the books "Pillar of Fire" and "The Third Revolution"; Dr. Lou Voyvodie, a well known physicist working with the National Research Council here, and myself.

The subject was "Fear in an Atomic Age". I questioned whether the average Canadian has sufficient knowledge of the destruction which would be caused by this new bomb to be aware of the fear which it should inspire.

REMEMBER COLOGNE?

About thirteen years ago, the Canadian and British air forces based in Britain launched history's first "One Thousand Bombers" raid. On that night, those heavy bombers each dropped one bomb containing one ton of T. N. T. high explosive on that German city. The heart of Cologne was pulverised as no city had ever been shattered before. That destruction was wrought with one thousand tons of high explosive.

Now suppose that raids on an equal scale were to be carried out on Ottawa or Vancouver or Quebec City, for example, every single night for one hundred and sixty five years. What would be left of that city? It would have suffered sixty thousand raids, each as severe as that one raid on Cologne. Such destruction is unimaginable. Yet that is the ex-

ploding power of just one of these dreadful new bombs. But of course that bomb would wreak its havoc in one second instead of being spread out on every night for nearly two centuries.

Damage in the surrounding area would be so heavy that firefighting and rescue squads could not be relied upon unless they were based more than one hundred miles away.

The after-effects of this bomb would be almost as terrible as the explosion itself. The fallout of radioactive particles, for example, would cause many casualties, just as it killed fishermen on the unsuitably named Japanese fishing boat, "The Fortunate Dragon", after the H-bomb test in the Pacific. This fall-out would contaminate the earth and vegetation and cause fatal injury as much as eighty miles down wind.

LINGERING DANGER
 Then there would be the lingering danger of contamination from elements made radioactive by the explosion itself. One of these lethal by-products, for example, called Carbon 14, has a half-life of 5,600 years. That means that had one of these bombs been exploded on, say, Vancouver 3,600 years before the birth of our Saviour, the site of Vancouver would still be radioactively lethal today.

Questions asked by the audience during the panel discussion made it quite clear that, at least here in Ottawa, the public is very badly informed about the significance of the development of the new thermonuclear weapons. This ignorance, perhaps, accounts for the almost complete indifference with which Civil Defence and indeed foreign affairs are regarded in so many countries today.

It is of course difficult for non-scientists to keep pace with these sensational new developments. Today's terror bomb is three thousand times as powerful as the first atomic bomb dropped on Japan less than ten years ago.

This lack of knowledge breeds indifference. It seems that the time has arrived when all governments should raise the curtain of atomic secrecy. But then, hand in hand with knowledge, will come fear.

GERMAN PARLIAMENT
 The Bundestag at Bonn, Parliament of West Germany, has 45 women among its 509 members.

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
 BACKACHE, A COMMON AND PAINFUL COMPLAINT

Probably all of you have had backaches, or at least will have them in the future. And because this ailment is so common, many of you simply neglect backaches unless they are extremely severe. Actually, you don't have to suffer, for seldom is there a case where doctors are unable to relieve the pain.

Cause of Backache

Perhaps the most usual cause of a backache is some disturbance of the connective tissues of your back, that is, the ligaments. These ligaments hold together the bones and also the supporting tissues of the muscles.

Bad Posture

Poor posture, or weak or broken arches, may throw your entire center of gravity so far off that you will get a backache as your back muscles strain to maintain your body's equilibrium. In some instances, a backache may be due to infections, particularly those caused by viruses. In this case, the pain usually comes on suddenly, accompanied by a mild fever, and is spread over the lower part of your back.

About two weeks of rest in bed will usually relieve this condition. Boards placed under your mattress will keep it from sagging and keep your back straight. Applying heat to the area by hot water bottles or heating pads will probably speed recovery and ease the pain.

Injection Help

Recently, it has been found that quick relief from pain may be ob-

NOTES BY THE WAY

If we can get communism and democracy to live peacefully together in the world we may move on to a tougher job — persuading dog lovers, garden fanciers and parents of small children to share the same block without feuding. —Florida Times-Union

It is true, however, that Father does not cut as much ice as once he did. The movies, the funnies, and television like to represent him as a comic, ineffectual figure. The insurance companies seriously adjure him to train his wife for widowhood, because the medical profession promises her that she will survive him by at least four years. Scientists are busy assuring women that they are stronger, wiser and more enduring than men. And in those mirrors of modern mythology — the magazine advertisements —

Observation of dwellers in apartment blocks indicate that many of them have no feeling of responsibility whatsoever. This belief gains support from the cause of the Montreal fire. A lighted cigarette or cigarette, dumped with other waste into a wooden garbage chute, has been established as the cause. Sheer thoughtlessness, perhaps even stupidity, on the part of someone lies at the root of this outbreak. The best answer seems to be to make it impossible for so many people to share residence under one roof.

To accomplish that, it is necessary to think in terms of decentralization. There is plenty of room within easy access to all our major cities to spread population more thinly, and if the experiment is extended further, it will be seen that decentralization of industry will serve to reduce the pressure on the metropolitan areas which is already reaching a dangerous stage. It is recognized that existing conditions cannot be changed too easily, but looking to the future it would seem unwise to continue to follow the course of the past which has led to the current unsatisfactory situation. —Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

K. G.: Would an X-ray reveal an intestinal inflammation?
 Answer: As a rule, X-ray examination will not reveal intestinal inflammation. However, it may show that the bowel is contracted, or that there are defects in the bowel wall which may be signs that infections are present.

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