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Limelight on Quebec

Another Quebec conference opens upon the public horizon; again the Commander in Chief will be prominently displayed in the business of commanding while others engage themselves in the lowlier pursuits of political controversy. The spectacle will be impressive; nor can the necessity for the meeting be denied. It is obviously imperative that the odds and ends of European policy be cleared up before the victory which now seems so imminent in that theater; it is no less imperative to arrive at some co-ordinated strategic and political understanding in regard to the Far East before that theater moves into the forefront of history. It is true that both issues might have been taken up before. It is true that in both of them the American and British publics might have been taken more fully into the confidence of their leaders and, by creating a firmer ground of public opinion on the problems involved, less need have been left for the full-dress formalities of decorative meetings between the heads of state.

from home finally tell some staff sergeant from Valverde County about the newly established park he can be fancied as nonchalantly mentioning to some linguistic and liberated citizen of Luxemburg that the State of Texas has just tossed off a park bigger than the entire Grand Duchy.

It can be added that it is hoped the formation of this national park will create interest south of the Rio Grande in the establishment of a contiguous Mexican park, so that the oft-projected international peace park can be realized. Peace parks, it can be suggested to Dumbarton Oaks and any future, less secretive conferences, might make much better post-war boundaries in pock-marked, fought-over Europe than deviously fortified borders grandiloquently named and tragically crumbled. We salute Big Bend National Park—and any international peace park of which it may become a northern half.

A Way, If There Is a Will

"The Control of Germany and Japan," a technical study by the Brookings Institution of how, in fact, the victims of German-Japanese aggression could insure against a repetition of that aggression, is a slim but suggestive volume. It considers one after another the various means which have been suggested for rendering the enemy nations harmless through political or economic means—the division of their territory, the control of the importation of strategic materials, the control of their key industries—and concludes that they would either be ineffective or would cost so much in general economic dislocation as to be inapplicable. The idea of a solution which will automatically demilitarize the aggressor powers is illusory. Some of these economic devices might have their useful place as supplements to a direct military control, but they could not replace it. It follows that one might as well start with the idea of a permanent system installed within these powers to detect and suppress any attempt at rearmament; such a system might use supplementary economic controls to good advantage, but these supplementary measures would be useless except in connection with the primary regulatory and suppressive mechanism.

It is a pregnant conclusion. The authors argue persuasively that if the victor powers begin with this intention, the means for enforcing it would prove relatively simple and inexpensive in terms of effort or obligation. It would require an international joint board empowered to detect and to put down on its own initiative any attempt at rearmament, a small body of inspectors and agents to discover violations of its rules and a modest international task force available to supply whatever coercion might be necessary. The latter need not be large, since it would have to operate only against societies which had already been thoroughly disarmed. Such a policy would require no prolonged occupation of the enemy territory and would avoid most of the issues which cluster around the idea of an international army, since the task force would be on a small scale. The prospect is both attractive and suggestive. But one thing about it stands out clearly: it could be

this assistance is given the better, not only from a military point of view but in relation to the future development of China—long counted upon as America's friend in the Orient.

Tartarin Defeats "Them"

Tartarin of Tarascon did not know Beaucaire very well. To be sure, Tartarin's soul panted for far places, and Beaucaire lay just across the Rhone from sleepy Tarascon. But the suspension bridge that linked the two towns was long and frail; the Rhone was very wide, and Tartarin's venturesome spirit was encased in a comfort-loving body. "Well, faith! you understand! Tartarin of Tarascon preferred *terra firma*."

Tartarin's "rascally bridge" is down now, as well as the more substantial-seeming railway bridge below it. An air view of Tarascon, which appeared in this newspaper yesterday morning, shows the effect of Allied bombing on the Rhone crossings. But King Rene's castle appears unharmed, and one may trust that no bombs fell on Baobab Villa, "the third house on the left as the town begins, on the Avignon road," where Tartarin brooded among his warlike trophies and his exotic plants, dreaming of great exploits against "them," the shadowy forces of evil strength that challenge the soldier and the sportsman, and transmuted his dreams, through the kindly agency of the wonder-working sun of the Midi, into actuality.

