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

TUESDAY, AUG. 23, 1955

A Goodly Heritage

Trust no future, however pleasant! Let the dead past bury its dead! Act, act in the living Present! Heart within and God overhead.

There is no denying that, seen in its proper focus and allowing for the dogmatism that is the poet's right, Mr. Longfellow's advice was, and is, salutary. There is such a thing as deifying the past and seeing in it virtues and values it did not, in fact, possess. There is such a thing, too, as looking too expectantly to the future as if time must necessarily march on to greatness. Perhaps these were the prevailing errors in Mr. Longfellow's day and generation. For this generation, however, neither of them can be said to be in the intellectual vogue. The tendency rather, is to regard the past as a sort of poor and distant relation of the present which, alone among all the ages of man's story, is an age of wondrous things. In these circumstances, it is well to pause now and again and draw refreshment from the wells of the past. Anything that helps us to do that is worthwhile. It may be the reading or re-reading of an enriching book of other days which, miraculously, has survived the reckless onslaught of a philosophy centered in a crass materialism. It may be the pondering of the lives of great men, and women, which remind us that we, too, can make our lives sublime. Or, it may be a religious memorial service like the one held at Belfast last Sunday, following a tradition of many years.

There, in a historic Church studied with fair memories and good associations, and rich in the things which strengthen a community, the descendants of a hardy and courageous band of pioneers (joined by others not of their kindred but who, in like manner, honour heroism and faithfulness) met together in quiet communion of the present and in thankful remembrance of the past. As on all such occasions, it was not what was said by the preacher by way of eulogy that counted the more — although his eloquence and obvious sincerity doubtless contributed greatly to the solemnity of the occasion; rather was it the inner contemplation of a faith and devotion, yes, and of a plain rugged tenacity, which enabled their forefathers to build, according to their beliefs and aspirations, a goodly heritage to pass on to their children. The fact that the theological side of the heritage was declared in the accents of Knox and not in those of Aquinas, Newman, Wesley, or Temple, is irrelevant. The living emphasis would be the same in any of these instances.

The future? Even the wisest man in the world would not speculate copiously about it. One thing, however, we know. Whatever it may bring, it will not be the worse for a good heritage handed on untarnished and unspoiled.

The Chinese Situation

China, a country which only a few years ago was to most Westerners simply a remote place on a map, has become in these days a common subject of discussion. And that is why a book just put out by the well known American scholar Richard L. Walker does not agree with those hopeful souls (including the British Labour delegates who visited China last year) that the Chinese brand of Communism will prove more reasonable and flexible than the Soviet version. He believes, indeed, that China's leaders are trying in every way possible to emulate the Russian experiment; and one gathers that he is of the opinion that if there is to be any break at all in the alliance it will have to come from the Russian side, a possibility which has been mentioned by a number of competent surveyors of the world scene. At the same time, Mr. Walker believes that Chinese Communism is not making the stir in Asia that its leaders had expected. Not China's Mao, but India's Nehru, is the more like-

ly to become Asia's spokesman.

The Peiping administration has "lost face" among Asiatics generally by its failure to force its way into the United Nations and by adhering too closely to Russian-manufactured propaganda. Its insistence on "liberating" Formosa has worked against its interests in other areas, which may be the reason for its more conciliatory attitude in recent months. Mr. Walker apparently is of the opinion that, even if they desired to do so, which is doubtful, Red China's leaders have not the economic resources available for any large scale aid to China's neighbours. This, too, will work against their ambitions.

Mr. Walker's opinions may or may not represent the actual situation. However, coming from one who, by all accounts, is a competent student of both historical and contemporary affairs, they are helpful to anyone who gives the matter any thought. That is all that can be said about any opinion.

No Excuse

Public opinion will sympathize with the Boy Scouts and their leaders, now "jamboreeing" at Niagara-on-the-Lake, in their regret that no Canadian cabinet minister was present at the official opening of the important gathering last Saturday. The fact that the Governor-General was there has no bearing on the matter, since, of course, he represents Her Majesty the Queen and on such occasions is in no sense a spokesman for the cabinet. So far as news reports are reliable, no reason for the apparent negligence or oversight was given, except the stereotyped one of "inability" to attend. It is doubtful that this will be taken seriously by anyone; for, although cabinet ministers have year-round responsibilities, the fact is that some of them are now on vacation and others are on leisurely tours which could be interrupted for a few hours without much serious damage resulting to any phase of the country's business.

