

THE GUARDIAN

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"The strongest memory is weaker than
 the weakest ink."
 MONDAY, OCT. 17, 1955

Canada's Contribution

Canada's Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Lester Pearson, is now in the Far East. He will be followed by a task force of his countrymen bent on constructing the \$40,000,000 Warsak dam, a hydro-electric power and irrigation project to be built by Canada in the Khyber Pass district of Northwest Pakistan. Already the Canadian government has set aside \$15,000,000 for it. The job has been assigned to a Montreal firm, Angus Robertson Limited, and represents the first time a Canadian construction company has undertaken a Colombo Plan project abroad.

The Warsak dam will generate an eventual 240,000 kilowatts of power and enable the irrigation of 93,000 acres in the Peshawar Plain. The power project is the largest in Pakistan and will go a long way in helping that country to realize its industrial aims. It is indeed exciting to know that Canadian skills, material, men and money are being used in this way to assist our great Commonwealth neighbor.

The other evidence of Canada's good faith to which Mr. Pearson may point is our gift of an experimental atomic reactor to India. The value of this gift cannot be measured in terms of money, although that is not small for the reactor being given is similar to the NRX reactor at Chalk River. It is a clear indication of Canada's honest desire to help the countries of Asia attain their goal of self-improvement and the most imaginative concrete step yet taken by any country as an outcome of the Geneva Conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Canadians may view with justifiable pride these efforts to meet the challenge of Asia. There can be no doubt in Singapore as to Canada's sincerity of purpose. Nor can we find anything to criticize in the quality or type of aid being rendered under the Colombo Plan. But, as Mr. Nik Cavell, Canadian Colombo Plan administrator, told a Parliamentary committee last spring, there is no limit to the amount of assistance Southeast Asia can absorb.

Finland Regains Porkkala

Along Finland's southern coast, a small but strategic patch of land called Porkkala is again changing hands. The enclave, which includes a peninsula and adjacent district of the same name some 20 miles from Helsinki, was leased to Russia for a naval base in 1944, following the Finnish-Soviet armistice. Its scheduled return within the next few months will come nearly 40 years before the expiration of the Russians' 50-year lease, as part of their announced program to relinquish military bases on foreign soil.

Porkkala covers only about 150 square miles, says the National Geographic Society, but its location makes it important to whatever country controls it. It has been nicknamed the "Baltic Gibraltar," because it overlooks the narrowest point of the Gulf of Finland near its entrance from the Baltic Sea.

Porkkala Peninsula reaches south into the Gulf toward the Estonian capital Tallin, 38 miles away. Leningrad, Russia's second city, sprawls at the Gulf's other end, 200 miles to the east. But the Finns' own capital is closest of all; Helsinki has stood since 1944 within easy gun range of a foreign military zone.

The return of Porkkala will ease other problems of the Finns. Through this 20-mile coastal area runs the direct railway route between Helsinki and the important port of Turku to the west. In the past decade, armed Russian guards have boarded Finnish trains arriving at the Porkkala border, and Russian locomotives were coupled on to cross the zone. Passengers, forbidden to look out on activities of this military district, found the ban reinforced by iron shutters. With

windows dark and lights on overhead, Finns called the Porkkala run the "longest tunnel in the world."

Porkkala waters, too, were off limits to Finns and others. Fishermen forced into port by storm, or travellers who inadvertently sailed into the restricted areas, often underwent intensive questioning by Soviet authorities and sometimes prolonged detention.

In giving up Porkkala the Russians transfer to Finland improvements made during their occupation, such as dock and harbor works, new buildings, and other construction.

Although details of Soviet military installation have been close secrets, now and then reports seeped out that some 20,000 troops were stationed in Porkkala; that woods had been cleared for artillery practice and airports; that submarine pens had been built, and mine fields, anti-tank defenses and pillboxes scattered about the region.

