

The Guardian

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1956

Caught Napping

Members from this Province are said to be among the most attentive to their duties in the House of Commons. Apparently, however, there are many supporters of the government in power who are lax in this respect. They were caught napping yesterday by the CCF leader, in a most flagrant manner. Mr. Coldwell was talking about the government's plan for bank loans on farm-stored grain when he looked around and saw there were few Liberals in the House. "Let's see how many Liberals are interested in this vital issue," he said, and moved that the House, sitting in committee, rise and report progress. The Government was beaten 46 to 36 on the vote! It didn't fall because the vote came only on a technical issue; but it was a point admirably scored by the CCF leader, and it is to be hoped it will have a beneficial effect on Liberal attendance during the rest of the session.

Our parliamentarians at Ottawa are handsomely paid for their services, and there is no reason why shirkers should be tolerated. Some of the absentees may have been attending to other necessary business; but the corporal's guard they provided to support the government in the House yesterday was inexcusable on any ground. It is to be hoped that Mr. Angus MacLean, as deputy whip for the Conservatives, keeps his colleagues under better discipline.

Minister L'Heureux

Signifying the importance of the United States Consulate in Montreal—the busiest, it is said, on the Continent—the Consul General there, Mr. H. L'Heureux, has been raised to the status of minister by order of President Eisenhower. This is an unusual distinction.

It is not the only distinction, however, that belongs to Mr. L'Heureux. Many years ago he started a project of his own which he called the "One-Minute Prayer for Peace Movement." Its adherents—and there are thousands of them in many parts of the world—pause for one minute each day at noon to ask God's help in solving the many problems arising from international differences and disputes. Many times Mr. L'Heureux has stated his conviction that prayer is the greatest force which men have at their disposal. Perhaps if all the diplomats of the free world were to share his conviction and set apart that one minute a day for meditation and prayer, added strength would come to their efforts to preserve the peace in a world troubled by the fear of war. Certainly, their political and economic councils would be no less effective for it; and they might be aided immeasurably. In any event it is somehow good to know that the representative of a great power in Canada's largest city believes, as Tennyson believed, that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

M. Mollet's Prospects

Everybody who has a tender place in his heart for France, the home of much of the culture which helped to build Western civilization as we know it, will wish Premier Guy Mollet every success in his courageous efforts to give his country good and stable government. This, not only for the continued existence of France as a world power and ally of freedom, but also for the welfare of mankind; for the disintegration of French political institutions, which has been a distinct possibility more than once since the end of World War Two, would be a calamity for all free men.

The prospects, however, do not appear very bright. True, M. Mollet was elected Premier by a big majority; but, unfortunately, that is no assurance of continued confidence. Indeed, providing a Premier-designate with strong initial hopes has been, in the past few years at any

rate, an almost inevitable preface to hastening his decline in political prestige. Today, the word of the new Premier may seem capable of standing against the world; tomorrow, it could well be, there will be none so poor as to do him reverence. That seems to be the way of French politics these days, as a goodly number of French statesmen who have held office for brief periods in post-war years can attest.

M. Mollet's chief troubles, of course, will come from the association of convenience he has been obliged to make much against his will, with the Communist bloc, which, incidentally and not pleasantly, is the biggest single party in the Assembly. Thus far, no Communist has been given a place in the cabinet. But the Premier will be reminded daily that he owes his position to Communist support, and it is only a matter of time—probably a very short time—when he will be called upon to pay the price, or go the way of all French Premiers. Then, too, the presence in the new cabinet of former Premier Mendes-France cannot fail to be a thorn in the flesh of M. Mollet. For, whatever else may be said about M. Mendes-France, no one would wager very much on his willingness to play second fiddle for long in any association of his peers. There is, of course, "a first time for everything"; and it may be that M. Mollet will set a happy precedent in French post-war politics. Nevertheless, the peculiar intrigues he will face, and the problems that are common to all French governments these days, added together, make up a formidable obstacle to a long and successful term of office.

Medical Research

United States Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine has introduced a bill calling for an additional expenditure of a billion dollars a year for the next five years for medical research. Reports from Washington indicate that the bill will receive sufficient support from both parties to ensure its passage into law.

It has been pointed out by supporters of the measure that at present, funds from all sources allocated for this very important work amount to less than one-half of one percent of the national defence budget and no more than what is spent yearly on "monuments and tombstones". Other statistics, provided by the Hoover Commission, show that of all the money spent by government agencies for all sorts of research projects, less than one per cent is earmarked for the fight against disease.

