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St. Valentine's Day

For makers of greeting cards bedecked with hearts, for florists, bachelors and foot-weary postmen, the coming of spring is marked not by the March equinox but by the 14th of February five weeks before.

On Valentine's eve, Victorian ladies once hopefully tied bay leaves on their pillows to induce dreams of their sweethearts. They might have been shocked to know that the romantic day's history could be traced to imperial Rome's pagan festival of Lupercalia...

As to the true identity of the original patron saint of romance, scholars can only guess, for reliable records are lacking. Of the seven Valentines on the early Christian calendar of saints, only two would seem eligible.

Words In Season

In a recent address at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, the United States ambassador to Canada said that Canadians are appalled by the ignorance of so many Americans about this country.

Misconceptions about Canada are so numerous among Americans that it would take a good-sized book to list them all. Here are a few of the more fantastic ones.

toughest places. There are no Universities or Colleges to speak of; medical students, especially, are obliged to go to the United States for their education.

If it be true, as it has been stated by reputable Canadian travellers time and time again, that these views, subject to variations here and there—and others equally fantastic—are held by at least 50% of Americans who live any considerable distance from the Atlantic seaboard, there is obvious need for a crusade of enlightenment.

Commonwealth Farming

Four Canadian farms are to be chosen as part of the new scheme called "Farming in the Commonwealth," by which students in urban areas in the United Kingdom will be able to study overseas agricultural methods by mail.

The Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph is co-operating in the new scheme and will help select a typical mixed farm in southern Ontario. A typical grain farm is to be chosen by the Agricultural Faculty of the University of Manitoba and the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

The first two overseas farms to be linked with the United Kingdom under the scheme are in New Zealand. Australia is expected to enter the project at a later date.

EDITORIAL NOTES

That melodrama is not obsolete is shown in a Los Angeles report which says that "The Drunkard," a great favourite when that phase of histrionics was at its height, has just had its 800th showing.

According to a Canadian Press roundup Manitoba is the only Province not troubled by a teacher shortage. This unusual state of affairs could not have come about by accident; perhaps education officials in other areas would do well to look into the matter; they might learn something to their advantage.

Ala Hazrat Ghazie Millet Miangul Abdul Haq Jahan Zeb; no, that isn't a printer's pie; it is the name of the absolute ruler of Swat, a tiny state on the Northern border of Pakistan. Recent news dispatches say that Swat is about to be incorporated into the larger jurisdiction.

Apparently, Governor Averell Harriman of New York does not believe that an increase in taxes is likely to make him unpopular with the electorate; either that, or he has resigned himself to one term in the gubernatorial office.

As a rule, opposition members have no difficulty in finding subjects on which to berate the party in power. At the present time, however, Democrats in the United States Congress are in almost complete accord with the Republican Administration in both domestic and foreign policies.

Senator McIntyre is quoted as suggesting to his colleagues that Christian leaders should get together and see what they can do to stop war. If wars could be stopped as easily as that, they would have been rendered obsolete many centuries ago; and, as the Senator is aware, the great majority of human beings have neither knowledge of nor sympathy with the Christian religion.



To An Elusive Lady

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of any subject of general interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

OPPOSED TO FLUORIDATION

Sir,—I understand that the fluoridators have been conducting an energetic campaign in Charlotte-town in order to drum up enough support to enable them to have the City install highly debatable methods of salvaging junior's deteriorating molars, and incidentally helping out the vendors of fluoride compounds and associated equipment.

One would not wish to do injustice to the octopus and one hesitates to contradict a scientist (there was that little affair over lemmings) yet one cannot help but think this sort of reasoning is rather hard on giant rays and horned manias.

Looking more like an emaciated elephant with four trunks than a "Flying Bedstead," the machine rose directly into the air with a roar from its two Nene turbojets, turned and made a fly-past at about 16 miles an hour and then came in to do a gentle vertical landing, the noise of the two engines fading away to a mild whistle as it touched down.

It was one of the most remarkable air films ever seen and the work it depicted may be the first stage in an entirely new form of technical development.

