

TIMES OF MALTA

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WEATHER FORECAST

General Statement: An easterly airstream covers the Southern Mediterranean and North Africa.

Forecast from dawn to midnight for Malta and Gozo areas:
Weather: Cloudy with slight rain locally. Visibility: Moderate or poor. Wind: Light easterly.
Sea: Slight with low easterly swell. Outlook: Fair.

Yesterday's Observations

Luqa at 7 p.m.

Max. shade temp. during day ... 67° F.
Min. temp. previous night ... 57° F.
Hours of sunshine ... 0.2 hours.
Mean sea level pressure ... 1017.7 mbs.
Wind ... E.S.E. 8 knots.
Shade temp. ... 63° F.
Relative Humidity ... 86%
Cloud ... 1/8 stratus, 8/8 altocumulus.
Visibility ... 5 miles.
Rainfall past 24 hours ... Trace.
Rainfall since Sept. 1 ... 26.49 ins.

Valetta at 6 a.m.

State of sea off Valetta ... Smooth no swell.
Temp. of sea off Breakwater ... 62° F.
Sunset 7.08 p.m.



Phase of Moon ... Last Quarter.

today
Sunrise 4.50 a.m.
tomorrow
Moonset 11.41 a.m.
today
Moonrise 12.40 a.m.
tomorrow

THE NEXT MOVE

While the Geneva Conference continues with little or no progress the Communist Vietminh forces in Indo-China continue to advance and to capture French outposts.

Mr. Eden, the British Foreign Secretary, is making great efforts to save the Geneva Conference from ending in complete failure. At the same time Mr. Eden has warned both Mr. Molotov and Chou En-Lai not to overplay their hand or to under-rate the capacity of the United States to react with military force to the Indo-China situation.

When Chou En-Lai stated that China was relying on Britain to prevent the United States from intervening with armed force the British Foreign Secretary firmly replied that no such assumption was warranted and that when things came to a showdown Britain would usually be found on the side of the United States.

This statement should have a sobering effect on the Communists who are relying on dissension among the Western Allies to embark on more aggression in Asia. It is obvious that, before long, the West will have to decide what action is to be taken should the Geneva Conference fail to bring about a solution.

The Conference cannot be allowed to drag on indefinitely while the military situation in Indo-China continues to deteriorate. The next few days may prove all important.

HELP THE BLIND

One of the most encouraging aspects of post-war development at Malta is the increased awareness of the part and position of these Islands in the family of British nations. What is equally important is the increasing acceptance of the obligations which are incumbent on any member of this family which time and circumstances are knitting so closely together.

Malta's resources do not allow of over-abundant contribution in the fields where collective contributions are made by the various units of the Commonwealth and Empire. But the intention is excellent even if the means of implementing it are inadequate.

The spirit behind the contribution of a small sum of money from Malta was fully appreciated by the sponsors of the new Commonwealth Myceological Institute being built in Britain, as is that prompting the Malta contribution to the Colonial Students' Amenities Fund.

There are other ways in which Maltese help can be extended, and one of them — this merits priority in unofficial as well as official estimation — is the movement to provide treatment and help for blind people in the Colonial Empire.

Blindness and eye diseases are some of the most trying afflictions mankind has to endure. It is the bounden duty of all who enjoy good health to help others less fortunate than themselves.

The British Empire Society for the Blind, with its headquarters at 53, Victoria Street, London S.W.1., which works in conjunction with Government and Societies of the respective countries, has the task of helping 1,000,000 blind people and millions more suffering from eye ailments in as many as 26 Colonial territories.

Besides giving medical treatment and organizing further medical research, the Society is also responsible for the erection and equipment of clinics, the establishment of vocational training centres and schools, disseminating medical information, running regional advice centres, seeing to the adoption of Braille to Colonial languages and many other welfare benefits that can be provided. This is no easy commitment, particularly in view of the difficult conditions and backwardness of some of the Colonies in which this work has to be done.

It is, therefore, only fit that some response should be forthcoming to the Appeal for contributions being made by the British Empire Society for the Blind. Firms trading with the Colonies and all those who wish to give practical expression to their values of Christian charity should not allow this occasion to pass without acting.

It is noteworthy that Malta is not included in the list of non-official organizations for the welfare of the blind in the British Colonies, but this is surely not due to indifference, but rather to non-awareness that help could be extended through such a channel. Resolute action has shown that the problem of blindness can be successfully tackled. It is to the credit and interest of the Queen's subjects everywhere that efforts to lessen the consequences of misery and loss through blindness be sustained powerfully. Malta, whose heart has ever responded to the challenge of a great cause, will be glad and proud to help to the best of her ability.

CORRESPONDENCE:

THE ATOM BOMB

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA Sir, — Some time ago I read a book about the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

It stated that thousands upon thousands of apparently uninjured people died from radiation burns and the after-effects of the bomb.

Since then speeches made by prominent people from all over the world, including His Holiness and two eminent British Archbishops, brought home truths to such an extent that I simply began to fear the word itself.