Porkkala has a long history of military use. Before the Russian Revolution, when Finland was ruled by Tsarist Russia, an old fortress stood on this headland. During World War II, the Germans held this spot and demonstrated its value by bottling up the approaches to beleaguered Leningrad. Finland itself maintained a naval base there before the Soviet Union took over.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mrs. Euphemia Rabbit, 80 year old citizen of B. C. takes great delight in hunting coyotes. She does not, however, go in for rabbit hunting. That is understandable.

This week the annual campaign of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is in progress. Through this excellent organization, as the provincial campaign chairman, Mr. DeBlois, points out, our sightless people today are enjoying greater independence and activity than ever before. The appeal speaks for itself and it is hoped the response will be prompt and generous.

Even now coal is taking an inferior place to other forms of energy-producing fuel. By the end of the century, if the present trend keeps up, there will probably be no use for it at all. Britain's chief delegate to the U.N. has stated that by 1975 40% of its total electricity will be generated by nuclear power and by the year 2000 nuclear energy will be able to do the work of 3 million tons of coal a year.

British Foreign Secretary MacMillan stated the other day that he finds it understandable that the Russians after the injuries inflicted upon them by Germans of other days "are determined that never again shall the soil of Holy Russia be defiled by the invader". He went on to say that if that is the only Russian objection to German reunification "the Western powers can devise a scheme to meet the legitimate preoccupations". Well, the scheme is now out in the open. It will be interesting to see how "holy Russia" reacts to it.

Before sending gifts in kind to so-called underprivileged countries, it would be well for the donors to look into the habits and customs of the recipients of their bounty. Some time ago an American organization sent a large number of milk goats to Okinawa to supply milk for undernourished children. After two shiploads had arrived it was discovered that Okinawan children don't like milk and won't have anything to do with it. In this case, charity was not a total loss, however. The goats were killed and eaten, the youngsters presumably having no objection to the meat.

There is, of course, many an error in public opinion polls. But, for what they are worth, Mr. Adlai Stevenson, 1952 Democratic candidate for the Presidency, must be feeling pretty good these days. A recent survey showed that, should Mr. Eisenhower not choose to run in 1956—and his illness makes this almost certain—Mr. Stevenson, judging by present sentiment, will be far ahead of any likely Republican candidate. Incidentally, Vice-President Nixon did not have as good a showing on the Republican side as did Chief Justice Warren, who stoutly maintains that he is out of politics for good.



"All Dressed Up And ---"

Enemy-Proof Lighting

By Frank Carey,
 Associated Press, Washington

Many new radioactive lamps offer possibilities for enemy-proof lighting aboard darkened ships in time of war and for emergency lighting when a ship's power fails.

Navy scientists say the lamps, small enough to be carried in the palm of the hand, utilize the same basic principle as the luminous radium dials on some wrist watches but are vastly more powerful.

They employ some of the new radioactive isotopes produced in the atomic energy program. An isotope, such as radioactive strontium, is mixed with zinc sulphide. Invisible atomic rays from the strontium act upon atoms of the zinc sulphide, causing it to emit visible light.

No electric current is involved and there are no wires. The lamps are plastic encased circular "markers," some of them an inch in diameter, others one and three-quarter inches in diameter.

They glow continuously, with a potential useful life of several years. Their light is not sufficiently bright to be seen any great distance—the maximum is 1,000 feet for the brightest—but they offer possibilities for illumination of relatively near at hand activities, the scientists say.

The navy already is installing the smaller sized lamps on ships to illuminate ladders and doorways sufficiently to allow them to be seen on a darkened deck.

But here are some of the possibilities foreseen by scientists of the naval research laboratory for the larger, one and three-quarter inch lamps:

1. As a source of illumination to read maps, orders and instructions "under dark conditions where general illumination is not desirable" such as on the bridge of a battleship in enemy territory.

"A flashlight could be seen for miles," one scientist said, "but the light from the brightest of these new lamps couldn't be seen beyond 1,000 feet, which isn't very far at sea."

