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Chief Birtwistle's Retirement

Few public servants in Canada have a more creditable record than Chief of Police Birtwistle, who is retiring after half a century of service in police and military organizations.

Chief Birtwistle is a gentleman of the old school, and can take his place in any company with credit to the City and to himself.

In his retirement Chief Birtwistle will have the best wishes of all our citizens, by whom he is so well and favorably known.

Ireland Represented

It's a tribute to the flexibility of the Commonwealth, notes the Winnipeg Free Press, that representatives of the Republic of Ireland are attending the present conference on Commonwealth relations sponsored by the Institute of International Affairs at Bigwin Inn, Ontario.

The Institute of International Affairs, therefore, was wise in inviting Ireland to participate in a discussion of problems which, whether Ireland desires it or not, are bound to affect its future.

Too much should not be read into this incident, warns our Winnipeg contemporary. The Irish Government is still intransigent and its demand for an end of partition hangs like a cloud over its relations with all the Commonwealth peoples—a grievance which even caused Ireland to remain neutral in a war, though the defeat of the Allies would have meant the destruction of Ireland.

With the "Musko" and "Eagle" exercises as required reading, it is expected that Canadian military planners will do their utmost in the next four months to equip and train an efficient segment of the Canadian Army and the RCAF in order that full benefit may be derived from "Cross-Index."

Lesson in Milk

From the London Economist comes the following interesting commentary on one of the less publicized features of the British Labour Government's planned economy:

"The National Dairywomen's Association has declared that the milk ration of three pints must be cut although the ministry of Food appears strangely reluctant to do so. In fact, however, the ration has not been generally maintained, and the retail distribution of milk during the last week has exemplified one of the least engaging features of the planned economy—its propensity to crash its gear-changes.

"Where—under the old dispensation—seasonal or weather induced gluts and shortages were translated into new patterns of consumption by the pre-selective action of price, their counterparts today induce as a matter of course a screeching of outraged administrative cogwheels, a violent jerk on the distribution mechanism, and a more or less vicious shaking-up of the passengers.

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mally dry, to the sorrow of dairy farmers. All summer the most casual holidaymakers or outer-suburban season-ticket holders—to say nothing of the diminished breed of genuine countrymen—have been able to observe the coconut-matting pastures and draw the appropriate conclusions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now we are to have parking meters in the busy thoroughfares.

A new chief of police should be a man of education, police knowledge, authority and courtesy.

It is surprising to find a Soviet Marshal abusing Tito as a Judas. The name must surely be one of honour in the communist world.

Religious education in schools, and sex education are thorny problems to handle, as various provinces are finding out.

It is gratifying to learn on the authority of Premier Jones that the Government is not losing any money in the Newfoundland trade.

Alberta has, indeed, had a disastrous year. First drought, then floods, and now early frost causing an estimated loss of a million-and-a-half dollars.

Harness racing has become big business on the Island but the Goodwill Races are always a reminder that great sportsmen are the backbone of its popularity.

Arthur Wellesley Wellington, 1st Duke. As a soldier, Wellington's talents are best seen in his conduct of the Peninsular War. As a statesman he holds a high place for his moderation, his strong sense of duty, and his perfect integrity.

It is a welcome change to have a government official asking private organizations to take action. Director D. L. Dolan of the Canadian Travel Bureau has appealed to service clubs to aid in restoring historic sites.

Today Canada's oldest newspaper celebrates its 185th anniversary. Congratulations are certainly in order for the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph. That the old paper is anything but decayed is evidenced from its celebrating by opening a new plant and building.

The Labrador iron ore deposits are attracting international attention. Connecticut has passed legislation permitting municipalities to acquire land to give to steel companies desiring to locate and other New England states also have their eye on Canadian deposits.

The current wave of forgeries and consequent reluctance of many in the larger cities to accept \$10 bills is a reminder of how completely our currency is now dependent upon confidence of the public. Gone are the days when one could exchange paper for gold. Only the certainty that others will unhesitatingly accept the bills in turn keeps the system going.

Canada's Industrial Peace

(Toronto Star) A marked decline in industrial strife has taken place in Canada since 1946, when strikes killed more man-hours and caused less production than in any year in our history.

