

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew... Published every week-day morning at 163 Prince Street...

U.S.-Icelandic Agreement

It will be recalled that about a year ago the Government of Iceland gave notice that all foreign troops, which happened to be American, would have to be removed from that NATO base.

Evidently, this tentative agreement—apparently it has not yet been ratified formally—was made with Iceland by the United States acting independently of its allies, or shall we say its "former allies," since any alliance now in force between the United States and the European members of NATO is so fragile that it can be said to be purely academic.

One thing is clear: the current wave of anti-Americanism in Britain and France is not going to be lessened by the disclosure that an important NATO base has been converted into an American fortress with no clear relation to West Europe's defences.

Tribute To France

Critics of France of late have had the field much to themselves. All the more to be appreciated, therefore, are the words of admiration expressed by General Alfred M. Gruenther of the United States Army who has lived in Paris for six years as Supreme Allied Commander of NATO forces, and whose retirement took effect recently.

General Gruenther is quoted by the publication France Actuelle as saying that his years with NATO had confirmed his faith in France and the French people. He added these striking words:

"I know even better than before that France is an ally, steadfast in the Western Alliance for the defence of civilization. I have full confidence in France and in all it stands for in spiritual values, love of liberty and respect for human dignity."

It would have been nice to have heard something like this from the lips of President Eisenhower, or Prime Minister St. Laurent, during the past few weeks. But no man can speak with better authority than General Gruenther, and in timing his words to this critical occasion he has spoken as a true friend.

"Trained Seals"

It is refreshing to turn for a moment from wars and rumours of wars to a little incident that took place the other day in a small town in Missouri. Four persons were directly involved: a judge, a school board official, Mrs. Mary L. Schoenheit and her seven-year-old daughter whose name was not given in the report. Involved, too, was the widely accepted principle of compulsory education.

In brief this is what happened. Mrs. Schoenheit was brought before the court and fined a nominal amount for refusing to send her daughter to school on the ground that schools turn out "trained seals" and that, in any case, she—Mrs. Schoenheit—is quite capable of educating her daughter much better at home. The judge, "taking note of defendant's argument," allowed appeal to be entered, and the scheduled to come up in court in January. Meanwhile, a seven-year-old girl is staying at school and, no doubt,

having the time of her life.

It will be interesting to see how the case is finally settled. Compulsory education is, of course, taken to mean education by compulsory attendance at an accredited school. It is intended to ensure a certain amount of formal schooling for every child. If, in the process, some "trained seals" or agile nincompoops are produced, that is one of the risks that must be taken in the interests of society as a whole. Usually, parents lack either the time or the professional ability, or both, to look after the education of their children. But, under the laws which exist in most communities, it doesn't matter who the parents are or what their qualifications may be—they may even be university professors and Ph.D.s—their children must attend school, even though the teacher may not be able to tell the difference between a Ph.D. and a horse jockey, not that there is anything wrong with a horse jockey. Mrs. Schoenheit thinks this is a denial of fundamental human rights. She says she has no objection to her daughter's mixing with trained seals socially, but she doesn't want her to become one by being forced to attend a public school.

Does one hear a faint rumbling of applause from kindred souls? Surely not. And yet...

The Quintal

Doubtless, Confederation has given Newfoundland some good things. But one is tempted to say that in taking away the "quintal" it has brought disappointment and perhaps a sense of injury to thousands of fishermen. True, it was the Newfoundland Federation of Fishermen that dealt the measuring unit its final blow, but it was done mainly to bring the weighing of cod into conformity with Canadian standards, and to that extent it can be called a casualty of political union.

For three hundred years the quintal was to a Newfoundland fisherman what the bushel is to a Prince Edward Island farmer. It meant a number of things besides 112 pounds of salted cod. It meant the gauge of a day's work on the "grounds," the reward for getting up before dawn and setting out across dark waters, the difference between frustration and good cheer when the lines were hauled and the nets emptied. It was a link with a tradition which embraced adventurers of many lands and many temperaments, a euphonious word that owed its attractiveness to the intangible values of a society deeply rooted in knowledge of the sea, its charms and its dangers. Not nearly as utilitarian as "hundredweight" or "100 lbs."—that, of course, was why it was given the official coup de grace—but much more in keeping with the romance and adventure of a long and thrilling story built out of a people's encounter with the elemental forces of wind and sea.

