

# The Guardian

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"The strongest memory is weaker than  
the weakest ink."  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1955

gerent nations have found it convenient to have at least one little isolated haven where diplomatic contacts might be affected between the opposing sides. There is no compelling reason why Switzerland should have to fill that role; but the combination of small military value and traditional bias towards neutrality have made it eminently suitable for it. At any rate, the last report from the Swiss is that they are doing very well as they are and have no desire to win friends and influence people in the spacious corridors of the U. N.

## An Extra Slice

After doing a little simple arithmetic, an American economist connected with the Department of Agriculture has come up with a pleasant bit of information: if every adult American would start the practice of eating an extra slice of bread a day and keep it up for six months or so, the huge wheat surplus, which has been troubling the nation's economy for some time, would disappear. After that, the extra slice a day habit would prevent wheat accumulation, or at least keep it from getting out of control. The economist, who deserves a medal if anyone ever did, pleads for "the return of man's basic food to the place of preeminence on the eating tables of America."

If the suggested remedy is good for the agricultural hills of the United States, it would probably work in this country, too. Certainly, it is an easy and cheap way to solve a vexing problem, and, withal, a healthful way; for what better food is there than good wholesome bread? And, if an extra slice of bread can do away with the wheat surplus, why not an extra potato to do away with another surplus and an extra apple to do away with still another? So it could go on, to the betterment of the public health and to the solving of many problems.

It is all so simple that it is a wonder somebody had not thought of it before. But that is an old story, isn't it? In searching for solutions far afield, we tend to ignore those near at hand.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

In his memoirs a parliamentarian says, "One of the penalties for my being in public life was that frequently I was obliged to look over a letter from a jackass". Unfortunately, he does not say whether the letters were his own, which he had to look over before signing, or some that came from his constituents.

The sudden death of City Councillor George Keefe has come as a shock to his many friends, both in Charlottetown and throughout the country, where he was well and favorably known. Although ill health prevented him from regular attendance at Council meetings in recent months, Mr. Keefe retained a keen interest in civic affairs and was conscientious in all his duties. The Guardian extends sympathy to the bereaved widow and family.

## The Swiss Position

The one nation that has expressed no desire to become a member of the United Nations is Switzerland; and, oddly enough, no single nation in the world has more intimate connection with the present organization or its ill-fated predecessor, the League of Nations. The old organization had its headquarters in Geneva, and the present one maintains a year-round office in the same city; this is because of the many international meetings that take place there.

The Swiss reluctance to join the U. N. is not due to any lack of interest in its affairs. Indeed, they are actively engaged in and provide their full financial quota to many of the agencies which carry out U. N. commitments, such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and the International Labor Organization. But, the most powerful weapon the Swiss have is traditional neutrality, which in the two world wars was respected by both sides. Membership in the U. N. involves an obligation to go to the aid of any victim of aggression when, in the opinion of the majority, such action is advisable. This, of course, would seriously interfere with the Swiss tradition, and they are afraid to take a chance on it.

Various explanations have been suggested for the ability of the Swiss to safeguard their neutrality, while other people just as pacific in their way of life and just as anxious to stay out of disputes have been drawn into the vortex of war. Perhaps the most plausible is that belli-



### GREGORIAN METHOD

1956 JANUARY 1956

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Six years to wait again before we can get a WORLD CALENDAR!

## RING IN THE OLD

### OTTAWA REPORT

#### Marshall's Birthday Celebrated

A significant birthday was celebrated on the last day of 1955 in the United States. The occasion was marked by generous but well-deserved tributes from Canada, Britain, France and the eleven other nations of the North Atlantic community, as well as from the United States.

This was the seventy-fifth birthday of George Marshall, five star General of the Army, former Secretary of Defence, and former Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. While he served in the latter high cabinet post, he created the famous economic assistance program which bears his name. General Marshall gave his all unflinchingly not only to his own country but to the free world, throughout his long and distinguished career. As soldier and as statesman, he filled the highest posts, with ability, imagination and distinction.

