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Potato Tariff Issue

The tariff handicap on Canadian potato producers and shippers has been brought forcefully to the attention of Parliament by Mr. J. Angus MacLean, M.P., and will doubtless have the strong support of all our Maritime representatives.

This point has been raised by Mr. D. A. MacDonald, chairman of the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board, and in an article in The Guardian of January 8 last Mr. MacDonald dealt fully with the matter.

Originally "GATT" agreements were based on rates of duty existing April 1st, 1947, at which time the Canadian tariff admitted potatoes free of duty except for six weeks in the year, when a rate of 37 1/2 cents per cwt. was imposed on table potatoes.

In spite of this difference in tariffs, Canadian potato exports generally were in excess of imports from the United States until the year 1950, the premium on U. S. currency in this country helping to overcome the tariff disadvantage.

Another factor in the situation has been the development in recent years of motor transport, which has not only worked to our disadvantage in potato exports to the United States, but has placed U. S. growers in much closer proximity to the industrial centres of Quebec and Ontario which were traditionally supplied largely from the Maritimes.

Therefore, as Mr. MacLean has emphasized in his appeal to Parliament, it is of great importance that further reductions be obtained for our potato producers under the United States Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act through which the President has the power to make reductions of fifty per cent in the rates of duty existing in January 1, 1945.

The Price Of Peace

One thing which the Formosa crisis serves strongly to emphasize is that there can be no letdown in our plans for military preparedness in this country. The heavy continuing burden of defense must be shouldered. This means that non-essential spending at Ottawa must be kept to a minimum.

to get what they want with violent consistency. Up to the present the Communist expansion has concerned us, only insofar as it has involved nations and people for whom we have the deepest sympathy and most sincere admiration.

These words apply to Canada just as forcibly as they do to the United States, a fact which is the basis of our whole present defense policy. Cardinal Spellman recalled that fifteen years ago he had made a similar speech before a Legion convention, making the keynote of his remarks the declaration that "it is better to have protection and not need it than need protection and not have it."

Fittingly Honoured

Our former Mayors, Councillors and Water Commissioners were fittingly honoured at Monday night's Centennial Year function. It is regrettable that owing to illness Mr. Rogers and Mr. Foster, both former Chief Magistrates, were unable to be present, but the group was quite a large one and the tributes paid to their years of devoted service in the interests of our citizens were indeed well deserved.

The problems and responsibilities of civic government have grown with the years, but they have always made exacting demands on our representatives. We are an undemonstrative people for the most part, especially where words of praise are in order. On this occasion, however, there is no question but that the souvenir presentations Monday night, and the appreciative words accompanying them, represent a long overdue installment of public opinion and of thanks for work well and conscientiously done in the past.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Production of creamery butter in Ireland last year was the highest ever recorded. Output was about 786,000 cwt., an increase of 83,000 cwt. on 1953 and 127,000 on 1952.

Industry has many strange new gadgets these days; but, according to the National Geographic Society, water is still its "life-blood." For example, it takes 65,000 gallons of it to make one ton of finished steel.

Anyone interested in finding the whereabouts of trout and other game fish can now purchase a gadget that never fails to point to the right spot. It is a portable electronic machine that can be carried easily and operated on a standard 6-volt battery. There is only one little hitch to it: it costs about \$1400.

Candlemas. Also Ground-Hog Day, so called in the United States because of the tradition that if the ground-hog, or woodchuck, sees its shadow when it comes out of hibernation today, there will be six more weeks of winter; but if the day is cloudy, he remains above ground, confident of mild weather. Or as they say in Scotland: "If Candlemas be fair and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

In this country religious leaders are almost as well pleased as the farmers when they hear of an increase in the national consumption of beef. Not so in India where the cow is held in veneration by millions of faithful Hindus. Recently, orthodox Hindu leaders made a half-mile long procession through the streets of New Delhi and loudly protested the serving of beef in hotels and restaurants, made possible by a governmental regulation which permits limited slaughtering of the sacred animals. They shouted "Down with the beef-eaters!" Communists, who joined them just for the political fun of it, shouted "Down with the cow-killing capitalists!"

