

The Commonwealth Clock

In the lobby at Marlborough House, London, where the Commonwealth Prime Ministers are meeting, there is a great 24-hour clock that shows the correct time throughout the Commonwealth simultaneously. But few of the overseas representatives seem to know what time it is. For the Commonwealth, we mean, and the free world. Most of them are too busy talking to look, and they are about as helpful as Job's comforters in the advice they are giving Britain at this critical time.

Will not the unity of Europe in mightily strengthening the West make the Commonwealth partnership stronger, too? They don't seem to know. Britain's membership in the Common Market will involve the entry of Norway and Denmark as well—two powers which, along with Holland and Belgium will assure London of four votes in the enlarged community, thus giving Britain the possibility of greatly influencing the future development of European policy. Won't that be a good thing for the Commonwealth? The thought, apparently, hasn't occurred to them.

Won't Britain's entry help keep the present anti-American and neutralist elements from assuming control when de Gaulle and Aduener disappear from the political scene, thus preventing a Paris-Bonn axis that may dominate the Six-power group and take dangerously irresponsible political steps to the detriment of Britain and other Commonwealth members? And, in the long run, isn't it inevitable that if Britain remains outside the Common Market, it will inevitably lead to the political weakening of NATO?

Questions all relating to what time it is on the Commonwealth clock. But of all the overseas spokesmen only Sir Roy Welensky, Prime Minister of the Rhodesia-Nyasaland Federation, seems concerned. He supported Prime Minister Macmillan's policy on the ground that economic strength was the greatest protection against Communism, and argued that a Britain stronger through Market membership would be of even greater help to the Commonwealth. That, says a press despatch, was Mr. Macmillan's "first support" in three days of conference talk by the clock.

Perhaps an hour glass would be a better thing for the Commonwealth ministers to have in Marlborough House than a mechanical clock whose readings they can't interpret. It would show them, at least, how steadily the sands are running out.

A British Reaction

"Fine words butter no parsnips." The comment is that of Mr. Gerald Nabarro, a Conservative backbencher in the British Parliament; and the subject of his comment was Prime Minister Diefenbaker's words on the prospects of increasing Commonwealth trade. Mr. Diefenbaker had said that this could be done as an alternative to the Common Market—and to a greater degree than ever before. But Mr. Nabarro doubly recalled that ever since 1932 Britain has been generously admitting unlimited Canadian and Commonwealth food and raw materials, whereas Canada erects high tariffs and strict quotas against British manufactured goods, and other Commonwealth countries likewise.

"I remind Mr. Diefenbaker," said

Mr. Nabarro, sticking closely to familiar phrases, "that trade is a two-way matter, and if he wants continuing free entry of Canadian goods into Britain he should give similar facilities for British goods entering Canada. In short, he should practice what he preaches."

Mr. Diefenbaker's vague offer about expanding Commonwealth trade met with a better reception in the Beaverbrook press, where it was hailed as "a new Empire plan." But to date, the Canadian Prime Minister hasn't offered anything like a concrete plan to the Commonwealth conference. His ghost of a proposal, which is understood to rest heavily on the prospects for expanding world trade offered by President Kennedy's move to reduce free world tariff barriers, was allegedly put before Mr. Diefenbaker by his officials as something to be stuck in his back pocket when he took off for London.

This time, at any rate, he told the conference, "isn't the time to unveil Canada's proposals." They could be discussed later if the prime ministers generally want to discuss alternative trade plans. Meanwhile it was indicated that he would feel free to enlarge on his proposals in the Canadian Commons when the new Parliament assembles later this month.

Which brings us back, by a circuitous route, to Mr. Nabarro and his timely reflection on the inability of fine words to butter parsnips.

The Unsilent Sea

When Premier Khrushchev commented on some cessation or other the Western world wanted him to make to relieve world tensions, he appeared to have expressed the ultimate in negation when he said it would never be acceptable "until shrimps learned to whistle." But scientists have turned up some strange facts in their submarine researches, and it could be that what Mr. Khrushchev thought was to be impossible for shrimps to do is being done all the time.

At any rate, they've discovered that the sea is a silent place only to the human ear, and that the denizens of the deep chatter at each other—and even whistle—at an interminable rate. The first significant discovery was made in 1942—Mr. Khrushchev should have heard of that—when a network of anti-submarine microphones set up deep in Chesapeake Bay was effectively put out of action by what sounded like an orchestra of pneumatic drills. The source of the sound was traced to millions of little fish, called appropriately the Atlantic Croaker.

