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South American Affairs

Time was—not so long ago, either—when events in South America were of little interest to anyone, besides the professional diplomats, beyond that continent's borders.

How times have changed, to be sure! Now, if a handful of rebels land in Costa Rica and take over a railway station or an airport, there is a hurried meeting of hemisphere officials and diplomats, who regard the situation almost as seriously as they would view the dropping of Russian bombs on New York or Montreal.

Of course, many factors have contributed to this dramatic change in hemispheric interests and outlooks. But, chiefly, it is due to the sense of urgency which is abroad among free men everywhere in their watchfulness of the common enemy as it goes up and down Latin America—and, for that matter, throughout North America, too—seeking whom it may devour.

Agricultural Prospects

In a survey of farm marketing prospects for the current year the Bank of Nova Scotia monthly review notes, as one of the most encouraging elements in the outlook, the growth of the domestic market.

In export markets, conditions are in many ways more promising than they were a year ago. The outlook for wheat has certainly improved and overseas exports of coarse grains have thus far held up quite well.

At the beginning of the new production season next May, the Agricultural Prices Support Board may hold butter stocks of around 50 million lbs. bought at the support price of 58c a lb.

stocks on hand in case poor pasture conditions in the summer cause a drop in production, the true surplus is perhaps not more than 30 million lbs. And it must be remembered that this has been accumulated during two exceptionally favourable years in which production exceeded 300 million lbs. annually compared with an average production in the three years before that of around 265 million lbs.

There are also small excess stocks of cheese and eggs on hand. The rise in domestic consumption of cheese has helped to take care of the increase in production; but purchases by the private trade in Britain, which is now responsible for cheese imports into that country, have so far amounted to rather less than half of the 10 million lbs. purchased by the British Ministry of Food in the fall of 1953.

The Agricultural Prices Support Board has accumulated some eggs—about 3 million dozen—under the price support program. Since egg production is expected to continue above last winter's level and since the outlook for exports, which were helpful in sustaining the market last winter, is less favourable than a year ago, producers will welcome the recent announcement that price support will be continued at the present level of 38c a dozen for Grade A Large.

Livestock has been the brightest spot in the animal products picture during the fall and winter. In the year ahead, the Bank Letter predicts that Canadian output of beef and pork is likely to increase. However, beef production in the United States is expected to be little if any larger this year than last, and pork production to be up only moderately.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Attention of the civic authorities is called to the very bad condition of street intersections, which should be attended to at once.

Born this date, 1807, Robert Edward Lee, Commander in Chief of the Confederacy in the American Civil War; a legal holiday in twelve Southern States.

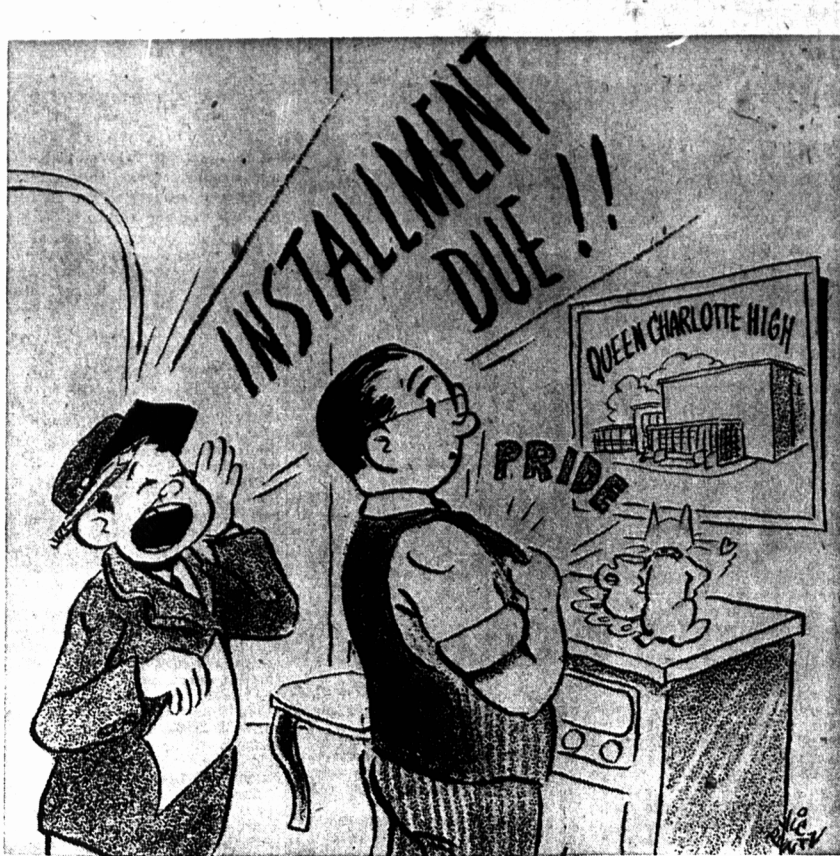
In its latest quarterly estimate, the Bureau of Statistics reports Canada's population as having reached 15,410,000 at December 1. This was an increase of 97,000 in the quarter and a gain of 405,000 from a year earlier.