Farmers already have plenty of insect pests to bother them. However, barring a miracle, they will soon have another, a decidedly cantankerous one known as the Khapra Beetle. A native of India and China it made its appearance in Southern California a few months ago; since then it has travelled as far afield as New Mexico and Arizona. Resembling, but much smaller than, the common June bug, it likes to take up residence in stored grains and other products. So far no satisfactory weapon to use against it has been found, although large doses of methyl bromide have had some effect in a few isolated instances. American agricultural officials are taking so serious a view of the newcomer's rapid means of travel that they are considering a nation-wide quarantine against uncleaned goods from areas known to be infested.



SPORTSMEN SEEK TO GET FOOD TO PROVINCE'S STARVING HUN. PARTRIDGE... NEWS ITEM.

Living To Learn

PUBLIC FORUM

His column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

SUGGESTS FARMERS' UNION

Sir,—My attention is drawn to an advertisement in your paper about the formation of a new potato producers organization. "How come?" Are we going to scrap the old one? If there is something wrong with the old one, why not build it over and just have one organization? I think it was Abraham Lincoln who said, "Divided we fall, united we stand." Any organization to be successful has to have a large membership.

What we need is a Farmers' Union; then we could join up with Central and Western Canada. They are going up to Ottawa with a delegation every year, and demanding attention for potatoes is not our only marketing problem, though I'll admit it is our biggest one, and most annoying. I hope this will be a job for the Federation shortly, organizing a Farmers' Union.

I am, Sir, etc. ELDON DRUMMOND, Freeport, P. E. I.

A Real Barrier

(West German Information Office Bulletin)

In seventy minutes a motor car can cover the distance between Hamburg, the largest town in the German Federal Republic and Lubeck, its eastern-most city, Lubeck—from which today a 12-minute bus ride takes you to the zone under the death ray.

The bus returns to Lubeck and you continue eastward on foot, past a few more houses and gardens and a rusty, unused railway track. You are on a road that for centuries has been the highway to Berlin. Now its pavement is interspersed with weeds and east of the West German barrier pole it has been obstructed with barbed wire and chevaux-de-frise by the Russian soldiers and the Soviet-zone People's Police. But not enough—beyond this barricade the road has been torn up and made impassable by a trench. To the left and the right, across the German land, the barbed-wire entanglement stretches on as far as the eye can reach. Along it runs the "Pleek-Belt", so called after the minister-president of the East zone. From this strip of land, several metres wide, every bit of vegetation has been carefully removed, and the ground is harrowed almost daily under police supervision in order to discover the footprints of West-bound refugees who may have crossed the border under cover of night. This demarcation line also called the "death belt" stretches without interruption from the Baltic sea to the Bavarian forest. In daylight no one could pass through it without being seen by the guards on their beats or from the watchtowers equipped with machine-guns.

Where the road is obstructed a large sign proclaims, "German Democratic Republic." This is where the Soviet realm of influence begins—less than a 15-minute ride from the centre of Lubeck with 220,000 inhabitants, 90,000 of them refugees. This side of the barbed wire there are children at play and strollers look across it toward the East, where Germans, Poles, Czechs and many other peoples live in bondage. On the other side of the barrier there is nothing but silence; no movement except a rabbit hopping over the fallow land.

The Age Old Story

For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Through thy prophets I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

UNIQUE BODY

Saturn is a unique planet because of its encircling rings, consisting of a vast swarm of small individual particles.

GREAT ISLAND

New Guinea, large island north of Australia, stretches 1,500 miles from end to end.

Panama Contrasts

National Geographic News Bulletin

Panama, shaken recently by the assassination of its President, is a land of variety and contrast. Called the bridge of the world, the Republic of Panama straddles the narrow S-shaped isthmus that connects North and Central America with South America. But the 10-mile-wide Panama Canal Zone divides the republic itself into two parts.

The 29,140-square-mile country is culturally Latin. Spanish is the official language. Architecture, dress and customs bear colorful witness to the nation's Hispanic past. The National Geographic Society says.

The Panama Canal Zone covers a 552-square-mile strip under perpetual lease to the United States. It is North American in character. The United States Government acts as employer, landlord, doctor, butcher, baker, hotel-keeper, recreational director and laundryman.

FIRST SPANISH COLONY

Panama stands as the youngest American republic—some of its territory is unexplored. Yet it was the site of the first Spanish colony on the mainland of the New World.