History will recognize a significant example set by him, which his contemporaries as yet overlook. General Marshall's imaginative, generous and brotherly statesmanship not only gave birth to the Marshall Plan; it also sowed the germ of the idea which led to the creation of similar aid programs. One such was his own country's Point Four program for economic aid to underdeveloped countries. A better known example is our Commonwealth program named the Colombo Plan.

### ALLY OF ATLANTIC UNITY

A year ago, a number of Canadians played a prominent role in composing, endorsing and presenting the Declaration of Atlantic Unity. One of the first signatories endorsing this significant international document was General Marshall. He was quick to grasp the importance of the constructive thinking in the Declaration.

"All probably agree to the vital importance of North Atlantic Unity," he commented. "But too few act. This Declaration today is all important, and the period is fateful."

It is eloquent that in the autumn of his great career, General Marshall's closest interest in international affairs is represented by his election to the council of the Atlantic Union Committee. About 100 leaders of the 15 NATO nations, representing varied occupations and differing political persuasions, joined to congratulate General Marshall. They sent him birthday greetings, and also their appreciation for his great work for the free world.

From Canada, those included the leaders of all political parties except the Liberals; Senator Wishart Robertson, president of the Assembly for NATO Parliamentarians; Hon. Paul Martin, leader of our delegation to the United Nations; and Mr. Roy Thomson, chairman of the 8-nation delegation which presented the Declaration of Atlantic Unity.

### CLAIMS FIRST TRIPLETS

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Three girls arrived in Divine Providence Hospital a couple of hours after the new year, and their parents immediately claimed them to be the first triplets of 1956. James Blazier, 26, and his wife, Rose Marie, 24, said they were told a month ago to expect a multiple birth.

### STROMBOLI ERUPTS

STROMBOLI, Italy (AP) — This bleak island's volcano erupted Sunday night in a thrilling four-day eruption. There was no damage.

### GREGORY PECK WEDS

LOMPOC, Calif. (AP) — Gregory Peck, 29-year-old actor, and French magazine writer Veronique Passani, 22, were married Saturday night at the ranch home of a friend. After a three-day honeymoon at an undisclosed place, Peck returns to Hollywood to resume work Wednesday in a movie. Peck met the pretty, green-eyed Parisienne journalist while making the movie "Moty Dick" in Europe.

## The Poet's Corner

### WINTER MOON

On winter nights in tangling tangle Of leafless branches, loath to set her free. The moon rides gently upward and at last Flides the fingers that would hold her fast. Then, smiling downward from her path in space, Decks the adoring boughs in jewelled lace. Whoever calls her haughty and aloof Does so unjustly. On the cottage roof And on the battlemented castle walls, Impartially, her quiet radiance falls. But when at last she gazes on the sea, Her heart discards impartiality— The glory of her love like an embrace Kindling a glory on the ocean's face. Kindling to wild pursuit the impassioned tide. Eternal quest, eternally denied.

—Inez Barclay Kirby.

## France's Electoral System

By Harold King, Reuters Service, Paris

France has a complicated system of electing her representatives to the National Assembly, the sovereign political body against whose wishes neither governments nor the Council of the Republic, the Upper Chamber of Parliament, can prevail.

The system not only mixes up majority voting and proportional representation in a most successful candidate, but it also introduces a system of inter-party alliances. The system was invented in 1951 to deprive the Gaullist movement of a decisive victory at the polls, and in this it succeeded.