Captain Shepherd, the test pilot, who has been flying since World War I, climbed up a ladder into the pilot's position, beneath the framework of four upright struts. He then opened the engines and made the take-off. Mr. J. Heyworth, another Rolls-Royce test pilot who has flown this machine, told me that the controls were similar to those of an ordinary airplane and that there was special electrical equipment so that if an engine failed the aircraft could still be brought down safely.

The aircraft cannot be used except from a prepared surface because of the great heat of the engines. An area of special bricks designed to take the heat without disintegrating was set up at Hucknall.

Mr. A. G. Elliot, vice-chairman of Rolls-Royce, who was for a long time the company's chief engineer and managing director, explained some of the principles of the "Flying Bedstead" after the film had been shown.

He said that they had been working on vertical take-off aircraft for 10 years. The method was a special electrical equipment with the helicopter, which had a different sphere and a different function. Using their method of vertical lift there would only be a short duration in which the lift engines would be required.

The Gentle Octopus

Winnipeg Free Press

A campaign is underway to exterminate the octopus. The octopus, says Science Service, an agency which reports the findings of the scientists, has been maligned. It is not, as it has heretofore been thought, a devil-fish; it is "one of the shyest and most retiring of all the citizens of the sea."

This seemingly insidious sort of strategy strikes Science Service as anything but devilish. The application, "devil-fish," it would reserve for the great gelatinous monster, the giant ray, both of which, in contradistinction to the octopus, find human beings appetizing.

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

TREATING CONVULSIONS

A convulsion in a baby is a frightening thing for a mother and father. While you should take immediate action to aid your tot, don't become unduly alarmed. If you handle the situation quickly and properly, a convulsion is usually not as serious a matter as it may appear.

Sometimes a convulsion, or even several of them, will occur at the beginning of, or during an illness. Diarrhea or some other intestinal upset might bring it on. If your baby suddenly develops a high fever, as he might if he is coming down with a contagious disease, he may be stricken with a convulsion. Among other causes are brain infections, brain injuries or epilepsy.

Begins Suddenly

Generally, a convulsion will begin suddenly with little or no warning. A slight twitching of the baby's hand, feet or face muscles usually is the first sign. This twitching probably will spread to most of the muscles throughout his body. His body probably will become stiff, his face will sweat and his lips may become blue.

His eyes will stare and roll upward. His head may jerk, and he may clench his fists. He will be unconscious during the attack. The convulsion may continue for hours or it may last only for a few minutes, even without treatment.

Your first step, of course, should be to call your doctor. While you're waiting for him, you can wet the baby's skin thoroughly with a mixture of half warm water and half alcohol. Then wrap him in a blanket and put him to bed.

If you don't have any alcohol in the house, place him in a bath of tepid water. The water should be about 90 to 100 degrees. You can test it with your elbow. Make sure it feels comfortable.

Keep Close Watch

Keep the baby in the water for about five or ten minutes if for some reason you cannot get him out at once. Wrap him in a blanket place him in bed. Watch him carefully. You might place a cold cloth on his head as he lies in bed.

If he had teeth, it might be a good idea to place a wooden stick between them to keep him from biting his tongue.

Handle him gently, because his nervous system is excited. Noise, bright lights and rough handling might start another convulsion. Therefore, you should keep him as quiet as possible, keep his room dark and quiet, too. An enema, as a rule, will only disturb a baby.

Don't feed him for at least two hours following an attack. Make him stay in bed for several days. If necessary, your doctor will give your baby an anesthetic to stop a convulsion, and he can prescribe the proper medicines to keep it from returning.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

M. B.: Whenever I handle a newspaper, the ink comes off on my hands. What would cause this? Answer: It is likely that this happens because your hands become moist, possibly due to excessive sweating.

Extreme perspiration of the hands may be due to nervousness. Hyperthyroidism, or increased secretion from the thyroid gland, is also a possible cause of excessive perspiration.

You should consult a physician for an examination, in order to tell what condition is present; then proper treatment can be suggested.

It was not difficult to control. The actual control system was exactly the same as with an ordinary airplane, and the pilot, who sat completely out in the open right at the top of the airbar.

Jet lift as illustrated by the Rolls-Royce thrust measuring rig, or "Flying Bedstead" is simple in principle but difficult in practice. Control is one of the problems and, as the film showed, it has been solved by the joint efforts of the Rolls-Royce company and the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough.