This state of affairs, which certainly is not confined to the United States, is one for which there would seem to be no justification whatsoever. There is no reason why this matter of medical research should be left largely to the philanthropy of individuals and organizations, although, of course, this has its place in any overall program. Universities, hospitals, private laboratories, and other institutions qualified to engage in this all important branch of public health should be able to count on definite and generous federal grants. It seems wrong that they should not know from day to day where the money is coming from.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An American educator is quoted as saying "if we can avoid inflation, the standard of living of teachers will raise as the economy expands." Most teachers, one fancies, would like a little raise right now, before it has been determined whether inflation can, in fact, be avoided.

The United-Nations is now concerned about the emergence of disease-carrying "super insects"—mosquitoes, lice, fleas and flies, transmitting such diseases as malaria, typhus, plague and yellow fever—which have become resistant to DDT and all known insecticides. If their development cannot be checked they may constitute a serious menace to world health.

The President of the Ontario Hog Producers' Association says that Canadian farmers are quite capable of producing enough beef and pork to feed 50 million people. That may be; most of them, however, would feel much better about future prospects if they were assured of a reasonable price for the amount they are producing at the present time.



HOW TO LIVE TO BE A HUNDRED

PUBLIC FORUM

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

RURAL MAILMEN

Sir,—I was most amused the other day to read a letter in your Forum signed by a man, "Waiting For His Mail", as I see it, this man would like to get maybe three times as much for his potatoes but don't anyone else ask for a raise.

I would like to make myself quite clear; I am not a mailman or a mailman's wife. I would also ask the writer of "Waiting For His Mail" to again read the first letter of "Snow And Mud", he will note that there is no mention of any special mailman, but an appeal on behalf of all mailmen.

He speaks of the hardships of linemen. Well I agree with him; but whom do you suppose has the most clear money at the end of the month? Surely not the mailmen. And good luck to the linemen, I would like to see them get more. He also speaks of the farmers going through slush, muck and slavery, well I have been a lot of farms on P.E.I. and I would say that any farm that exists on slavery and muck in this day and age is poorly managed or obsolete.

In my first letter I asked that we give the mailman our support. I still say give him support. I don't think there are many mailmen who will go against the farmer or try to keep him down, even if he were to get \$5.00 a bushel for his potatoes. Other organizations and clubs have raised their standard of living by unity and friendship toward each other. If they were to continue as a divided group then there could be nothing for them only slavery and poverty, such as we witness in some countries today; countries which are being told to take their people home because they are only trouble-makers.

Let us continue to enjoy the "Lace Curtain" which we have.

I am, Sir, etc.
SNOW AND MUD.

DAIRYING AND PUBLICITY

Sir,—The general principles of your editorial on "Dairying and Publicity", in January 21 issue, were heartily endorsed in this rural household. While supporting your proviso "We doubt whether the problem is as simple as all that" in spotlighting the terse views expressed by Mr. Walsh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, indicating the obvious need for stepping up the publicity and promotional campaign of Canada's 445,000 dairy farmers, it was the following thought in the editorial which has inspired this letter.

"But there is no question that publicity plays an important part and that an aggressive sales policy not confined to sporadic campaigns but continued throughout the year, and year after year, would do a great deal to lift the industry out of the doldrums."

In closing, may I just say that there certainly was something for the rank-and-file of our dairy farmers to ponder in the above speaker's forthright statement, concerning the \$300,000 which the Dairy Farmers of Canada obtained from its members. "This means that 445,000 Canadian dairy farmers are willing to spend only a little over 72 cents apiece on behalf of their own industry, and they expect a bang-up promotional job for their widows' mite."

An item in my prairie farm journal contributes a handy measuring 'aid' with which to harness the latter pattern and give it power to 'do things' in the mind of your speediest reader - or the slowest: "Ford of Canada spent \$5,000,000 on advertising in 1954". In this world we, usually, get what we pay for!

I am, Sir, etc.
GREEN LIGHT

The Age Old Story

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shall thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Parliament Building Fire

By H. L. Jones
Canadian Press, Ottawa

On a cold February night 40 years ago fire of mysterious origin swept through Canada's old Parliament Building, reducing the fine, gothic structure to a blackened shell and taking seven lives.