Man-Workers working days lost
1946 130,474 4,516,263
1947 104,129 2,397,340
1948 42,820 885,793

Serious strikes have occurred this year in ocean shipping and in the steel industry. The overall trend of industrial strife is still downward. In the first four months of 1949, some 357,000 man-hours were lost through strikes and lockouts, 28,000 fewer than in the corresponding part of 1948.

The decrease in labor disputes has been accompanied by higher individual productivity. A Star report based on a survey of leading industrial concerns states: "Workers are turning out more product of better quality. Their output is better quality, there are fewer 'rejects' per man. Big reduction in labor turnovers means they are sticking longer to their jobs. And lateness and absenteeism have been cut away down."

Facts like these have led representatives of both management and labor to the belief that Canada is entering a comparatively peaceful era in industrial relations—subject to the all-important condition, "if times stay good."

What are the causes of this improvement in the industrial atmosphere? The Star report contains this significant passage: "One of the most encouraging factors revealed by the survey was the almost universal report that workers were taking more pride in their jobs, realizing the importance of their production roles."

"Some companies have embarked on the workers' aid in getting better and lower-priced products. One large electrical manufacturer had his sticking longer to his job. And lateness and absenteeism have been cut away down."

This is getting at a basic problem of modern life—the dehumanizing influence of mass production labor. If the worker can be given a sense of belonging, a sense of having real value apart from that represented by his weekly pay cheque, benefits will accrue not only to him and his employer but to the public at large. Employers should also be quick to reward

The Chewing Habit

NEWS ITEM - At dentist's convention in U.S., Dr. Mowry suggests tobacco rather than gum, if children must chew. EVERYBODY DOES IT--THE ESKIMO EXERCISES ON GLUBBER. WHILE THE MALASIAN GRINDS HAPPILY ON BETEL NUTS. NO COMPETITION--MANY YOUNG WOULD-BE TOBACCO ADDICTS WON'T SURVIVE BEYOND THE FIRST BITE.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

DIGGERS' DEPREDACTIONS

"Having hired two active Indians, with a canoe, I proceeded to complete the examination of Richmond Bay and its islands. The lands are elevated only a few feet above the water, and the extensive flats, shoals and beds of shells prevent close approach to the shore even by small boats. . . . Near Low Point is the site of an old French village and a large chapel which were abandoned at the eventful period in the history of these Provinces when the Acadians were expelled. It is now covered with a thick growth of fir and spruce. . . . At this point also the sea has advanced rapidly along the shore, and has intruded upon the ancient cemetery. A number of human bones were seen scattered along the base of a low cliff; and, in openings resembling ovens, were the graves of the deceased, skeletons of the old and young were seen protruding, the coffins being decayed, and the spaces occupied by them now open vaults containing the mortal remains of their inmates. . . . I collected all the bones I could find, and they are now in the hands of the Indians, who considered it a very unpleasant task, they were reinterred some distance from the shore. . . . This place has long been a favourite spot for money-diggers. If the persons who have dug large pits at Low Point, which are now being searched for the bones of their race in a situation of security, their labours would be more successful than those of the pirates of the sea. . . . Report of the geological survey of Prince Edward Island, by Abraham Gesner, F. G. S., Dec. 31, 1846.

The Times' Boner

(Judith Robinson in the Fort Erie Times-Review.) A thing that should not happen to the Toronto Star has happened to the London Times. Shame covers its editors, its make-up men are still shaking in their utility garments, Printing House Square is practically choked with dust and ashes. It is said that Lord Astor has not since been seen in any of his clubs. . . . It happened because of a recent discovery in the Kingdom of Jordan—the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Times made a feature story of the discovery, gave it a two-column head on the editorial page and a three-and-a-half inch flare beside the masthead on page one. Such prominence has habitually been reserved for landings in Normandy, German surrenders, and the fall of Governments and the birth of Prince Charles. It must have taken a lot of editorial conferences to decide the story was that worthy, but the decision was reached. The flare went up. In capital letters almost a quarter of an inch high it went up to the top right hand corner of Page One. EARLIEST BIBLE MANUSCRIPTS