This fishermen's yarn is authentic, according to Reuters news agency. Off Busseton, in West Australia, an eight-foot blue whaler shark, a three-foot gummy shark and a large turtle were caught together with one bait.

Nationalism seems to be on the rise in Jamaica, as elsewhere. That, at any rate, would appear to be the chief significance of the results of the recent election in that semi-independent island.

On Lochyoch Farm, in Lanarkshire, one hundred thousand virus-tested seed potatoes are being kept in a creosoted wooden hut, wired for thermostatically-controlled electric heaters.

As explained by Dr. Lea, chairman of the City School Board, the new civic educational tax will provide for operational expenses of the high school as well as for interest payments and amortization of the building debt.



Breaking In On Our Reverie

Embattled Democracy

By Heath Macquarrie

Revolutions are not uncommon in Latin America, nor is it unusual to find neighboring countries interfering in the violent processes of political change.

But today Costa Rica's territory is under invasion and its present government in danger. How has this come about? As usual the trouble arises partly from within and partly from without the nation.

Christopher Columbus is credited with discovering and naming Costa Rica on his fourth voyage to the new world. The natives he found there wore golden ornaments unusual in their design and quality.

After being written off as a source of quick wealth, Costa Rica was settled by tough Spanish colonists who were prepared to make a living from the soil by the slower methods of agriculture.

But perhaps the greatest danger comes from Nicaragua whose dictator Somoza is the sworn enemy of the Costa Rican president. When the 1948 revolution was on, Guatemala's leftist government helped Figueres while Somoza's forces aided the other side.

Costa Ricans are the most highly educated citizen body in Latin America and it has long been their proudest boast that among the country had more schoolteachers than soldiers.

elections and presidents who depended upon the support of the voters and not the goodwill of the army. Political parties have not been suppressed and newspapers are free to criticize the government.

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The Poet's Corner

THE RUGS GO WEST
If these old rugs could speak—
a caller mused.
They do speak, as all voiceless beauty speaks.

ment in Guatemala last summer and Nicaragua and Honduras are now dominant. Figueres liberal regime is looked upon as a reproach to them and its destruction would be welcomed.

Now by the traditional union of enemies from within and without Figueres is under siege. His country is not as powerful as Nicaragua which has received equipment from the United States.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

The urban drift in Canada in the last half century has deprived the countryside not only of many of its young people but many of its spokesmen.

The popularity of rummage sales spreads like wildfire. In fact one local sale was besieged by customers who had formed in a queue in front of their church hall, extending for almost two blocks.

The last 10 or 15 years have definitely marked the beginnings of a new deal for our farm population, increase in farm prosperity has been marked.

A United Nations report says wear and tear on carpets, upholstery and other furnishings in parts of the glassy UN headquarters has been eight to 10 times more than originally estimated.

In accepting the Nobel peace prize, Dr. Albert Schweitzer spoke forthrightly to mankind everywhere, as one would expect him to do, on the common responsibility for creating war.

There are over 7,000 independent stores, 2,000 of them in Manitoba and 5,000 largely in Saskatchewan and some in Alberta, which adopted the "cash only" system of business in 1954.

1855 Charlottetown Centennial 1955

Attention Charlottetown Businessmen

On Wednesday, January 19th the Charlottetown Retail Merchants Association will honour all the Business Firms of the City which have been in business over 50 years.

There will be a reception and dinner at the Charlottetown Hotel commencing at 6 P.M.

All of our businessmen and our business women are cordially invited and urged to attend.

Tickets are \$2.00 and can be had from the Centennial General Manager, 111 Grafton St.

As they are going fast, it is suggested you get yours without delay.

How about joining your fellow Merchants in honouring these Firms which have played such an important part in the life of Charlottetown?

CHARLOTTETOWN CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

CASH for any good reason

Get \$50 to \$1,000 to pay doctor bills, taxes, repairs, fuel, clothing. Single or married persons may borrow on signature.

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The Age Old Story

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

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Advertisement for Hillman Minox camera, featuring the text 'New '55 HILLMAN Minox' and 'watch for the BIG news... JAN. 21'.