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A Great Opportunity

There has been little discussion in Parliament about the movement toward a Free World Common Market, and none at all to indicate that Canada is giving leadership in this matter.

At Oslo recently, 18 cabinet ministers from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland met to revise plans for the Nordic Common Market. This resulted from an agitation among Danish farmers who wanted to join the already established six-nation European Common Market.

In the meantime, Britain has effected a trade agreement with East Germany; the West Indies Federation is committed to a customs union between its widely separated components, and Continental Latin America is moving in the same direction.

When the National Policy was established in 1878 under Sir John A. Macdonald for the protection of secondary home industries, these industries were in an infant state and there was justification for the encouragement given them.

A bull recently slaughtered in Burlington, Vermont, is entitled to posthumous distinction. In its stomach were found half an inner tube, 2 plastic bags, a rubber doll, a toy wrist watch, a fishing spinner, 5 clothespins, 6 can lids, a stack of bobby pins, 24 bottle caps, 2 earrings, 2 needles, several cartridge casings, 2 rubber heels, a key chain, a pop bottle, safety pins, a gold watch band, 16 nails and a set of dental bridge-work.

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Should President Nasser of Egypt close down the Suez canal in another fit of anger or pique, he would not cause the same threat to Europe's oil supply as he did in 1956. Pre-Suez tankers were mostly in the 20,000 to 30,000 ton range.

One of the earliest organizations in Charlottetown was the Benevolent Irish Society, which has been going strong ever since and which has continued the time-honored custom of parading on St. Patrick's Day.

The Universe Apollo is too big to pass through either the Suez or Panama canal. It is 984 feet long, 135 feet wide and 67 feet deep.

Canals will always be useful, of course; but the days when they constituted the lifeline of a nation so far as oil supply is concerned have passed. More and more dependence is being placed on floating behemoths, which find adequate docking facilities at only a few world ports—safely removed from dependence on petty dictators.

No Cause For Joy

Under the above heading, the Financial Post, Toronto, says: "Hundreds of thousands of Ontario children have no cause whatever for joy over the Ontario government move which, in effect, halts further fluoridation of municipal water supplies."

"As a result the youngsters are doomed to a lot of tooth trouble they need not have."

"The overwhelming body of reputable opinion in medical and dental circles favors fluoridation."

"It is opposed mainly by an extremely noisy group of laymen, who, to be logical, should be equally vociferous in their opposition to chlorination of water, vaccination against smallpox, and to the manufacturing processes imposed by wisdom and the pure food laws on nearly all food packagers."

"Ontario's minister of health was on TV trying to defend his stand. He talked about 'pure and wholesome' water. What he should know is that 'pure' water is distilled water and it's extremely unpleasant to the taste. No community would tolerate it. To make pure water 'wholesome,' salts would have to be added."

We quite agree with the Post's attitude, which reflects informed opinion generally. There is one other point of importance in the fluoridation issue. Not only does inaction by authorities "doom the youngsters to a lot of tooth trouble they need not have," but it is those whose parents are least able to afford costly dental treatment for their children that are being penalized the most.

The United States may produce more guns, planes and bombs than the United Kingdom does. But it certainly does not produce as many literary works. Last year, according to "Publishers Weekly", 16,172 new titles were brought out in the United Kingdom. On a comparable basis the United States should have produced more than 50,000. Actually, it produced only 10,000.

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A SPEAKER THE OTHER DAY SAID CANADIANS SHOULD SPEND LESS TIME ON COMIC PAGES AND MORE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS. SO THAT INFLATION CAN BE CONQUERED. MAYBE THE NEWSPAPERS SHOULD RUN COMIC STRIPS ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE.



NO LAUGHING MATTER

OTTAWA REPORT

Ministerial Helpers

By Patrick Nicholson
We will soon see a "baker's dozen" or more of promising back-bench Conservative M.P.s appointed to serve as Parliamentary Secretaries to Cabinet Ministers.

ary of \$10,000 is Grey Hamilton, the ex-newspaperman who has been appointed to serve as "Special Assistant to the Minister of Finance." Cynics say that his task is to "humanize" Hon. Don Fleming, but practically-minded observers wonder how on earth this new and unique post ever won approval from the watchdogs on the Treasury Board.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

DANGEROUS CONDITION

Sir—I would like to draw the attention of the City Engineer, the Street Committee or whoever is in authority to the disgraceful, dangerous icy condition of the walk on the Old Jail Square leading to the Charlottetown Hospital.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE

Sir—I wish to write a few lines in connection with the hospital insurance plan. I don't understand the poor class of people, that they don't have more to say about it.

Macmillan At Bonn

By Ken Metherall
German spokesman said the two leaders had agreed the West should seek Russian approval to a thinning out of military strength in a "sufficiently large area," controlled and inspected, as a first phase toward general disarmament.

May Be Eased In Many Ways

SOMEDAY we may be able to replace body parts to solve an age-old problem—varicose veins. When cup-like valves which help push the blood through the main veins become weak or break down, varicose veins result. Even now medical research centers are studying possible methods of replacing these valves with man-made substitutes as an answer.

Wearing elastic stockings is often advisable. But just buying any pair of elastic stockings won't do, in many cases. Generally, a proper fit is extremely important.

REDUCE WEIGHT
If you are overweight, your doctor in all probability, will suggest that you reduce.

ELEVATE LEGS
When you sleep, keep your legs elevated. Placing a 12-inch block under the foot of the mattress is better than using pillows.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
Mrs. J. M.: I am very nervous and shy in front of crowds of people. Could you tell me if pregnancy would relax me or make me worse?

Cuba's Violent History

National Geographic Society
Like a huge green crocodile, the Republic of Cuba laces in the Caribbean less than 100 miles from the Florida Keys.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The legend that Westerners are strong silent types who rarely use two words when one will do has been exploded.

"Our youth now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise."

OUR YESTERDAYS

THE AGE OLD STORY
For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

The Poets Corner

THE OPOSSUM
It lay on its side across the garden path, I saw it, and stopped short.

TEN YEARS AGO

For the second time in less than three weeks Prince Edward Islanders yesterday were digging themselves out of huge snowdrifts as a nor'easter roaring in from the Atlantic struck with fury early yesterday morning.

MAXIMS

Revenge is always the weak pleasure of a little and narrow mind.

HELP BOWELS

Spastic Colitis (functional spasm of the colon or large intestine), is causing thousands to suffer from dull aches or burning pains in the side. Gas, heartburn, flatulence, nervousness, bad breath, dizziness, burning of stomach, loss of sleep and pep. If you suffer from Spastic Colitis, ordinary stomach medicine won't help much.

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