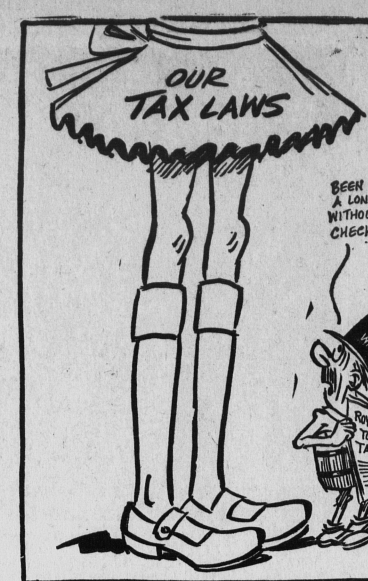
Later experiments with tape showed that fish not only make sounds, but that some of them, notably the porpoise, make sounds in a systematic pattern that seems remarkably like a language. As they swim, porpoises emit an almost continuous series of whistles and clicks. The whistles, which are almost without human hearing, resemble the cheeps of a canary, and the clicks are like the tapping of a high speed woodpecker, although they can reach frequencies of 200,000 cycles of sound—far beyond the limits of human audibility.

The scientists haven't got round to listening in on the crustaceans yet, but doubtless that will come. If porpoises can whistle we venture to say that shrimps have learned the art too, which would completely dispose of the barrier the Soviet Premier has put up against accepting Western proposals, and pave the way for a more successful attempt at international understanding.

EDITORIAL NOTES

From Rutgers' University, New Jersey, comes the announcement that ants are accomplished conversationalists. They talk to each other and a zoologist at the university has sound recordings of 25 different kinds of ants to prove it. So far there has been no comment on what the ants have to say, which is perhaps just as well.

An alarm clock for the deaf is the latest gadget to be developed by a British instrument firm. It is electrically operated and wakes the sleeper simply by causing the bedside light to flash off and on intermittently. Once the alarm is set at the required time, the bedside light can still be used, but of course must be switched off again before the user goes to sleep.



LIKE TOPY IT JUST GROWED

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Hees Preaches Industrial Expansion

"We cannot homestead at our present stage of being wood, if we want to maintain our standard of living, still less so if we seek to raise it." This was the message which Hon. George Hees gave to the Industrial Expansion Conference here last week. The most important and trenchant point he made perhaps ever delivered by a Canadian Trade Minister did not use these words, but he repeatedly called for competitive design and quality and price in Canadian manufactured goods, teamwork between labour and management, aggressive world-wide salesmanship, more industrial research, expansion in manufacturing—all leading to greater economic growth all round.

A capacity audience of top businessmen had come to Ottawa to take part in the conference. Their receptive audience felt a deal of new ideas surge around them as the Minister spoke. For behind his words of suggestion and exhortation lay something entirely new: this philosophy for the BOSS'S HOMESTEAD.

His business managers have for long gone to sleep in the night, snug in their belief that when they wake up on the morrow their world would be the same, that they could drift along on the benign breeze of Canadian growth and world demand.

But tomorrow and the next day and every day things will be different for Canada now. We and other wealthy nations have been generously helping the under-developed countries for 15 years since the war. We have been giving them equipment and machinery through various

PUBLIC FORUM

STAND APPRECIATED Sir.—My purpose in writing this letter is to express my appreciation for the editorial what belated, of your editorials about racial discrimination in the Province of Ontario. On record as one of the many who are glad you took the stand you did on this matter. Racial discrimination is considered one of the three major problems facing the world today. It is good to know that we have a newspaper here with the courage and insight to bring this matter to the attention of the public so that it can be recognized and intelligently handled.

What calls forth my belated appreciation is "Wednesday's Guardian by A Summer Visitor," which letter seems to administer blame for your editorials. I thoroughly disagree with him in this matter, and do not wish the opinions expressed in his letter.

Surely he cannot expect to escape criticism seriously when he suggests that if the Negro man and his wife (whatever their names) may drive himself into social and cultural alienation, he is the writer of the letter knows that the Negro is attempting to escape from the social and cultural alienation that for generations past has been imposed on him by his white brethren. He is trying to gain his rights as a man, but these rights are denied him in this Province when the matter should be investigated and corrected by the proper authorities.

Racial prejudice and bigotry masquerade under all kinds of disguises, and usually are found at their worst among the ignorant and the ill-informed. It is in the sphere of education that the press and church and school can help most. Perhaps the Christian churches of our province bring 1500 or 2000 issue of human brotherhood ever more concretely to their

Old Misbeliefs Are Hard To Die

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen WHY ARE most babies born at night? Babes Dark, Fla., woman writes: "I have been interested in how closely we humans follow the development of man down through the ages. Most women go to labor at night. So did our prehistoric ancestral posterity. Darkness was a protection from enemies at a time when they were helpless to defend themselves. Most farm animals have their babies at night, too."

Everyone is entitled to a theory when the reason for a situation is not known. This was a sure bet that "pre-historic ancestral mothers" had their babies at night. In all probability, they delivered them during the day as do modern mothers. On the other hand, many of our habits and instincts go back to primitive man. We repeat them but the civilized mind and emotional reverts to the animal stage when certain emergencies arise.