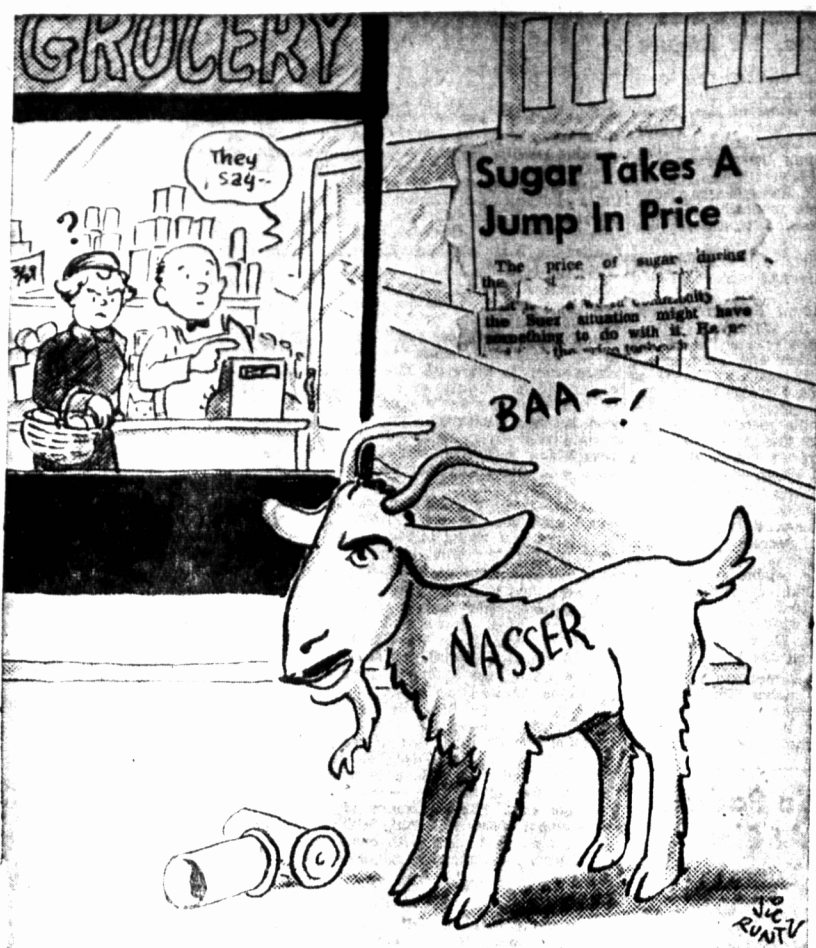
Officialdom finds it easy to discard traditions. And it was, no doubt, inevitable that a little word which never had become fashionable in the world at large would have to give way before the demands of the efficiency experts. Yet, the culture of a community includes many things which have little or no utilitarian value but which are not easy to eliminate from vernacular usage. And it will not be surprising if long after the merchants have started to weigh cod by the hundredweight, many a fisherman will ask his neighbour in the autumn: "How many quintals did you manage to bring ashore?"

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EDITORIAL NOTES

A motorist arrested for speeding in an English town should have been let off with a minimum fine. He claimed that he was driving fast in order to get away from a police car. Originality of thought it so rare these days that when it does make an appearance it ought to be rewarded.

It's hardly likely that Canadians will be able to eliminate traffic accidents entirely during our national Safe-Driving Week, which runs between December 1st and 7th, but it is possible, according to the experts, to cut the number of traffic deaths by at least 50 per cent this week. The only way it can be done, though, is for every person in traffic—motorist and pedestrian—to take every precaution, to make a daily resolution to avoid taking chances and to stay out of accidents.