The Age-Old Story

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench; He shall bring forth judgment unto truth. POWERFUL TROUBLES ROULEAU, Sask. — (CP) — Farmer Sam T. Jack waited a long time for electrification of his farm. He bought wiring and a refrigerator some time ago and waited until connections were finally made this summer. Two days later his new transformed pole was struck by lightning. That was fixed up. Now his refrigerator is warm again — another storm put the lights out of commission. HAD ENOUGH? CAPE TOWN — (CP) — Playing a cup fixture against Kenya, the George (Cape Province) second rugby team apparently got tired of it all. Ten minutes before the end of the game they just walked off the field. The score was then 24-3 against them. DARE DIDN'T WORK STOCKHOLM — (Reuters) — An automobile mechanic was arrested here on a charge of stealing a telephone from a Swedish hospital. He told police somebody bet him he couldn't do it. FIRST IN ELKWATER, Alta. — (CP) — The first United States tourists to travel over the new Wildhorse highway from Havre, Mont., arrived recently at this lake resort south of Medicine Hat.

Manoeuvres in The North

"Operation Cross-Index," an exercise in winter co-operation between Canadian and American air and ground forces, is to take place in the Yukon Territory next January and February. The joint Canadian-American war games will be on a comparatively small scale, each nation contributing a combat force consisting of paratroop, infantry, artillery and support elements. Air force units of both countries will provide for fighter cover, ground attack, bombardment, reconnaissance and transport for the exercise. Ground movement, including paratroop tactics, will be commanded by an American officer, and an RCAF officer will take charge of air commitments.

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The Poet's Corner

THE MOUNTAIN SINGER I am the mountain singer— The voice of the peasant's dream, The cry of the wind on the wooded hill, The leap of the fish in the stream. Quiet and love I sing— The carry on the mountain crest, The call in her lover's arms, The child at its mother's breast. Beauty and peace I sing— The fire on the mountain hearth, The call of the spinning at her wheel, The plough in the broken earth. Travail and pain I sing— The bride on the childing bed, The dark man laboring at his rhymes, The ewe in the lambing shed. Sorrow and death I sing— The canker come on the corn, The fisher lost in the mountain loch, The cry at the mouth of morn. No other life I sing, For I am sprung of the stock That broke the hilly land for bread, And built the nest in the rock! —Joseph Campbell.

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Notes By The Way

Down in Inverness, Montana, there is something new. Some local genius has devised a power stone-picker to go on the back of his tractor. Since the glaciers came down from the North and left the heaps of gravel to make the rolling hills of this part of Ontario, a power stone-picker will appeal to farmers in this district, too. Now the endless miles of stone fences can be seen with no obstruction. Millions of tons of stone went into them, moved there by manpower and straining horses. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

It should not become necessary to pass formal laws making it illegal for anyone to give or solicit a ride. Commonsense ought to govern the case and no doubt will. As for hitch-hiking, under present conditions there are few instances where it can be justified. No able-bodied person need lack the money to buy a train ticket or a bus ticket. Hitchhiking, therefore, comes nothing better than "chiselling", and aside from the danger it presents for the motorists, it should be discouraged on the ground that this kind of begging is reprehensible. — Brantfordpositor.

Big city hostesses who worry themselves into an early grave over entertaining half a dozen friends could learn something from the way these things are handled in the country. On a rural holiday recently, we were invited to an adjoining farm for the evening. Our host remarked casually that he had asked all the neighbors and possibly about fifty folding chairs from the stone school nearby and had arranged a few extension cords to light up the lawn. The local Farm Forum, he explained, would come prepared to put on a bit of program of moving pictures and games. But what about food? Oh, the ladies were looking after that. Each lady was expected to bring a couple of pies or the equivalent in sandwiches.

Meat, the traditional beverage of Northern Europe and particularly of England, will soon be available for North Americans. Four types are being made on a commercial scale in Cornwall, Southwest England, and 90 per cent is for export to dollar countries. An August day, saw ceremonies in Gullval, an ancient Cornish village, to celebrate the revival of the making of meat, Britain's oldest beverage, on a commercial scale after a lapse of 400 years. The revived paganities included heraldic trumpeters and a cup-bearing page in tabards, members of the Worshipful Company of Meadmakers in gowns, and local and civic dignitaries in procession. As wine is the generic name for most types of liquor made from grapes, so meat is the name for the whole range of liquors made from honey. — UK Information Office.

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