

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink

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Capital Punishment

When Parliament gets round to voting on the subject of capital punishment, the prospects are dim for the passage of a bill doing away with the death penalty altogether, and slim enough for legislating restricting it to a few special types of murder.

For last-minute missionary work among MPs the Canadian Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty has set up an office in Ottawa. But it is doubtful if such belated activity will have much effect on the pending vote.

This is unfortunate, for the society has good arguments to advance. Statistics show clearly that capital punishment has no special deterrent effect, such as its advocates claim.

The Star survey shows that the only way the abolitionists are likely to gain at Ottawa is if they compromise—at least to the point of retaining the death penalty for those who murder jail guards and peace officers.

Several private members' bills on abolition have already been tabled. One of them, or a combination, is expected to be the vehicle for a debate and vote free of party lines.

Spain is not a member of NATO and is waging a growing campaign to get Gibraltar back from the British. That is one row in which Washington, we may expect, will want to have as little to do as possible.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"This government has become like a ship without a rudder. It is like a great ship wallowing in heavy seas with no one at the wheel. It reminds one of the old saying: 'Captain, art thou sleeping down below?'"

Pest Control Problems

Under way at Washington is a four-day public symposium dealing with a matter of vital concern on both sides of the boundary line. Sponsored by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences together with the National Research Council, its theme is "Scientific Aspects of Pest Control."

A quarter of a century of research and development in pest control has indeed produced a complex and even conflicting body of technical data. Pesticides, and pest control methods, it now is widely realized, must be studied and understood in relationship to a nation's total environment.

On figures for the period 1951 through 1960, says the U.S. Agricultural Research Service, annual loss to crops, forest trees, livestock, poultry, and other products totalled over \$14,272 million. But that is not all. There were additional annual losses during storage, marketing, and processing of over \$2,279 million, making a rough annual bill due to "pests" of all kinds of \$16,550 million.

We haven't seen any comparable figures for Canada; but here, too, the losses must be very considerable. If the experts can come up with any way of dealing with the problem it will be of prime importance to all of us.

U.S. Bases In Spain

A bomber-tanker collision caused four unarmed U.S. nuclear devices to fall on Spain's southern shore near Almeria last month. One of them has not been recovered. Air-safety experts from the United States have flown to the Spanish coast to join in the search.

It is felt at Washington, however, that the blow is not as hard to take as it might be, for the value of the three Strategic Air Bases in Spain have been withering away for some time. America's interest there for defense purposes now centres on the large naval base at Rota which also is a base for Polaris-carrying submarines.

It's been a pretty good bargain from Franco's point of view. The United States complex in Spain was built at a cost of \$470 million. In exchange for the right to build and use these facilities, Washington has provided Spain with economic aid and modern arms and equipment.

Canadian authorities faced with an acute shortage of hospital beds might improve their popularity with the public if they followed the lead set by the city council of Stockholm, Sweden.

Last week President de Gaulle issued a communique accusing the United States of compromising the cause of peace in Vietnam by resuming the bombing attacks. That would make good Communist propaganda if it wasn't for the fact that on the same day Peking accused the Soviet Union of collaborating with the United States to push the idea of negotiating an end to the Vietnam war.

The Canadian Forces "Sentinel" magazine reports a clever U.S. device for producing water from hot desert sands with a sheet of clear plastic and a tin can. The can is placed at the bottom of a hole in the sand.



WASHINGTON AIRPORT

EVER-CHANGING TEXTBOOKS

The "Impossible" Of Science

National Geographic Society

The "impossible" is always happening in science, and textbooks must be rewritten. For years astronomy students were taught that Mercury always keeps the same side facing the sun.

In the 18th-century France, farmers who brought occasional meteorites to the French Academy were dismissed as cranks. When two Connecticut scholars reported a fall of stones from the sky in this country, even Thomas Jefferson, who was distinguished in science as well as statecraft, said skeptically that he would rather believe professors would lie than that stones would fall from heaven.

Bells Aringing

Ottawa Journal

Perhaps you will hear them one day this month. Hear the faint, sweet tones of the farm bells echoing down the corridors of time.

The old days of farm bells is an era that is gone. Bells have joined buffalo robes, fringed-top surreys and kerosene lamps. But many a man now working in a city office can remember the music of the farm bells of yesterday.

New Angle In Hospitals

Sherbrooke Daily Record

Canadian authorities faced with an acute shortage of hospital beds might improve their popularity with the public if they followed the lead set by the city council of Stockholm, Sweden.

The idea is to send chronic patients, particularly those suffering from respiratory ailments, to Italy where the warmer climate may speed their recovery.

Talk About It

Toronto Telegram

For some reason or other Samuel Clemens has been honored for one of his most undistinguished remarks: "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it."

It is difficult to think of a more fatuous remark and yet it will probably be remembered longer than any other of his sentences.