Breaking into a vacation or a pre-arranged jaunt may cause a bit of inconvenience to men who feel they are overworked for ten months of the year, although in these days of speedy travel the inconvenience must be very slender indeed. In any event, when representatives of other governments were not averse to travelling hundreds, and in some instances thousands, of miles to be on hand to say a word of encouragement and cheer to their youthful fellow citizens on one of the big occasions in the history of the Scout Movement, it is nothing to the credit of the host government that a little inconvenience was permitted to keep it from being represented, and represented well, at the opening of the Jamboree.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An expert says that mosquitoes don't bite; they simply pierce the skin with their "proboscis". All that fancy talk, however, will not help matters a bit for anyone caught by the pesky critters.

It is reported that certain districts in Scotland were obliged to resort to water rationing in a recent dry spell. So long as the restriction is not extended to other more necessary beverages there is not likely to be any uprising in the Highlands.

A Canadian farmer was called upon to act as umpire when two judges disagreed over the merits of two Ayrshire cows at the annual Kinrosshire Agriculture Show at Kinross, Scotland, recently. He was Mr. A. L. Young of Brooks, Alberta who happened to be holidaying in the United Kingdom at the time.

Whatever else the Russians invented, they were not the first to cultivate the Irish potato. Nor, for that matter, were the Irish. It originated in South America and was taken to Europe by the Spaniards. The Irish happened to be the first people to make it a staple article of food. Hence the name.

Is it an offence to steal one's own automobile? A judge in Detroit says it is and sentenced a man to a prison term not to exceed 15 years for doing just that. However, the culprit, while removing the car from a service garage where it had been sent for repairs also went through the proprietor's files and destroyed a bill for \$300 which the repairs had cost.

Twenty other subjects are due for inquiry shortly.



Two Different Worlds

Wheat For The Teeming Orient

By L. S. Chakales  
 Associated Press, Rome

Rice, the staple food for a billion Asians, is yielding ground to wheat.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says to some extent "a permanent change" has taken place in the food habits of the teeming Orient.

Because of the postwar rice shortage and the attractive terms that went with wheat supplies, "there has been an expansion in the consumption of wheat at the expense of rice" in the Far East, the FAO reported in an extensive study.

Despite a present surplus of rice, wheat is continuing to press its "bit but definite advance in the rice-producing area of the world. There continues an over-all import of 4,000,000 tons of the grain into the Far East as compared with 3,000,000 tons before the war. Before the war about 13 per cent of the world's wheat went into export channels. The figure is now 17 per cent.

On the other hand, about 8.5 per cent of the rice crop was exported. This has slumped now to five per cent.

Rice not only is more valuable than any other crop, including wheat, cotton or corn, but more valuable than the world's crude oil, coal or pig iron annual production, FAO said. One official estimated its annual value at \$18,500,000,000.

Paddy rice production, including an estimated 50,000,000 tons in Communist China, totals approximately 235,000,000 tons yearly. This makes approximately 145,000,000 tons of milled rice, which is what you usually eat. Ninety per cent of this production is consumed in the Far East, or monsoon Asia which also produces about 90 per cent of the rice.

With increasing rice self-sufficiency in many countries, rice's role as an international commodity is slipping.

India, under the impetus of a government-sponsored rice self-sufficiency program, is virtually cut

off the import market. Before the war India was the biggest importer of rice in the world. Import figures dramatically illustrate India's improving position. In 1951 it imported 4,700,000 tons of rice. Last year it imported 800,000 tons, primarily to build up reserves. Wheat has made inroads in India, some of it from the bulging granaries of America.

Japan is another country where wheat has gained ground since the war. In the prewar period the only important food grain imported by Japan was rice. Now rice totals only 30 per cent of the food grains imported. Wheat figures heavily in Nippon's present food imports.

Indonesia also is approaching self-sufficiency in rice, FAO said. A U.S.-sponsored program to reclaim land made Greece self-sufficient in rice three years ago. Ceylon used to import some 2,000,000 tons of rice yearly. The most rice imported in any year after the war was 400,000 tons in 1953. On the other hand, the import of wheat skyrocketed from 25,000 tons prewar to 370,000 in 1953.

Burma is the biggest rice exporter but is having trouble finding markets in the face of present surplus. Burma and second-place Thailand have surpluses of between 600,000 and 700,000 tons each.

In the United States production has increased 150 per cent since the war, while exports have jumped 670 per cent. But surpluses now existing and falling prices are making it difficult for the United States to find markets.

Communist China grows more rice than any country in the world today. In prewar days, China was an importer. In the immediate postwar period net imports continued, assisted by international aid. Since the Communists took over the country, exports appear to have been exceeding imports but there are some indications this trend may be reversed. There are no official statistics available on current Red Chinese production of rice.