The members were in session, discussing Atlantic fisheries, on the evening of Feb. 3, 1916, when chief doorkeeper Charles Stewart flung open the massive Commons doors and shouted: "There is a big fire in the reading room; everybody get out quickly."

Members, spectators and newspaper men made for the exits. Division bells were set ringing. In the long corridors as a warning flung open the massive Commons doors and shouted: "There is a big fire in the reading room; everybody get out quickly."

Exact cause of the fire has never been determined. But an official inquiry found a "strong suspicion of incendiarism" and pointed to agents of Germany then at war; Ottawa's fire chief of that period, J. W. Graham, said there was little doubt the fire was "set and well set."

The day after the fire, the Commons and the Senate met in the hurriedly-converted Victoria Museum which was to serve as Canada's parliament building for the next four years.

It was there they planned the new centre block, its gothic architectural theme retained, which today dominates Parliament Hill. The new building cost approximately \$13,000,000.

All that remains of the original building are the east and west blocks and the parliamentary library, which sits behind the centre block and whose fire doors shut out the flames in 1916.

SECOND FIRE

The library has since survived another fire. In 1952 a stubborn blaze burned in its dome for hours before firemen put it out. Thousands of valuable books were damaged and the library was so soaked with water and chemicals that a rebuilding job was ordered. It is expected to be ready this summer after an expenditure of some \$2,500,000.

The victims of the 1916 blaze included two women who were the guests of the Commons Speaker of the day. They were in his chambers when the fire broke out and perished there, apparently unaware that there was a private exit that would have led them to safety.

Another was B. B. Law, Liberal member for Yarmouth. He and J. B. R. Laplante, assistant clerk of the House, were trapped in upstairs rooms. Three other men were killed when a tower on which they were directing a stream of water collapsed and crushed them.

A commission under the late Judge Duncan MacTavish was convened to investigate. It got its most sensational evidence in written form from John R. Rathom, then editor and general manager of the Providence, R.I. Journal.

Mr. Rathom reported that three weeks previously he had received information from employees of the



TRACKS IN THE SNOW

Over the silver fields
I watch their small tracks go:
One journeys straight ahead:
Across the morning snow;

One zigzags, stumbles, falls,
Ducks into woods to see
What wonders wait therein,
Runs out again with glee

And shouts "Look!" to his brother
Who plods determined on
When both are out of sight
Some day, when both have gone

Their separate ways, I'll smile,
Being their mother, know
How each boy journeys life,
From watching their tracks in
snow.
—Francis Frost

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

ACUTE BRONCHITIS MAY DEVELOPE COMPLICATIONS

This is the season for colds and bronchitis.

Ordinarily, acute bronchitis is a mild disease, but it can be uncomfortable. And, of course, there always is danger of complications such as pneumonia.

A sore throat, pains in the muscles and back, chilliness and a general poor feeling usually are the first symptoms. The temperature, in simple cases, probably will climb to 101 or 102 degrees and remain there for as long as three to five days.

DRY COUGH

Coughing at first will be dry, but within a couple of days you'll be able to bring up bronchial secretions. Coughing actually helps recovery.

Since acute bronchitis frequently is caused by a cold or an influenza virus, your best bet for avoiding it is to keep up your general health. Avoid exposure and becoming tired and chilled.

Once the symptoms begin however, you should go to bed and stay there until your fever has subsided.

It's probably best to stick to a bland diet, avoiding fried foods, pastry, raw fruits or vegetables, pork, coarse-bread or cereal, strong cheese, rich desserts, spices, coffee and meat broths.

Milk, of course, is the basis of any bland diet.

Your doctor probably may advise a codeine mixture to control your cough. If coughing is irritating and continuous, he probably will suggest a steam vaporizer to be used in the sickroom constantly to keep the air humid.

MUSTARD PLASTER

A sore chest usually can be relieved by a flaxseed poultice or an old-fashioned mustard plaster.

Penicillin or sulfonamides may be called for if your fever remains high for any length of time, but should only be taken under the direction of the doctor.

Once the attack is over, take it easy for several days. Don't rush back to work or leap into your normal daily routine. Failure to follow this advice might land you right back in bed.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q: Mrs. W.: Recently, I have noticed blood in my bowel movement. Could this be due to ulcers in the stomach?

A: Blood in the bowel movement comes from many causes.

It may be due to ulcer in the stomach or intestine, infection in the bowel, general blood diseases, such as hemophilia and purpura, or to a polyp of the rectum, hemorrhoids, or tumor.