It takes some people a long time to shake misbeliefs. An Illinois woman writes: "I remember some time ago when I was in the kitchen cooking in aluminum ware. I threw out all my pots and pans made of this substance and replaced them with steel. Now some aluminum wrap and I'm cooking in it. I'm sure it's safe for use in wrapping and storing foods or was the aluminum can score just an idea and not true at all."

The story was not true and the "gullible" woman would have investigated before throwing out the aluminum ware. Furthermore, we went through the same thing when tin cans were used. But I suspect she still believes the myth because of her remarks on aluminum. The use of this metal led to cancer, most of us would be gone by now.

Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope. LONGEVITY AND MURMURS L.S. writes: "I'm a woman of 52 with a slight heart murmur. My doctor tells me I could live to be 80. Is this possible?" REPLY: Yes, but don't throw all caution to the wind now that you realize you may have 30 or more years to go. Many murmurs are innocent and do not influence longevity.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Develop the industry, "could scarcely be more promising" he said. TEN YEARS AGO (September 13, 1952) Better packing for shipment and better marketing of our farm produce could mean a great increase in the trade between this island and Newfoundland, said Mr. William Agnew, Provincial Trade Director, who returned this week from a tour of the Old Colony.

An Imperial Service Medal, awarded by Her Majesty the Queen, was presented recently to Thomas Alexander Ledwell of St. Peter's by the C.N.R. Superintendent, C.T. Montgomery. The medal is accompanied by a certificate from the General Authority of the Order of Knighthood, St. James Palace, London.

GYPSIES SETTLE

About two-thirds of Sweden's 200 gypsies now are permanent domiciled, while 252 individuals of 52 families still are migrant.

This is the stern warning, dressed up in all those phrases about economic growth and competitive products and labour-management co-operation, which George Hees gave to the "Canadian Industrial Expansion Conference" here in Ottawa, and which Trade Minister George Hees is realising that if you have to depend on the second day of the conference of prime ministers, suggest that Britain's minister is perhaps a reluctant as ever to see her cross the channel.

All ever speaking circumspcctly. The tone is subtler but the case remains fundamentally the same. In the United Kingdom of lukewarm statements to keep the European connection made three years ago by British ministers, Prime Minister Macmillan may have used a technique as embarrassing as the more forthright criticisms expressed by Canadian spokesmen at the Commonwealth meeting in Ghana a year ago. KEEPS PLANS SECRET

Whitehall is unlikely to disclose the substance of what Mr. Diefenbaker's vague references about "alternatives" to British membership in the European Economic Community. It is understood the prime minister wishes to keep these matters in a pigeonhole unless his Commonwealth colleagues insist.

"He keeps waving these alternative plans in the back-room but he isn't straight-talking," one British source commented. "Why doesn't he come out and say that, then, he's had plenty of time." In meetings with reporters, Diefenbaker was reluctant to give the slightest clue to any new Canadian proposals. It is understood the Canadian minister in reserve for discussion by the Canadian Parliament after his

Before the Marlborough House talks opened, there was a postcard of a man in a topcoat called circles to write the conference off as a sham fight with an invisible enemy. Britain is halfway into Europe, it was argued, and nothing the minister could say would make any difference.

MORE MINERALS Mineral production doubled in 1961, says U.S. Bureau of Mines, reaching a value of \$205,000,000.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Too many girls think a woman's work is done once she has swept down the aisle—Calgary Herald.

One of the first great disillusionments of life comes to the child in kindergarten when he finds that after going to school for a week he still can't read.

In the good old days, which cynics say never existed, the wearing of the first pair of long trousers was a great transition and marked the end of childhood. But if the present trend continues it will take his first pair of short ones to give tomorrow's adolescent a similar sartorial triumph. Hamilton Spectator.

Shakespeare's Tomb

Montreal Gazette

Shakespeare has always provided scholars with a tantalizing mystery—the mystery of his own life. What sort of person was he? Was he the author of the plays ascribed to him? The evidence is so scanty that there is room for almost any theory. Not even one of his manuscripts is known to exist. The known facts of his life provide only the barest chronology.

A new attempt to solve the mystery is being proposed by some Shakespeare scholars in England. They say that since it was common at the time for writers to produce their work to the grave of a prominent person, there may exist evidence in Shakespeare's tomb. They would like to open and inspect the grave.

But there is a problem. There is always objection to disturbing the grave of a great man. And in Shakespeare's case there is a special reason, many feel, for objection. Upon the stone covering the grave is an inscription: "Good friend for Jesus sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here! Blessed be ye man yt espases these stones."

And curst be he yt moves my bones. Many feel that this marks a special request by Shakespeare that no one ever inspect his grave. But the poet probably had something different in mind. At that time it was common to remove a person's bones to the church-house after a period, so that the grave might be used over again. Shakespeare was probably pleading that he be spared this gruesome fate.

There may therefore be no reason at all why Shakespeare's grave should not be opened to see what, if anything, it contains.

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