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ing the Russian people "more bread and fewer guns"; but wasn't that just an afterthought? Mr. Khrushchev hasn't been talking very loud that way of late. What we choose to think is that he was jolted into this attitude by our Mr. Helley's example, but doesn't like to admit it!

In any case, for fewer guns the Soviets are now planning an increase of 53 per cent in additional investments in agriculture, housing, light industry and food processing in the 1964-65 period. Whether the lead taken by Canada had anything to do with it or not, this is welcome news everywhere. It means that the process of easing cold war tensions, begun with the signing of the nuclear test ban agreement, is still going on.

There is further evidence of this trend at the NATO conference in Paris this week, where East-West relations are being assessed in a more optimistic mood than has been evident for a long time. Britain particularly is said to be seeking wider areas for East-West agreement, though it is emphasized that she will not entertain any deal with the Russians at the cost of Allied unity or interests.

It would be unwise to read too much into these current happenings. But coming at this pre-Christmas season we would be equally at fault if we didn't hail them as promising auguries.

Timely Warning

At every Christmas season there are families whose celebrations are marred by a recurring tragedy—serious fires that have started with the Christmas trees. This is very often the result, not of deliberate carelessness, but of ignorance. And for the help of families in this connection, the Department of Forestry has published a pamphlet called "Flammability of Christmas Trees."

The recommendations in the pamphlet are simple and straightforward. The tree should be as fresh as possible. When it is brought into the house, a diagonal cut should be made one or two inches from the bottom. The tree should then be placed in water, and this water should be regularly replenished. Under these conditions, and provided the tree is fairly fresh to start with, the needles and twigs can be kept alive for at least three weeks.

Everyone planning to decorate a Christmas tree should make themselves familiar with the simple rules for caring for it. And if everyone did so, there could be a Christmas free of this unfortunate and unnecessary type of tragedy.

New Scottish City

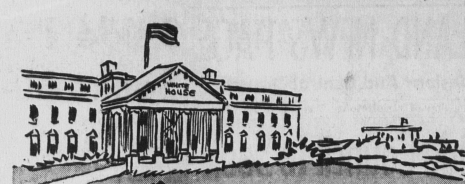
Other countries, confronting the objectionable "urban sprawl" that seems to be inherent in modern progress, have done little or nothing to eliminate its bad features. But Scotland and England are preparing to avoid the creation of sprawling cities, and perhaps their example will bear fruit elsewhere.

The British system, when a population problem emerges, is to bring an entirely new community into existence to take care of the overflow. So it is with Livingston, which will be the fourth new city to be developed in Scotland. What is today was a trifling village, some 15 miles from Edinburgh, will grow into a modern-planned city with 70,000 population.

When completed, Livingston will have factories, schools and a fine hospital. The layout will ensure that there is room for every house to be built.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Although Canada continues to run a deficit on her total balance of payments, the trade picture is brightening. But there are still shady patches. Although we have a trade surplus of \$243,600,000 for the year to the end of October, compared with a deficit of \$25,400,000 for the same period last year, the month of October showed a surplus of only \$17,300,000 compared with \$49,500,000 for the same month last year. Imports also rose proportionately more than exports for the same month.



There are of course more profound arguments for and against this very far-reaching pension proposal.

BEATING A PATH TO HIS DOOR  
OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Pension Proposal Stirs Hot Arguments

The most important piece of legislation to come before our Parliament in many years is without question the government proposal to introduce a universal portable pension.

On the surface, this appears to be a desirable step forward in the creation of the Welfare State. But it has been argued forcibly by many critics that the proposal is in reality a way in sheep's clothing that everyone now under the age of 58 will pay into the scheme more than he or she can ever draw out.

Like so many of our important national issues, there has been no significant public debate of this proposal. This may be because the government has to date taken insufficient heed of its proposal to permit an informed discussion. At least we must be sure of one thing: the measure is too significant to our future economic well-being to be taken without a full and free public debate and modified.