In 1502, Columbus explored the Caribbean coast of Panama and established a colony at Portobelo. Other settlements were set up. Spain maintained jurisdiction until 1821, when Panama became a part of the independent Gran Colombia federation. The little nation did not gain full independence until 1903.

Today, more than one-third of Panama's 874,000 citizens live in two modern metropolises—Panama City, the bustling capital on the Pacific coast, and Colon on the Atlantic side. In the interior, however, primitive tribes exist as they did before the gold-seeking conquerors came four and one-half centuries ago.

The face of the nation presents the same vivid contrasts. Westward from the urbanized Atlantic entrance of the Canal—a great in-

Splendid Debate

(Ottawa Journal)

The debate in the Commons on German rearmament was in The Journal's view the best debate the House has put on in many a long year.

Too many debates in the Commons are not debates at all, but merely a succession of speeches with little relevancy to what has gone before. This past week relevancy was a triumphant, over-rhetoric, with men asking searching questions and others answering honestly and with first rate ability.

This is what the House of Commons should be; what all of us should want it to be. The good speech and honesty was not with the majority. The majority may have had more knowledge, more logic, more awareness of reality; it had not more integrity, more courage, more command of moving words. Mr. Pearson in his brilliant closing effort showed understanding of this; no word of superiority or mean censure crossed his lips. Let none cross the lips of the rest of us. The men who could not see their way to speak for the German rearmament were not engaged in a popularity contest; many of them must have been revolted by the idea of having to walk in this German business, with the Communists.

Yet it was not the part of these men to just court popularity. John Bright was not popular when he opposed the Crimean War; Lloyd George was almost mobbed when he opposed the Boer War; and Churchill did not endear himself to Joseph Chamberlain and fellow Tories when he told the House that if he were a Boer he would be fighting for the Transvaal.

Medically Speaking

Herman N. Sundesen, M.D. LONG CONVALESCENCE FOR VIRUS PNEUMONIA

VIRUS pneumonia is one of your greatest enemies this time of year. Like the common cold which usually precedes it, virus pneumonia is not often fatal. But it can keep you pretty run down and tired for several weeks or even months.

It develops during the course of a simple cold. Quite frequently many of you ignore such cold symptoms as a mildly sore throat and nasal congestion.

You don't consider them serious enough to put you into bed until you have recovered. In about four or five days you will notice a severe headache, become chilly and develop a fever varying somewhere between 100 and 103 degrees.

Other Symptoms You will probably lose your appetite and in a few days more you will develop a dry, hacking cough. Often the cough is worse at night than during the day. This not only interrupts your sleep, but it will make your head ache even worse.

For several days, the cough will remain light and dry. Eventually though, you will cough up thin, watery sputum which may be streaked with blood.

By this time the doctor can be pretty sure you've got virus pneumonia. Now don't become unduly worried. As a rule, in about ten to 14 days it will run its course and you'll begin to get better.

But, as I said, it probably will be several weeks before you have recovered completely. You will be very tired, have little energy and little appetite for some time.

There isn't much we doctors can do to cure you, once you've come down with this disease which differs in pattern from other types of pneumonia.

We know at least 17 different viruses, all of such minute size that they are difficult to identify which may cause virus pneumonia. We can identify these viruses. But by the time we do, you are usually on your way to recovery anyway.

No Vaccines

As yet, we have no vaccines which can prevent this disease. Don't, however, get the idea that there is no need to call your doctor if you begin to develop symptoms of virus pneumonia. You should summon him at once.

He can probably ease your cough and headache and, even more important, he can, if necessary, give you antibiotics to prevent your developing more serious diseases.

There is a simple method you can use to prevent all this discomfort. If you've got a cold, go to bed and stay there until you have recovered. You must get all the rest you can. This is the same old advice I've been trying to put across to you for years.

And it's still the best advice I can give you. Heed it, won't you?

QUESTION AND ANSWER

L. M.: About once a week my husband wakes up at night with a dry cough. This cough lasts about five minutes. He is cutting down on cigarettes. What causes the cough?

Answer: The condition you describe may be due to excessive smoking, or a condition which has been called "smoker's asthma." However, it would be advisable for him to have a careful examination made to determine whether or not there is some other condition responsible for the cough, such as an infection of the nose or throat.

Swim For A Duck

(Manchester Guardian)

As we were sitting recently on the Ile St. Louis, the second and prettier island in Paris, our attention was diverted by a sight peculiar even for that strange and beautiful city.