"They" came at last to Tarascon, to that quiet town whose humdrum safety fretted Tartarin into bold ventures to distant Algeria and Switzerland. "They" came in tanks which mocked Tartarin's "double muscles" and planes which scorned the cap-hunters of Tarascon. Perhaps the Germans, as they swept unchecked through southern France on Armistice Day, 1942, considered that Alphonse Daudet had painted a portrait in Tartarin, rather than a caricature. If so, "they" were to be disillusioned.

Some authentic Tartarins may have been encountered in the Rhone Valley—men whose love of ease triumphed over patriotism. But in the end the exploits of the Forces of the Interior in the south of France were to put Tartarin's most vivid imaginings to shame. It was the men and women of the Midi who fought so fiercely in the streets of Marseille and Toulon; who harried the retreating invader, and who are now, in an area of 6,200 square miles, outside the limits of Allied military operations, smoothly administering the affairs of some ten million people, without disorder and with, as a correspondent reports, "remarkable unity." Clearly more than the imagination flourishes under the sun of old Provence.

A Faint Breeze in Boston

A dispatch from Boston says that a "revolt is brewing" against the "illiterate censorship" which has given New England of recent years "an artistic black eye." We may hope so, but we shall wait and see, retaining a modest amount of skepticism. The latest outrage against common sense came when the Boston board of censors,

But the heads of state have been doing the business, so the heads of state must now take both the limelight and the responsibility. It is notable that neither the Russians nor the Chinese are present at Quebec; this, then, is a strictly Anglo-American gathering and is, presumably, concerned with those questions which the American and British governments between them ought to have settled long ago but, apparently, have not settled even now. So far as the public is aware, the first is the question of the policy to be adopted toward a defeated Germany. The European Advisory Commission was supposed to have worked all that out; but the only thing which has so far leaked through the black secrecy surrounding its operations is a hint that the division of territory to be occupied by the three great powers is still undecided. So Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill presumably have that unfinished business on their agenda, to be determined solely by themselves, since neither has deigned to call in the assistance either of their people or of their allies.

The second issue to be considered in these rarefied atmospheres is immediately far more important—the matter of Pacific strategy. A year ago, also at Quebec, Lord Louis Mountbatten was appointed to lead the crusade against Japan. The results, apparently through no fault of Lord Louis, were somewhat disappointing. The war against Japan has certainly not been relaxed in the interval; it has proceeded, however, with none of that complete co-ordination of means and singleness of strategy which have been so characteristic of the combined operations under General Eisenhower in Europe. Lord Louis has spent the year presiding over one of the fancier collections of inter-service, inter-national and inter-general jealousies and rivalries observable on the Allied side; the great men at the top have apparently had neither the will nor the wisdom to sweep all that away and insist that the war on Japan, like that on Germany, is a single operation with a single end. This task now confronts them. There is the limelight. There is also the responsibility.

Peace Promise at Big Bend

Because it clicked in dateline with D Day, the establishment along the Rio Grande of Big Bend National Park received small notice in newspapers outside of the State of Texas. On June 6 Amon G. Carter, president of the Big Bend Park Association, represented Governor Coke Stevenson in delivering to President Roosevelt a cession deed of nearly 700,000 acres for national park purposes. This is a sizable chunk of real estate, even in a state as generously built as Texas.

Doubtless news of the giving away of nearly a thousand square miles will be slow in catching up with those natives of the Lone Star State who are now making organized European tours (in jeeps, tanks, trucks and Army shoes)—learning at first hand and not from school books that the whole of France could be swallowed up in their wide and historic commonwealth, with Belgium, the Low Countries and Denmark thrown in as free extra mouthfuls. If letters

realized only if the victor peoples really believe in keeping Japan and Germany disarmed and are willing to take a minimum of trouble to see that this end is accomplished not just for a year or two but for generations. It is another illustration of the fact that, given the will, there are many practicable ways to a sounder international order. But the will is paramount.

Disaster in China

The military situation in China clearly is a desperate one and, from the short-range point of view, there are no hopeful signs. The American airfields at Hengyang and Lingling have been lost as a result of the Japanese campaign to bisect China and the enemy is making progress in a drive directed at the major American air base at Kweilin. The fields in question have been used effectively in attacks on Japanese sea and river shipping, so the losses already sustained are serious and those in prospect are even more disturbing.