It is further complicated by being different for the Paris region. There, election is based on proportional representation and alliances are not allowed. The present voting system which will be used at the general election Jan. 2 has the following main characteristics:

1. The electors vote for lists of candidates and not for one man. Each list contains as many names as there are seats in the constituency. The number of seats is roughly in proportion to the number of voters. Thus, Belfort, in eastern France, with 52,000 voters, has two deputies. The second constituency of Paris, with 530,000 voters, has 11 deputies.
2. The number of lists competing.
3. If any one list can get an absolute majority of the votes, all its candidates are elected that is to say, all the seats go to the same party. A single party list getting an absolute majority hardly ever happens. There was only one case in 1951 and this was a mixed list, including candidates from different parties.
4. It is much more common for none of the lists to get an absolute majority. In that case, proportional representation is the system used to determine the allocation of seats. But here again the rules of calculation are extremely subtle and complicated.
5. The system of alliances en bloc.

### NO OFFENCE

TRURO, N.S. (CP) — Two farmers charged with illegally hunting with lights were acquitted under a game law section which allows them to do so on their own property if the game is damaging crops.

### MUTUAL EFFORT

FREDERICTON (CP) — Municipal affairs minister Parlee announced an agreement with the state of Maine, under which Maine and New Brunswick agree to keep each other fully informed on civil defence resources.

## Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sandesen, M. D.

### SOME HELPFUL HINTS FOR "SHOPPERS FEET"

Now that your Christmas shopping is over, you might well start thinking about the calluses it may have left.

Many of you won't have to worry, however. Like corns, calluses usually are caused by long and continued pressure or friction. Also, like soft corns, they tend to disappear once the cause is removed. But some are more stubborn and therefore need specific treatment.

### FOR LONG PERIODS

If your feet remain callused for any length of time, even after you have stopped standing or walking for long periods and have replaced any tight-fitting shoes, you had better consult an orthopedic surgeon. He probably will advise irradiation as one of the quickest and best methods of getting rid of the calluses.

Before treatment, the callus should be trimmed as thin as possible. The thickened skin acts as a filter and a considerable portion of the dosage can be absorbed by the callus.

Unless treated, repeated irritation might cause mild inflammation of the callused area.

If you've had calluses you must guard against their return. Proper care of your feet, including frequent bathing, careful drying and powdering are essential.

And if it is at all possible, I advocate changing your shoes and stockings at least once and better still two or three times a day. If you have weak or deformed feet or have to stand a good deal, you will find this especially helpful.

I know many of you won't be able to follow all of these suggestions, but you can at least do the next best thing. When you get home from a busy day, take off your shoes, change your socks and don your well-fitting slippers. Not only will this help your feet, it will also help relax your entire body.

### QUESTION AND ANSWER

N.O. Can putting vitamins in the refrigerator destroy their potency?

Answer: No, freezing usually preserves rather than destroys them. Excessive heat can be detrimental to vitamins.

ures that all the seats are allocated to an allied group of parties provided that, between them they can get an absolute majority of the votes. In 1951, this happened in 38 out of the 103 metropolitan constituencies.

### TYPICAL CASE

This is how it worked out in one typical case:

The second north constituency has 10 deputies. In 1951, it cast 451,713 votes distributed between seven lists or parties. Of these seven, four were allied. They were Socialists, Radicals, Popular Republicans and Conservatives. Together, they obtained 240,550 votes, or more than half. Therefore, the 10 seats went to the four allied parties, as follows:

Allied lists:	Votes	Seats
1. Socialists	107,392	5
2. Popular Republicans	84,490	4
3. Conservatives	39,409	1
4. Radicals	9,260	NIL
Independent Lists:		
Communists	106,146	NIL
Gaullists	95,054	NIL
Labor	8,741	NIL

This example illustrates what shocks many French voters about the alliance system. First, the fact that parties with radically opposing ideas become allies just in order to get themselves into Parliament. In the above case, Socialists and Conservatives—partisans and adversaries of government help for Roman Catholic schools—pooled forces.

Second, there is the fact that a man casts his vote for a Socialist and finds that he is actually helping a Conservative to get into office, or vice versa.