2. As "stand-by illumination" below decks in case of power failure. Says a report on the navy research "OR" publication:

"One high luminance marker will illuminate a room 15 feet long 10 feet wide and eight feet high sufficiently well for a dark-adapted person to recognize other persons in the room and to locate obstacles, stairways and doors."

"Average Canadian" (Ottawa Journal)

The "average Canadian" often terrifies us.

He appears in the most alarming form we have seen recently in the words of Mr. C.W. Gilchrist, managing director, Canadian Good Roads Association, addressing the International Road Federation meeting in Rome. He thus described his countrymen:

"The average Canadian neither expects to follow in his father's footsteps nor to inhabit his house. He will move many times during his lifetime. He will probably wear out eight automobiles during his life. He will continue to use his own automobile to drive to work though common sense dictates the use of public transport. During his vacation he will probably travel 3,000 to 4,000 miles in two weeks' time. He will use his automobile on week-ends to take his family into the country. On the average, he will drive 10,000 miles per year."

"The average annual wage of the Canadian worker is \$3,000. If he operates a moderately-priced car and drives it 10,000 miles a year, the privilege of driving it costs him \$900 a year. This is 30 percent of his gross income. This would appear to be a substantial proportion of the average Canadian's budget."

All we can do is crouch at the side of the road to let the "average Canadian" race by, hoping against hope that the Europeans won't think we're all crazy.

The Age Old Story

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Famous Fighting Sikhs

The Sikhs, famed the world over as turbaned fighting men, are calling for a place of their own in the complex political mosaic that is the young Republic and Union of India.

Earlier this year demonstrations for a separate Punjabi-speaking state that would be dominated by Sikhs led to repeated mass arrests. Following an old Indian custom, more than 7,000 defiant slogan shoulders went voluntarily to jail-many courting arrest after colorful ceremonies in the operatic setting of their ancient Golden Temple at Amritsar. Recently the slogan ban was lifted, but the Punjabi-speaking state remains unrealized.

The Sikhs have been called the "sect that became a people". Their religion, a Hindu reform movement including elements of both Moslem and Hindu beliefs, was founded nearly 500 years ago. Today there are some 6,000,000 Sikhs in India, mostly in Punjab states of the plains-and-mountain region of the northwest.

PACIFISTS TURNED MILITANTS The founder of Sikhism from the Sanskrit word for "disciple") was a simple Punjabi known as Guru or Teacher, Nanak. Born in 1469, he preached of one supreme God and the falseness of ritual and caste restrictions. Tolerance, virtue and peace-through-brotherhood were his goals.

The faith won many converts but little peace. Foreign invasions and local religious and political conflicts soon turned the Sikhs into a militant fraternity. Under warrior-leader Govind Singh, 10th and last Guru, they became armed crusaders, disciplined to iron courage.

After Govind's assassination in 1708, the Sikhs were in turn conquered and conquerors in the endless struggles of the plains. "Lords of the Punjab" between 1799 and 1824, they held most of northwest India.

Later the Sikhs fought two bitter wars against British domination, shifting to a policy of loyalty after final defeat in 1849. Volunteer divisions of their turbaned fighters in ghaz collected distinguished war records on empire fronts around the world, including those of World Wars I and II.

Follow Western Ways Under British rule the Sikhs prospered. Quick to adopt Western methods and equipment, they won success in factories and on farms, as taxi drivers, shopkeepers, engineers and radio technicians.

Then came independence and the 1947 division of the country into Pakistan and India. Partition of the Punjab, followed by bloody riots, and finally by exchange of Moslem and Hindu populations, left many Sikhs destitute. Those forced to join the long refugee lines into India's section of the Punjab left behind all they had accumulated in land, wealth and personal belongings. One reason Sikhs now hope for a Punjabi-speaking state, it is said, is to recapture a sense of security and a home of their own.

In their religion the Sikhs still follow the five rules of dress laid down by Govind Singh in 1699. Linked with soldier's garb and tradition, these precepts are called the Five K's, for the first letter of the articles involved. The devout Sikh must always wear a sword or dagger, shorts, and a steel bangle. He must wear a special comb in his hair and never cut either hair or beard.