If Japanese successes continue the enemy will cut off coastal China from Chungking, will gain a good position from which to resist American landings on the coast, will open a road of retreat from the south, will develop a supply line safe from submarine and cruiser attack and will add to China's political and economic difficulties. As if this picture were not bleak enough there are reports that the Japanese are massing troops in Indo-China for a drive up the railway which leads to Kunming. Such a drive would meet violent opposition from American air power in western China, but there is little Chinese ground strength to resist it and, if successful, it could win for the enemy the terminals of the air and land routes to India and might threaten the bases used by the B-29 Superfortresses.

There are contributing factors to Chinese weakness, among them the heritage of inefficiency and corruption left by the Manchus, which is a point stressed by the highest Chinese officials. Another is the financial situation, resulting from the loss of the revenues of the coastal provinces, which has forced the government to depend upon printing-press money for existence. The costly quarrel between the Kuomintang and the Communists has occupied the attention of some of the best troops of both parties. The trend into reaction of the Chinese government, which started when the liberal elements among the bankers, merchants and industrialists of the country were wiped out by the Japanese, has cost the Kuomintang some of the popular support which it had earlier in the war and may be more costly as time goes on.

If there were nothing in prospect beyond the short-range military picture there would be little hope in Chinese hearts, but the over-all situation is one in which the ultimate defeat of Japan is certain, as developments in the Pacific area have made clear. The collapse of Japan, when it comes, is likely to be sudden, but the task of preparing the blows to bring it about may be long and arduous, and there is no prospect of major assistance for China until there is a landing on the Chinese coast or an invasion of the home islands of the Japanese. The quicker

headed by a woman, ruled that the fine old music-hall melodrama, "The Drunkard," could not be shown in a night club because the title itself might encourage people to drink too much. The night club changed the title and put on the show without interference. Moreover, recently in Boston Katherine Dunham's excellent troupe of dancers were forced to put on tights and to change some of their tableaux. While all of this was happening (and it is odd how often this is the case in cities where censorship is rampant) the burlesque shows, according to the Boston dispatch, "wallowed in filth." The Boston commentator says that the censorship didos do not really reflect the sentiment of the community but are the result of "politics gone sour," whatever that means. Let the promised revolt come, and after it another flowering of New England. We shall believe it when we see it.

Seasonal Vigil

Through each long winter, I have watched and waited

To find the summer in her hiding-place:
Each March and April, where she hesitated,
I sought to glimpse her always secret face.
Through endless vigil I have shared with patience

The loneliness of private search for her,
And still I seek that sudden sweet renaissance
Which is earth's music when the warm winds stir.

Yet no day ever is the summer seen
Personified: her shadows veil the dawn
And all too briefly on the brightest morning
When all the world turns wonder in a sheen
Of loveliness, she all too soon is gone,
Without a word, and always without warning.

CARL JOHN BOSTELMANN

Axis Propaganda a Year Ago

TRANSOCEAN NEWS AGENCY in English: "The German Armed Forces will, under no circumstances, permit a single stone to be broken out of the great wall protecting Europe from the Atlantic Ocean to the North Sea."

Twenty Years Ago Today in the New York Tribune

SEPTEMBER 12, 1924

WITH A BROWN LEFT ARM that had the strength of a gorilla's grip, Harry Wills drew Luis Angel Firpo in at close range last night and gave the Argentine Wild Bull a terrific beating at Boyle's Thirty Acres, while seventy thousand looked on.

THE FRENCH FARMER is contributing actively toward the reconstruction of France's livestock, which had been largely depleted by the Germans during the war, but the French Ministry of Agriculture points out that it is taking away land formerly used for growing cereals.

One Hundred Years Ago in the New York Tribune

FOR CHINA—We see that a new Propeller Schooner—the Midas—is to be despatched hence on the 1st of October for China.

FAIR OF THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—We invite attention to the notice in our advertising columns of this most interesting affair. It is one in which we are glad to learn that the Manufacturing and Mechanical interests are to be largely represented.