### ACTRESS MARRIES

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — A New Year's afternoon wedding united Monica Lewis, 28, singer and actress, and Jennings Lang, 44 actors' agent.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

## NOTES BY THE WAY

In some of our dealings with government, it requires us to prove we were born by submitting a birth certificate, but when it comes to collecting taxes from us, it never occurs to it to doubt our existence. — Kitchener-Waterloo Recor

Some years after he had been president, William Howard Taft had to make a sudden trip to Chicago. Only an upper was left. Taft, who weighed almost 300 pounds, noticed that the lower of his section was assigned to a small, insignificant looking man. "Last time I occupied an upper," he announced cheerfully, "it collapsed. I certainly hope this one will hold me." Then he went off to the club car. When he returned the little man was securely buttoned into the upper berth. — Milwaukee Road Magazine.

The story telling about the new boom at Moosonee is good news indeed. The defence program has brought new activity to the northern outpost, increasing and giving the place "a hustle and bustle which is leaving Indian residents pop-eyed." A 5,000-foot snow-packed airfield is being built just west of the railway station. A large construction camp for defence workers has given Moosonee added importance. Moosonee has become an important tourist point throughout the continent as the focal centre of a great hunting region. Some of Canada's most colorful early history is woven around Moosonee. — North Bay Nugget.

Mr. Lewis Strauss, chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, has spoken of "The cold war in the classrooms." The cold war phrase which is nevertheless justified by the realities of the situation. He gave warning that America was rapidly falling behind Russia in training engineers and scientists—that in five years "our lead... may be hopelessly outstripped." Between 1950 and 1950 Russia was expected to produce 1,200,000 and America only 900,000 of these essential workers. This has a familiar sound, for most features of the domestic situation mentioned by Mr. Strauss are paralleled in Britain, but it is also alarming news, because the U.S. technical and scientific lead remains a decisive mawweight cancelling out huge Communist resources of manpower. — Edinburgh Scotsman.

To exercise or not to exercise. That is the question former star and sub athletes have been asking themselves ever since that first sad experience when it took a week to recover from a week-end of what used to be play? For the past few years, the advice from doctors has been to take it easy and live longer. It was a swell excuse for bowling out of an extra set of tennis, round of golf, or chore around the house. Now three New York University doctors report that lack of exercise increases a man's chances of getting heart trouble, diabetes, backaches, stiff neck and other sundry ailments. "It is imperative," they told an American Medical Association audience, "to increase physical activity from early childhood through old age." There is no escape. The treadmill has a stop. It's either a backache from exercise or from lack of it. Anyone for tiddlywinks? — Detroit Free Press.

Almost every day during winter months people lose their lives in fires. Often this loss of life is quite unnecessary. It is quite natural for parents or others to dash into a burning home in an endeavor to rescue children or other people trapped there. This is both humane and brave, though foolish where it means certain death. It is so easy to see, however, to challenge an inferno to rescue money or some article. In Lambton County a man died of burns because he tried to save a sizeable sum of money. No amount of money, or any material possession, is worth such a risk. It is possible to earn more money, or buy some new household item. It isn't possible to restore a life. — Windsor Daily Star.

Americans apparently have a sure-fire way to identify a Canadian by his speech. They say Canadians use the word "eh" all the time. We slip it into the conversation every two or three sentences. "Nice morning, eh?" "Got a new suit, eh?" "Go jump in the lake, eh?" "It is possible that we use the word "eh" as often as Newfoundlanders are said to use the word "boy" or "bye." This may be our national catchword, eh? It would our Canadian temperament, being a cautious, tentative and comradely syllable. The man who tacks "eh" on a sentence is asking his friends opinion before he goes ahead. "Are you with me?" he wants to know. Some Americans use the word "see" to excess, if we are not mistaken. "It's this way, see?" they declare. We should reject too-easy generalizations. But it occurs to us that "see" is a typically American word just as "eh" is typically Canadian. Canadians ask you, America, tell you. — Sherbrooke Record.

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