THE SCAPEGOAT

Israel's Joseph

Middle East Correspondent, London Spectator

JERUSALEM. Ben Gurion has something of Churchill's flair for the apt quotation. To the solemn meeting of the Knesset convened to hear the report of victory he quoted Isaiah xix, 16: "In that day shall the Egyptians be like unto women; and they shall tremble and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shall exert over them." The face of Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff, sitting in pullover with open-necked shirt, did not flicker. Neither at the beginning, nor during nor at the end of the Prime Minister's speech was there a plause from the crowded House.

To Israel Operation Sinai was just one more chapter in the long chronicle of bloodshed which has continued during every day of the State's eight years of life. There are other similarities between Britain and Israel's wartime leaders. Ben-Gurion also works from bed; this time, compulsorily. Throughout the campaign he was directing operations from two maps on his bed, suffering from paratyphoid with a temperature of 104 degree. Ben-Gurion has the same hankering for panache. When he made his radio announcement to the nation he kept the whole country waiting for an hour listening to funeral music before he finally spoke at 12.30 a. m.

MOMENTOUS DECISION Ben-Gurion had scarcely delivered his Knesset speech with its intransigent Point 6, declaring that Israel would admit no foreign troops to Sinai, when Britain, the U.S., Russia and the United Nations, each for their own reasons, started waving sticks at him. For the next twenty-four hours the Cabinet was in almost continuous session. Mrs. Golda Meir, the Foreign Minister, who was intercepted at Paris on her way to UN and brought back to make the momentous decision. The Cabinet bowed to Eisenhower's pressure; with Russian forces building up in Syria, Israel did not dare jeopardize the prospect of defence from the US Sixth Fleet in the event of Syrian attack.

Ben-Gurion's voice sounded weak and sad beyond description as he broadcast the news of his decision to surrender Sinai. If any other leader had made such a decision he would have been overthrown by public opinion; but Ben-Gurion is Israel's Joseph (as Weiz-

A SCOTSMAN'S AMERICAN LOG

Rocky Mountain Rocket

By Wilfred Taylor of the Edinburgh Scotsman

Darkness has closed in over the State of Iowa, the breadbasket of the world. We have returned to our snug little roomette on board the "Rocky Mountain Rocket" to type these words. When we boarded this crack Rock Island train at Englewood Station, Chicago, the temperature was uncomfortably high. We turned the thermostat down from 75 to 65, and now the atmosphere is much more pleasant. Outside it looks pretty cold.

For the past couple of hours we have been sitting in one of the club cars having a most interesting conversation with a middle-aged lady buyer from a big store in Des Moines and a young man who is a "human engineer." The lady buyer is on her way back from one of her regular trips to New York, and the "human engineer"—what we should call an industrial psychologist—left the train when the firm determining of starting in on a course leading to a Ph. D. degree.

"OLE MAN RIVER" About an hour ago as the sun was setting in a red, peaceful sky we crossed the Mississippi and felt quite a thrill. "Ole man river" was looking serene, placid, and majestic. Even some hard-bitten businessmen, across the aisle from us, paused in their eard game to pay their homage to the great river.

You get quite a lot of exercise on American trains if you walk, as we did, from our car, the "Golden Horn," back to the club car. We passed through quite a series of chair cars, a small club car, and the diner, before we reached the big club car. It was rather hot there, and the radio was broadcasting the progress of a football game. Club cars are pleasant institutions. If you don't want to read or listen to the radio you can always talk, which we have been doing. The three of us pulled our chairs close together and started talking about accents, which, in turn led on to politics. The young man was a Republican and the lady was a Democrat. There was no rancour in the discussion and the young man agreed that it was a national tragedy that Mr. Stevenson was politically finished.