An odd figure appeared at the water's edge. The newcomer, round, in typical French beret, was carrying under his arm a duck. The Frenchman bent over the river, with infinite care deposited the duck there and, quietly leaning back on his heels, watched his duck swimming out to the main currents.

From the man's hand to the duck's neck ran a loose lead. The duck had come down for an afternoon swim as normally as you would expect to see the dog taken round the block for its walk.

Then, after half an hour, the Frenchman tugged firmly at the duck's lead. He waited patiently for the obedient return to land, motioned the duck to wag its tail dry, then picked it up and—wrapping it carefully in a cape—put it back under his arm and returned across the bridge.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

There is no precedent in modern history for the manner in which the Communists treat prisoners. Times after time, Russian delegates to the United Nations have declared it is a slander to suggest that Russia is still holding Second World War prisoners. Time after time they have "found" Germans or Japanese in their slave camps for release at carefully-timed intervals. These men have been in prison for 10 and more years. The Chinese Communists are behaving in exactly the same manner. —Montreal Gazette.

A professor of Britain's Birmingham University, has stated that work is good for a person while rest may harm the blood vessels, kidneys, muscles and appetite. This view has been unpopular ever since Shakespeare's King Lear said: "The foster-nurse of nature is repose." Rest, has, since then, been sought after and lauded, work deplored and avoided despite the urgings of the poet who wrote that: "Too much work itself becomes a pain," and of the sage who decried the "Of all the things that man should dread, the first and worst is bed." Late to bed and early to rise seems to be the modern motto. —Toronto Telegram.

At first sight there would seem to be no reason (writes "M.") why the Japanese Bible Society of Tokyo should be gladdened—as it doubtless is—by the granting of a monthly ration of about six cigarettes to its nation's smokers. Not long ago, however, one of its officials, questioned about an unusually rapid spread of Christianity, explained the matter: "Now we have discovered that the quality of paper used in the 3,500,000 Bibles we have imported is admirable for cigarette rolling." Some of these were selling for more than six times the society's charge for them, in consequence of the high cost of the 25- to 100 low-quality cigarette papers. —Manchester Guardian.

"Well cared for dogs," said Dr. Anton C. C. Campbell, a veterinarian in charge of the animals used for experimentation, has as many as 600 dogs in his care at a time. They probably eat more than half a million pills in Chicago," in his opinion. Another interesting fact is that a well-balanced diet (for a dog), costs an average of 13 cents a day. Dr. Carlson pointed out that dog-lovers take an intelligent interest in what's good for their pets. They are careful not to feed their pets "cookies, cake and the like."

"Then," he says, "they eat the stuff themselves." The solution seems obvious enough for people who have dogs: join Rover under the table at mealtimes. But how about apartment-dwellers, who are busy with their own work and have an admittance on all occasions. The university over which she presides started life six years ago as a collection of wooden huts. Today it is a campus of modern white buildings attractively set against the blue of the Caribbean sky. Though a few students come from as far afield as Canada, most come from all over the Caribbean, many to study medicine at the excellent training hospital. —London Observer.

Over-coddling of an elderly person is not always good for him or her. It can also be hard on the family, if they live together. Most old people would like to make their own decisions and to set around by themselves, becoming joyful small responsibilities, if they are normally healthy. With the best intentions, loving relatives may be mistakenly giving the older person an impression that he or she is past an impression of the world. —Gilbert Plains Maple Leaf.

Princess Alice has already arrived in Jamaica to prepare for the arrival of Princess Margaret. There could not be a better person for this role. She goes to Jamaica about once a year in her role as Chancellor of the new University College of the West Indies, and the Jamaicans look upon her almost as one of them, selves. Unlike those chancellors who are only honored figure-heads, Princess Alice presides over meetings on policy, and takes a hand in making the People who have worked with her on boards and committees in this country say that the most practical advice issues from this active little lady, whose regal bearing and elegant dress also make her an adornment on all occasions. The university over which she presides started life six years ago as a collection of wooden huts. Today it is a campus of modern white buildings attractively set against the blue of the Caribbean sky. Though a few students come from as far afield as Canada, most come from all over the Caribbean, many to study medicine at the excellent training hospital. —London Observer.

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