Politics At Washington

By George Kitchen, Canadian Press Staff, Washington

Congress has been adjourned for several weeks now, but you'd never know it from reading the Washington newspapers. The politicking is still going on.

Unlike Ottawa, where a pleasant summer lull usually falls over the capital when Parliament prorogues for the year, the political mills in Washington just keep grinding along steadily.

Congressmen flit in and out of town and some even keep year-round headquarters on Capitol Hill, ever ready to comment on affairs at the drop of a reporter's pencil. Congressional investigating committees continue their work.

Veteran observers suggest that one reason for the undiminished pace of political activity is that some congressmen and committees have learned that they have more chance of breaking into print when Congress is adjourned than when it is in session. One Washington newspaper the other day ran three stories on one page. In each story, the same congressman was quoted in comment on a different subject.

The House of Representatives un-American activities committee is holding the stage in New York with its inquiry into Communist infiltration in show business. Another committee is taking off shortly to look at the western uranium fields and others are scheduling investigations into the administration's security program, the use of dollar-a-year businessmen in government and the extent to which government departments are suppressing or withholding information from the press and the public.

REALLY ANCIENT  
 On the items on sale at a recent auction in England was an Egyptian limestone relief of a bull being sacrificed, said by experts to be about 5,000 years old.

A Bishop's Comment

(Exchange)

An Anglican bishop comes out of the north woods with the report that the Department of Transport is "throwing money away" out there in the wilderness.

What do we hear from the DOT? Nothing but a wisecrack from an anonymous official that this is "an odd remark for a churchman to make."

Expensive hoses were built for personnel, the bishop says. We've heard stories about these ice palaces before. The auditor-general's report to Parliament this Spring had a couple of classics.

And a slightly-damaged tractor (cost \$60,000) was jettisoned instead of repaired. The bishop reports a DOT official looked at its burned tread and said generously: "We'll send you another."

This sort of extravagance is in the "glory hole" tradition that crops up wherever the Government feels the bill. It's bound to be accentuated at Arctic outposts where it is often cheaper to bring in new equipment than repair old.

If there was such an explanation for the incidents of waste which shocked the bishop it should have been given. Instead the department's spokesman made a snide comment about the bishop's remarks being out of place, "especially as the church is attempting to build up the northland."

The spokesman added, with infuriating pomposity, that Transport Minister Marler's recent visit to the north "gave an opportunity for review of all such situations."

We can imagine how much the Federal Minister was allowed to see in his quick visit. No thanks. We'd sooner take the word of a disinterested preacher, a lifetime spent in the honest penury of the ministry sounds to us like a lot better training for spotting extravagances than a cabinet desk in Ottawa.

STUDY 4-H FARMING  
 VANCOUVER (CP)—Two young farmers from Israel arrived here by air Sunday night to start a study of 4-H farming in Canada. Edna Shar, 16, and Ian Bender, 18, members of communal farms in their country, came here at the invitation of the Pacific National Exhibition.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

NEW SURGICAL DRESSINGS  
 New methods of covering burns and surgical incisions promise to make patients more comfortable during recovery.

Dr. A. W. Farmer of the Hospital for Sick Children at Toronto, says that the use of aluminum dusting powder facilitates treatment of burns.

Every Six Hours  
 Metal about the size of 50 microns is dusted on the burn from a salt shaker or patted on with gauze every six hours for a period of 48 hours. This is done, of course, only after the burn has been cleaned.

By the second day, he reports, the scab becomes dry, tough and moderately flexible. Thus, the patient does not need splints or apparatus to suspend the burned limb.

Another Use  
 There is another use for the powder, too. When it is sprinkled on the bed, Dr. Farmer has found, it prevents the bedclothes from sticking to the burned area.

In covering operative wounds, two doctors at the University of Chicago report success with an aerosol, a plastic compound.

Dr. W. E. Adams and Stanley P. Rippler report that wounds sprayed with aeroplast heal as well as injured tissue covered with conventional dressings. And there are no added complications with the plastic spray.

Transparent Film  
 Moreover, they point out, when the compound is applied immediately after the incision is sewed together, the transparent film covering makes it easier to observe the area. This is especially so, they say, in incisions of the thorax.

Chemically, the substance is a modified polyvinyl chloride acetate copolymer in an ethyl acetate solvent — in case you're interested.

But probably more important to you is the fact that it is somewhat less expensive than the material now commonly used.