The Poets Corner

NOVEMBER When clouds, rain gray and somber, Close in upon November, And the eyelid of the sky Will not open on the eye Of the sun that lies in aster, Then the sky is like the aster Whose petals, when the sun goes down, Close over the gold crown. Then the sky is like the winter That closes each white finger Upon a frosty world. While deep in at the center The next year's spring is curled. —Elizabeth Jane Astley, in the Christian Science Monitor.

ed her claws. 'Ain bers', that is the Israeli's secret weapon which will bring them victory even though every house and farm shed is laid low; it means "no alternative." With the surf rolling against the strand behind them, with hostile neighbours along their 500 miles of frontier, the Israelis have nowhere to escape. So there is no panic, no evacuation, no buying in of food. Life continues more normally than perhaps in England, except that the lorries are rolling down to Sinai; and along the road crowds of Yemeni, Moroccan and Iraqi Jews, young and old, with dark skins and brightly coloured shirtings, stand outside their immigrant shacks waving to the lorries as they come back, bedecked with Egyptian standards, like chariots of old. As the sun goes down on Friday evening, on Sabbath, eyes will turn towards you in the West and lips will murmur all through Zion, "Hear our Prayer!"

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.

SANTA REPLIES

Dear Ardie, —Many thanks for your letter which appeared in Saturday's Guardian.

No, I haven't forgotten about the children, but I always believed, and still do, that my most loyal friends are the little boys and girls who are too young to go to school.

I used to have my parade after school hours, but found there was such a crush of children, some of the little tots were getting injured.

I'm glad you noticed my glasses as I was rather worried about wearing them. When you have eye trouble from reading the millions of letters that he receives.

to a Plaza. A Plaza is a super-market. It occupies a huge area and the one we saw had three large car parks. Under its roofs was a whole group of super-markets and innumerable branches of big stores.

When you go into a super-market you collect a trolley and just pick up from the shelves whatever you want. When you have completed your purchases you unload them on to a conveyor belt. A young lady charges you and packages your goods for you. You then wheel them out to your car, the doors open automatically as you approach them. The temperature of the shelves are all controlled so that everything is fresh and crisp. Lots of suburban housewives find that they can do a whole week's shopping in one visit to a super-market.

FOR THE CHILDREN The rhythm of the train is very soothing. We reckon that just before dinner we have time to write to our children and tell them about the train — a train unlike any train they have ever seen in their lives. Tomorrow morning we shall arrive in a city which stands 5,000 feet high. All through the night we shall be climbing through Iowa, Kansas, and Colorado. It will be nice to see the mountains.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

ARE YOU A SAFE DRIVER? As a doctor who is interested in the safety and welfare of the public as a whole, I'd like to compliment Congress on the new road plan it approved not so long ago. I'd also like to compliment the auto makers on the addition of special padding, belts and mechanical safety features which they are building into their cars.

At the same time I'd like to warn motorists not to rely entirely on wider and straighter roads and auto safety features to keep you out of trouble. BEWARE! MOTORISTS

Every one of these improvements is a step in the right direction, cutting down our tragic traffic death tolls which last year totalled 37,800—a near record. But it is brainpower, not horsepower, the power to steer and brake, not power steering or power braking, which will ultimately decide whether you will become a traffic statistic in the remaining days of this year.

Accidents don't just happen. More than 80 per cent of last year's traffic deaths and injuries occurred as a direct result of an error or errors by the driver. DISASTROUS ENDINGS

More than 2,000,000 pleasure trips ended in disaster. So as the holiday season approaches and many of you prepare to take the road to visit friends and relatives, let me issue a few words of caution.

Don't pit your reflexes against the modern auto's super horsepower. You're apt to come out second best.

Don't follow that urge to "pour it on" no matter how clear the day, how straight the road, or how dry the pavement.

Remember that rules of the road are meant for you as well as for the other driver. WATCH STRAIN

Don't ignore strain and fatigue in anticipation of ample relaxation at the journey's end. Stop and take a snooze in a safe place, or that relaxation at the end of your trip might be longer than you anticipate.

Don't drink while driving. Don't drive while drinking. And, if I may repeat, don't rely upon built-in safety devices to keep you out of the hospital. QUESTION AND ANSWER

E. L.: Is epilepsy hereditary in most cases?

Answer: In most instances, it is not. However, a predisposition to have convulsions or epilepsy can be inherited.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(December 3, 1931) An application set forth by the Prince Edward Island Board of Trade for re-establishment of two train connections was heard today by the Canadian Board of Railway Commissioners at Truro. The Island application sought re-instatement of trains 41 and 42 cancelled September 26 as a measure of economy.