POLIO

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It is heartening to see public interest in art increasing. It's another indication of national maturity. But few things in even this field of life are really free. If Canadians want to see the works of Toulouse-Lautrec and the European moderns—a desire they have proved by their attendance at these exhibitions—the cost of this privilege will have to be met. Surely this matter is of concern to the business community, members of which are in a position to assist with increased donations.

A British naval vessel has returned from a secret trip on which it dumped 1,500 tons of radioactive waste material from the atomic laboratories at Harwell, England. The "ash bin" was a 7,200-foot-deep area in the Atlantic several hundred miles southwest of Lands End. The exact location was undisclosed, but it was well off ship lanes and fishing grounds. The deadly waste materials were sealed in large corrosion-resistant drums designed to become stiff, his face will sweat and his lips may become blue.

There's a modern version of the old Mother Hubbard nursery rhyme. When the new governor of the Brazilian State of Amazonas went to the cupboard he found it bare. So were the linen closets of the Governor's Palace. There was no sheets for his bed. But, worst of all, the treasury also was practically empty. Governor Plinio Coelho, who had just been inaugurated as head of one of the world's largest states, could find only 2,774 cruzeiros, \$36.99 at the free market rate, in the state capital of Manaus. Amazonas covers about one-fifth of Brazil, but takes in much of the country's wild north-west, including the Amazon jungles. The state administration had 1,059 employees in 1953 and cost \$2,000,000 to run. It was all very discouraging for the new governor.

In the management of the city's affairs even small economies are worthwhile. A penny saved is a penny earned, as the old maxim goes. But the economy should be real, not a slight shaving of expense on one hand that makes more outlay on another. The net benefit of the saving the roads department is effecting this year through using cinders instead of sand in the mixture spread on the streets is questionable. The 15,000 tons of cinders involved are virtually free, costing the city only the expense of hauling them to its yards. Sand costs \$2 per ton. But the difference is not all gain, not at any rate all overall gain, though it may be to the roads department. The cinders-salt mixture has coated the streets with a filthy slime that splashes only too readily, and beyond doubt cleaning bills will set up at the saving and more.

It was fortunate for the future of Canadian jurisprudence that the Crown Counsel in an Alberta manslaughter case did not persist in his effort to introduce a tape recording of telephone conversation as evidence. At the preliminary hearing of three persons involved in charges of manslaughter, conspiracy and complicity as accessories, the magistrate said that independent proof of the authenticity of the recordings would be required, apart from the admissibility of their contents under the rules of evidence. The Crown dropped its effort to have the recording entered into the record, whereupon the charges were dismissed. The magistrate suggested, however, that continued investigations might justify other charges against the accused. That leaves the case where it should be, the one woman in the trio charged had been deceived into believing that the telephone conversation was private. Defense counsel was right in stating that this was an invention to deceive the accused—a practice prohibited by law. If a case against suspected persons cannot be supported by established police routine evidence, no other evidence should be accepted. Canada can well afford to get along without a precedent involving the use of tape recordings for either conviction or acquittal of persons charged with criminal offenses. Our laws are good, our judicial processes at all levels are generally good, and our police methods are constantly improving. All would suffer equally if "invention" to deceive accused persons were even a foot held in our courtrooms.—Toronto Globe and Mail

Several Ontario universities have resolved to limit their enrollment, in an effort to maintain standards, says Dr. Sidney Smith, president of the University of Toronto, in his annual report. He warns that universities can become good, but our police methods are constantly improving. All would suffer equally if "invention" to deceive accused persons were even a foot held in our courtrooms.—Toronto Globe and Mail

The British colonial possessions in the Caribbean, more or less casually picked up during the ancient wars with France and Spain, are on their way to a new destiny. The movement for their federation is making steady progress, and the British Colonial Secretary, Mr. Lennox-Boyd, was able recently to tell the House of Commons that a final island conference will soon be held. Not all the colonies will be included. The Bahamas remain reluctant, and British Guiana's decision is uncertain. But Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, together with the Leeward and Windward island groups are prepared to go ahead. It has been said that the British Colonial Office since the war has been so pre-occupied with constitution-building that it has neglected the prior task of strengthening the economic well-being of its possessions. 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