Of course, everybody talks about the weather—especially in this miserable winter of our discontent—and little can be done about it. However, surely we are allowed the relief of complaint when our automobile motors seize, when our cars freeze and when our paths are clogged with snow.

Heart Scare Syndrome

By Dr. Theodore R. Xan Dellen

Several years ago I saw a middle-aged man who seldom worked because he developed shortness of breath, palpitation, and chest pain whenever he exerted himself or became nervous.

In addition, he never had a cause for heart trouble such as rheumatic fever or coronary thrombosis. He had been in many hospitals and clinics and we wrote asking them for their opinions.

"No heart disease found" or "nervous heart trouble" were the usual replies. Comparison of our electrocardiograms with those taken 20 years ago were the same. The size and shape of his heart also were identical.

This is an example of how iatrogenic heart disease is brought on by the physician's mannerism, prolonged listening with the stethoscope, and facial expression. The doctor could have done this to a hundred others without producing this effect.

Iatrogenicity refers to disorders induced by physicians by auto-suggestion based on his examination, manner, or discussion. Other causes include misinterpretation of the electrocardiogram and laboratory tests, or what the doctor says.

Iatrogenicity is not confined to the heart. Phobias involving the stomach, mind, and other organs are similarly produced.

REPLY

Not if the pad is turned on low so that there is no danger of being burned. Also, be careful that the hot water bag does not leak.

ARCH EXERCISE

R. P. writes: Are exercises of value in flat feet in an adult?

REPLY

Yes, because they strengthen the weakened parts.

AGE AND DONATING BLOOD

Mrs. T. writes: Can a 58-year-old man give blood?

REPLY

Yes, provided he is not anemic or suffering from heart trouble or extensive hardening of the arteries.

EGGS O.K.

Mrs. N.R. writes: Can a person whose gall bladder has been removed eat eggs?

REPLY

Yes. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—A vacation is important to your health.

From Caviar To Catfish

Christian Science Monitor

Now even the gourmet has cause for alarm. The world's supply of caviar hangs in the balance. Pollution of the Volga River has apparently caused the killing of thousands of caviar-rich beluga sturgeon.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO

(February 7, 1941)

The fall of Bengasi, an event which knocked Italy out of East Libya, came so swiftly as to suggest complete disintegration of the Fascist army in North Africa.

TEN YEARS AGO

(February 7, 1956)

In his report to the Dominion Provincial Agricultural Conference Mr. S.C. Wright, Deputy Minister of Agriculture noted that the services of Mr. E. S. MacGougan, a graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, had been secured as Poultry Fieldman.

DID NOT KNOW VALUE

Early Spanish explorers found platinum in American gold mines and threw it away to "ripes" into gold.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A non-fan of hockey says the reason they haven't invented an unbreakable hockey stick is that it would be too hard on the players' heads.—Ottawa Journal.

Overheard: One gal to another. "Gosh, your hair looks so natural I thought it was a wig."—Plymouth Review.

A traffic expert recently said that if all the cars in the nation were placed end to end, some fool would still pull out to pass them.—Cooper County Record.

Rapid reading is an accomplishment if it does not include rapid forgetting.—St. Catharines Standard.

When you get something for a song, watch out for the accompaniment.—Windsor Star.

There is always something to be thankful for. If you can't pay your bills, be thankful you are not one of your creditors.—Galt Reporter.

The old man sighed as he took the golden haired boy upon his knee and stroking his shining tresses, said: "How I should like to feel like a child again." Little Johnnie ceased his laughter, and looking soberly up into his grandfather's face, remarked: "Then why don't you get mama to spank you?"—Montreal Star.

Thirty or forty persons witnessed a hit-and-run incident at a Toronto corner. It is strange that not one of them noted the licence number on the car that sped away after knocking down a woman pedestrian. Probably most of them ran to crowd around the unfortunate woman.—Fort William Times-Journal.

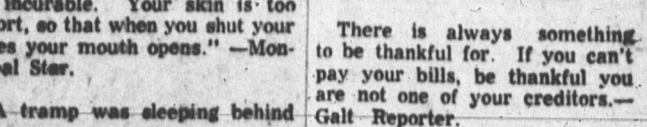
A tramp was sleeping behind the bunker of a golf course, when the club secretary, prowling around, kicked him none too gently and ordered him to clear out. "And who are you?" demanded the tramp. "I'm secretary of the club," said the official. "Well, replied the tramp, "that's no way to get new members."—Vancouver Sun.

Aroused in the early morning by the din of garbage collectors at work, the lady of the house remembered she had forgotten to put out the garbage the night before.

With her hair put up in curls and her face laden with various creams and lotions, she leaned out the window and sleepily called to the men below: "Am I too late for the garbage?" "No madam," replied the collector. "Hop right in."—Montreal Star.

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