George Clark of Hills River near Alberton lost his valuable barn, the head of a prize herd of Guernsey cattle and some of the cows, two valuable horses, his entire crop, farm machinery and a newly erected machine house on Tuesday evening by fire of unknown origin. Mr. Clark's loss is estimated at \$10,000.

TEN YEARS AGO

(December 3, 1946)

Mr. R. R. Bell was re-elected President of the P. E. Island Short Horn Breeders Association at the annual meeting of the Association held last night at the City Hall. Mr. Athol Roberts, Highfield, was elected vice-president and Mr. Sterling MacLeod, secretary - treasurer. Hopeton Mutch, John Du Pasquier and Colin Smith.

LA. COL. W. W. REID, D. S. O.

Director of the Department of Physical Fitness was the guest speaker of the regular meeting of the Kinsmen Club of Summerside last evening, and later met with the Kinsmen Hockey Committee to discuss hockey plans for the winter. Mr. Reid gave an interesting and informative talk on the activities in which his department engages.

I'm happy to say that this is now cleared up and I no longer need to wear them.

I'm sorry that you and other children found the hours too short and you will be glad to know that I'll be staying in Toyland until 4:45 on the days that I visit.

I wish I could cover more centers on Prince Edward Island but, as most little children know, I have to go from one end of the world to the other and I only have a certain amount of time to make these visits and prepare all the gifts for Christmas Eve. Thanks again for your letter. SANTA.

MAXIMS

There is no weapon with which to fight sincerity and honesty.

GIFT IN THE GRAND MANNER for Christmas

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Teen-agers are irresponsible about almost everything except answering the telephone.—Brandon Sun

It's fine for parents to stay up to kiss the kids good night, but look at the sleep they lose.—London Free Press

The Liberal Government's election octopus is beginning to flex its tentacles in earnest and unless something is done quickly there won't be anything left for the other fishes in the pond.—Calgary Herald

Middle age has crept up on you when the last of those you went to school with has disappeared from the Christmas card list, and only a couple of guys you knew in the army are still left.—Hamilton Spectator

One thousand tons of aluminum per month are used to make curbers in the United States. Apparently the present craze for light metals has even gone to women's heads. But we still think that uneasy lie the heads which wear even such lightweight crowns.—Kingston Whig-Standard

Right now is the open season for weather prophets. Some one has predicted a severe winter with as much as seven feet of snow. But Dr. B.C. Weir, of Auburn, says this is on "the number of hairs in my cat's tail." This, of course, is which the elderly, retired physician of Auburn expresses his belief in weather prophets. We are inclined to agree with him. Goderich Signal-Star

Drinkers are a menace on the road, but bad temper has probably caused more smashups than a trailload of whisky.—Sherbrooke Record

Main single factor in high car accident rate on weekends may be found in the fact that highways are simultaneously clogged with those who are idling along sight-seeing and those who are speeding from A. to B. Combination of dangerously ill-suited.—Brockville Recorder

A Brampton player has been suspended because he showed a referee. Perhaps he was beginning to feel that referees are no longer protected by a code of sportsmanship since CBC television has been dedicated to the roughing of ring officials by the wrestlers.—Fort William Times-Journal

SALES INCREASE OTTAWA (CP)—Department store sales rose 7.8 per cent in October to an estimated \$115,721,000 compared with \$107,331,000 a year earlier, the bureau of statistics reported Friday. This brought the total for the first 10 months of this year to \$832,267,000 compared with \$832,448,000 in October, 1955.

TROUBLE IN POLAND

VIENNA (AP)—Aroused Polish peasants are resorting to sabotage and armed attacks in a widespread campaign to break up the collective farm system built up by their Communist rulers, reports in various Polish newspapers received here disclosed Friday.

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