After reading the accounts of some correspondents and saw how lightly and jokingly they treated the matter, and the creatures stricken by it, I came to the conclusion that whoever wrote that book on Hiro-

Professional Officers' Case

ASSOCIATIONS' VIEWS ON SALARY QUESTION

Mr. A.M. Darmania, Hon. Secretary of the Malta Government Professional Officers' Association, and Dr. F. Pullicino, Hon. Secretary, Medical Officers' Union write as follows:

On behalf of our respective Associations we hasten to write in order to correct a very wrong impression that has been created by the Budget Speech read by the Minister for Finance in the Legislative Assembly on May 18 and reported in the Press. In so far as it relates to the question of professional officers.

The impression has been created that professional officers have received some increase of salary. Nothing could be further from the truth. The position revealed by the Budget proposals is as follows:

The wording of the scheme is so couched that practically no one of the present holders of professional posts, whether in whole-time or in part-time service, whether enjoying private practice or not, will benefit.

It is stated in the scheme that professional officers who on first appointment receive a starting salary not higher than £360 will be allowed increments for professional experience at the rate of one increment for each year of professional practice outside Government service, subject to a maximum of three increments.

The Minister's proposal has the following main drawbacks:

It completely ignores our Unions' claims for an increase in the maximum which is, of course, the most important aspect of our case. Nor does it in any way meet our claim for an increase in the minimum.

It is not extended to specialists in the hospitals and to district medical officers and to all those professionals who are in some way allowed any form of private practice, even though their conditions cry aloud for improvement.

Even in the case of full-time officers it is limited only to posts the holders of which

are expressly required to hold the degree of Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Medicine, or Bachelor of Engineering and Architecture. Our Associations fail to understand why notaries, dental surgeons, electrical engineers, pharmacists, solicitors, and other professionally-qualified men, are not included.

In addition lawyers, doctors and architects in full-time employment are not admitted to the benefits of the scheme if they have joined the service directly on qualifying. Evidently practice in Government service is not recognized by Government as professional practice.

Specialists, so-called "part-time" officers even though they are at Government's beck and call at any time of the day or night, were originally excluded from the 20% general increase granted in the previous budget. Well-founded representations were made by them on the subject but the Budget Speech now reveals that they are to receive only a 10% increase. The excuse that the 20% general increase is not applicable to them on the grounds that they do not receive bonus is lame. It was not applied in the comparable case of the members of the Legislative Assembly who are getting the full 20% increase notwithstanding that they are not in receipt of bonus.

All this we are afraid, shows a somewhat niggardly attitude on the part of the powers-that-be towards professional officers. In fact the situation may be summed up by saying that our claims have been turned down in their entirety. As a result our Unions are forming a Joint Action Committee to set up a common front in order to obtain the desired and, we feel, justified improvement of the status and emoluments of professional officers.

dead is spreading. From a religious point of view the idea is truly commendable.

But it shows also a more realistic and concrete outlook. It is perhaps, one way of being progressive in this twentieth century of ours.

Let us by all means read more often "No flowers by request: donations to some charitable purpose will be greatly appreciated."

Yours truly,
PROGRESSIVE.
Valetta.

shima, and the before-mentioned people, however prominent they must be, were highly coloured and were only trying to terrorize us, and so I find my hope and my courage gradually returning back to me, thanks to your correspondents.

Yours truly,
Birkirkara. V.A.
(Correspondence on the atom bomb is now closed — EDITOR).

AN OMISSION

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA Sir, — I have read with interest the letter of Mr. Joseph Scicluna, Sec., M.P.F.A., Pawla-Tarxien District, in the Times of Malta recently in which he thanked all persons: F.C. Club, players, police, donors etc who helped in any way to make the matches in aid of the M.P.F.A. played at Schreiber Sports Ground on Sunday, April 18, a success. May I be allowed to ask Mr. Joseph Scicluna whether there were any members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade on this occasion to give their assistance as I could not see any mention of them in this letter, or does this not come under his line.

Yours truly,
ZEJTUN. SPECTATOR.

REMEMBERING CHARITY

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA Sir, — Perusing the obituary notices published in the Times of Malta, I notice that the idea of asking for donations to charitable Institutions instead of wreaths, as a sign of respect towards the

QUESTION BOX

CATHOLICS IN U.S.A. INTERESTED, from Pieta writes: Can you please answer the following questions: How many Catholics are there in the United States; how many Cardinals; and how many Catholic Churches?

REPLY: The Official Catholic Directory states that there are 31,648,424 Catholics in the United States of America. The number of U.S. Cardinals is four and there are 30,268 Catholic Churches. The Cardinals are: Cardinal Spellman, Cardinal Stritch, Cardinal McIntyre and Cardinal Mooney.

FILM CENSORSHIP

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA Sir, — As a regular film fan I must express surprise at the apparent uneven standards in local film censorship. The censors appear to be severe with American and British films but nothing like severe enough when dealing with Italian productions.

Russian films, have, been banned — foolishly in my opinion — but I have seen at least two Italian films which were definitely Communistic. There is also a great deal of immorality shown in Continental films which the censors would do well to delete.

Yours truly,
Sliema. J. J.

(Other Letters on page 11)

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