English settlers and African natives crowd the 16,000-square-mile fertile highlands whose coffee, tea, silk, and pyrethrum flowers, processed for insecticides, form the basis of Kenya's economy.

Kenya has a population of 7,200,000, 98 per cent of whom are African. Dr. L.S.B. Leak, Kenya's brilliant anthropologist, whose work is supported by the National Geographic, says a Kenya may be the original home of man.

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Power And Smoking  
NOTES BY THE WAY

Little \$50 million costs, for rolls are finding eager buyers at a Montreal store. Anyone or anything can have a mint coil, it seems, except the mint itself—Ottawa Journal.

At a Washington conference, housewives were told that even more wonderful labor-saving gadgets are ahead. This will give the wife more time to go out and get a job to pay for them—Calgary Herald.

Green Goddess  
Ottawa Journal

Many millions of years before the dark brown needles above the grass and maples, grasses and violets grew on our planet, the greens thrived in a belt around the earth. Some 600 varieties of this evergreen family are listed and of them all, the white pine is thought by many to be the most graceful and distinctive.

The white pine has served man well. Its light weight, straight-grained wood has been used for many purposes. Tall masts that grew in sight of the Ottawa once carried canoes across the seas. The vast stands are the third and fourth generations of trees that stand like goddesses. Through the turning years they offer their beauty to him who is searching for anchors in a setting world.

To Fight School Costs  
Chatham Daily News

The United States seems to have led the world in building school costs; and in that respect California, the homeland of expensive and costly ideas, probably passed the others.

Currently, some \$18,000,000 worth of bids on school buildings, covering work in 13 school districts, are being opened in school planning laboratories of Lehigh-Stanford University. More than 40 firms have submitted construction bids for 12 high and elementary schools, designed to serve 30,000 pupils and involving a layout of more than 2,000,000 square feet of school space.

Here was an opportunity for the attack on costs; and California school authorities are reported grabbing the opportunity. Using an integrated system of school building construction, the newly formed five-man First Commission on School Construction Systems will permit the architects under unprecedented flexibility. The net result will be determined in lowered costs and speedier construction time.

Out of this unique development is expected to come the greatest achievement in lower school-building costs—costs which constitute from 50 to 70 cents of the total real-estate tax dollar in many of our most communities.

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Our Yesterdays  
(From the Guardian Files)

Twenty-five years ago (December 17, 1938) Charlottetown's Queen Square School Cadet Corps was replaced when Prince Edward Island's first military band was formed in Military District No. 6, which included Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The band's first rehearsal was at the school on Dec. 17.

Every year many expect are made happy by the friend, J.D. O'Connell. The amount of \$38 was recently received by the Sisters and children of St. Vincent's Orphanage.

A horse's neck was strangled at City Council meeting last night over the enforcement of the curfew law. The 11-year-old horse was owned by the late Chief of Commerce proposed that it be rigidly enforced. Police Officer M. G. Macdonald said it would require the full time services of the whole P.I. force. The council was not in agreement that it was desirable to keep children under 14 years of age off the streets after 9 p.m.

Residents of Murray River yesterday voted against putting the village under the Village Services Act, in a plebiscite conducted by the mayor of Kings County Sheriff E.D. Reid. The vote was 40 for continuing the village as a village and 64 against.

PLANS INDIA VISIT  
New Delhi (AP)—Premier Khrushchev accepted an invitation to visit India for the first time in his official capacity. He will arrive in New Delhi on Monday. Khrushchev will stay in New Delhi for a period of 10 days and then fly to Nepal and Ceylon in January.

COMMON TONGUE  
The most common language in the world is that based primarily in Mandarin and spoken by about 400,000,000 Chinese.

ALISTAIR MACLEOD  
154 Richmond St. Charlottetown, P.E.I.  
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Newest African Nation  
National Geographic Society

Kenya, land of the Mau Mau, is the latest African country to gain independence. Leaders of the former East African Colony and British Protectorate plan to make it a republic. But for the time being, following independence day on December 12, 1963, it has dominion (monarchical) status.

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