You should consult your physician concerning the cause and proper treatment.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 86th ANNUAL REPORT TO OUR POLICYHOLDERS

1954	1955
\$ 9,411,000	Surplus Earnings \$ 10,651,000
\$ 31,193,000	Payments to Policyholders and Beneficiaries \$ 33,549,000
\$ 180,862,000	New Assurances (All on Canadians) \$ 188,846,000
\$ 459,547,000	Total Assets \$ 489,581,000
\$1,653,704,000	Assurances in Force \$1,794,967,000

A more complete report, as presented at the 86th Annual Meeting, will be mailed to all our policyholders.

LOUIS L. LANG
President

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Notes By The Way

East Germany has an official decree that popular literature must be written to "promote a desire for patriotic defence" by German youth. Well, here we go again!—Boston Post

During a divorce hearing in California, the husband acted as his own lawyer. He asked his wife: "Didn't you tell me once that for \$10 you could have me beaten up and for \$20 you could have me shot?" The wife denied she said that at all. She declared that she had said she only wished she could get the job done for that money.—Windsor Star

Statistics collected by the United Nations yield the surprising information that Alberta and Saskatchewan together form the second healthiest area in the world. In these two provinces the general death rate (7.2 per 1,000) is low; the expectation of life at birth (69 for boys and 74 for girls) is higher than in any other spot on the globe except only the Hawaiian Islands.—Edmonton Journal

Bernard Baruch, now 85, was asked recently: "How can the old in years remain young in heart and spirit?" In a recent magazine article he made this reply: Older years are not "declining years" for the man and woman who, while yielding gracefully and sensibly to the limitations which the years impose, continue to learn, to work, to participate as fully as possible in life and to enjoy it.—Sherbrooke Record

The direct loss to industry due to alcoholism runs into many millions of dollars a year. Ontario's Alcoholism Research foundation has pointed out in appealing to employers and labor unions for co-operation: "Canada's problem-drinkers—numbering at least 150,000, of whom 50,000 live in Ontario—are away from work for an annual average of 18 days.—Galt Reporter

Pride of Ottawa, at the moment, is the federal formula for splitting with the provinces the cost of a partial health insurance program. Maybe Einstein could have turned in a better one. But the job done by Health Minister Paul Martin's mathematical wizards has the Finance Department—which supposedly shines in this field—green with envy. The backroom boys at the Finance Department have been cooking up plenty of formulae on their own in recent years, trying to bring the long Federal-Provincial wrangle over tax sharing to an amicable conclusion. And some of them have impressed even those who devised them. But no tax formula yet advanced shines with the bright glitter of the health insurance formula which abounds in subtle built-in lures for any province reckless enough to study it without blinders.—Montreal Gazette

A string of hamburger stands is extending right across England. Which, if the wind is right, should break up many a fox hunt.—Vancouver Herald

Which is Canada's oldest city? asks a correspondent. Saint John, N. B., was incorporated a city in 1785. Toronto was second to be so incorporated (1834) and Montreal and Quebec were next (1840)—Toronto Telegram

Consider the truck farmers of Southern Florida. Their business is to raise vegetables when most other regions cannot raise vegetables. Even so, they have to gamble, for they, too, are frozen out or flooded out every few years. This winter, most of them have lost the gamble. A week of severe cold has caused a loss estimated at \$20,000,000 in Dade county alone. South of Miami some 12,000 acres of tomatoes are lost. Of Palm Beach country's 100,000 acres in vegetables only 2,000 acres have escaped damage.—Baltimore Sun

Sir Laurence Olivier, the noted British actor, is said to give the finest performance of his life in his new film, "Richard III". Much research and much traveling were involved in obtaining realistic background for the film, and he himself spends nearly three hours in making up and dressing—one hour to build up his nose, forty minutes to create his malformed hand, thirty minutes to adjust his wig, and another half-hour to apply a plastic skin. As someone has said, the secret of the art is in taking pains.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

Though there is no reliable record, it probably happened in Greece nearly three thousand years ago. Fin at the Olympics, as we mean. As regularly as these international games roll around, just as regularly a "We wuz robbed" cry is raised by somebody. Canada's contestants are the latest to raise their voice in protest. Apparently they lost the game with Italy's entry was a whizz. We won, of course. By all accounts, however, it wasn't through the kind co-operation of the German referee. The crowd, too, was by way of being partisan.—Montreal Star

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