Question and Answer  
 Mrs. J. Mc.: What causes iritis and is there a cure for it?  
 Answer: Iritis is inflammation of the colored part of the eye. It may develop as a result of some infection in other parts of the body such as in the teeth, tonsils, or nasal sinuses.

When this disorder occurs, a thorough examination by an eye specialist is necessary to determine the source of the infection, so that proper treatment may be given.

Maple Memorials

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review)  
 An avenue of thirty young Canadian maples stretches through the Stonefall cemetery at Harrogate, in England, where some 680 Canadian airmen lie buried.

Connected with these young trees is an intriguing mystery.

According to Gwyneth Milburn, secretary of the Stonefall Adoption Committee, some seven or eight years ago the superintendent received a packet of seeds from Canada.

Apparently they were sent by a Canadian woman, the wife or mother of one of the airmen buried in the cemetery. She suggested that the recipient plant them.

The superintendent, not really knowing what they were, planted them in the greenhouse, and later transplanted the seedlings to the cemetery itself, where they developed into healthy maples.

Meanwhile, before the gift could be acknowledged, the name and address of the sender were mislaid.

The cemetery authorities would like to send the donor a photograph of the maple avenue; but so far, their efforts to locate the donor have been unsuccessful.

**The Poets Corner**  
 WOODLAND POOL  
 Here where sunlight's golden shafts  
 Dimmed by screening leaves,  
 K lies in tranquil solitude; the trees  
 Within its depth can view  
 Their crowning glory mirrored there  
 Nor ripple stirs its emerald sheen,  
 As birds with iridescent wings  
 That knife the air, swoop low to preen  
 The constant changing moods of day  
 Reflected there, create a play  
 Of light and shade; the gleaming pool  
 Is nature's opalescent jewel.  
 —D. B. Cliff, in the Toronto Star.

**The Age Old Story**  
 Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their minds and conscience is defiled.  
 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

NOTES BY THE WAY

By remarkable coincidence, all the cartoonists were of one mind about Geneva being a mountain peak with a table and four chairs at the top!  
 Ottawa Citizen.

Officials of the London Market observe the passing of old-fashioned canner, the wonderful woman who used to "put down" sealers of berries, peaches, pears and plums so that her brood would have appetizing health-giving foods for winter. She it was who would come to market before breakfast and go home carrying baskets of fruit or with the buggy filled with berries. Dear departed days, and dear departed ladies! — London Free Press.

One of Canada's leading economists is convinced that the basic weakness in men going into business for themselves is their fear of having to make their own decisions. He points out that too many are prone to go seeking advice because they have not sufficient confidence in their own judgment or business ability. Business today is looking for leaders. It is seeking out men who are willing to accept responsibility. In this regard, it has been deplored frequently that while there are hundreds of good workers engaged in the task of bringing in the daily bread, there are only dozens of those ready to take on leadership.

No amount of apologies from the Bulgarian government, no matter how sincere, can alter the fact that 58 innocent persons lost their lives when trigger-happy Bulgarian border guards shot down an Israeli airliner that had strayed from its course. The Bulgarian government cannot escape its own grave responsibility in this latest tragedy. The men who fired the guns were acting under orders. The Israeli aircraft was a civilian plane, not a military invader. It was obviously off its course, for reasons that may never be determined. Any government that fails in its security precautions to make allowances for human errors, especially in non-military incidents such as this, offends common decency.

High temperatures experienced this summer over a wide area of the North American continent, lends color to the theory that the world is getting warmer. The real heat of course, seems to have come not from the earth, but from the sun when, at noon-tide, its direct though distant rays have caused, to say the least, considerable discomfort. From various parts of the earth's surface come evidences of unusually high temperatures during recent weeks. The Arctic contributes the item that during the present century Arctic drift ice has decreased by thousands of square miles; more glaciers are melting; the polar ice-caps are backing up to the extent of 500 feet annually.

We see that the experts of the International Civil Aviation Organization are planning around with the phonetic alphabet again, and it is not without pleasure that we note that they have dropped Coca (which sounded like a Romance-language expletive with overtones of advertising) and have reverted to good, dependable old Charlie. In spite of the return of Charlie, however, it is still a jerky, sputtering affair in which the word "alphabet" itself comes out Alfa Lima Papa Hotel Alfa Bravo Echo Tango. Maybe we're reactionary old fuds, but we don't like it much. In fact for us, and for a lot of other — excluding, of course, those wonderful old mossbacks of the Ack-Beer school — "alphabet" is spelled Able Love Peter How Able Baker Easy Tare inmutably and for all time.

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