Thus the tall, dark and powerful Sikh, his beard neatly parted and rolled to frame his handsome features, twists his long hair in a feminine bun under his lowering turban, and the prescribed ensemble identifies him to friend or enemy wherever he goes.

FOR RELIEF OF
ARTHRIC PAIN
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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

CATARACT MAY NOT CAUSE PERMANENT EYE INJURY

Even though you don't know it, you may have a cataract right now. But don't get excited; this is a fairly common eye affliction and occurs, in some degree, to almost all of us as we grow older.

Despite the general belief, a cataract doesn't mean certain blindness. Usually, it brings dimness of sight in varying degrees rather than total blindness.

Can Afflict Infants In fact, one kind of cataract may be present at birth. It is apt to interfere very little with your vision, since it generally remains stationary.

Even when a cataract does hamper vision to a great degree, an operation promises almost certain improvement. Surgical removal of a cataract restores vision in from 85 to 90 per cent of the patients.

A cataract is simply a transparent clouding of the eye's lens or of the capsule enclosing the lens. While it may obstruct vision, it doesn't destroy it. There are many more dangerous eye afflictions, believe me.

Senile cataract probably is the most common type, varying greatly in its development. Some cataracts are caused by eye injuries, others by certain constitutional diseases.

We believe that sudden excessive light or prolonged eyestrain due to uncorrected visual errors might also cause the condition.

In removing a cataract, a surgeon removes the eye's lens. This means you'll have to wear special glasses from then on to make up for the lens your eye lacks.

Images Seem Larger You'll find that images seen through an aphakic lens are much larger than those you have been used to seeing. You'll also note that only the center of the lens gives perfect vision and that everything has a bluish tint. Also, your field of vision is restricted somewhat.

As the eye's refractive state changes, you'll need different glasses. A new type of cataract lens service is now available which will permit you to rent a series of lenses to be used as you progress from one type to another.

Usually it will take about six weeks after the operation before your eye is stabilized and you have become adjusted to the new type lens.

QUESTION AND ANSWER G. S.: Will eating ice cause pleurisy?

Answer: Eating ice will not cause pleurisy.

Fall Fatness

(New York Herald Tribune)

A bear or a deer, a raccoon or a rabbit, a squirrel or a woodchuck—none of these has ever figured in anthologies as a writer of an ode to autumn. Whatever qualities of sensitiveness and intelligence these animals may have, a countryman never expects that they will burst out with an exclamation: "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness".

Yet they might be expected to feel some sort of practical, if not poetic, thankfulness in a time ofylvan peace and security lasting until guns begin to pop across the landscape of "the maturing sun".

Before many weeks are past, a squirrel will be exhibiting his skill as an artful dodger, a deer will be avoiding vulnerable orchards, and every woodchuck and bear will stop dallying over a diet which plumps their ribs before they turn in for a winter's sleep.

But now, while apples bend the bough, while butternuts cluster in green promise, while a rabbit can find burst cabbages abandoned in a weedy garden, there is no reason why an animal can't put on weight and stay as happy as a bear cub who knows two hollow basswood trees where bees have been busy all summer.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It's not true, as her cattier friends insisted, that the bride can't boil water. But her husband is getting awfully tired of boiled water.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Uganda may still lag behind the world in some things, but in at least one aspect of development she is far and away ahead. For what is believed to be the first jet ferry in the world has just gone into service on Lake Victoria. It replaces an ancient canoe ferry. The engine, supplied by a British firm, sucks in water and expels it in much the same way as a jet plane does air. Manchester Guardian.

Usually those who view with alarm the continuing emigration of Canadians to the United States completely overlook an important factor in the situation—the substantial number of Canadians who settle permanently in Southern States for health reasons and others who go there to live in retirement. There are few Canadians who wouldn't accept one or more couples or complete families living in the South for one of those reasons.

We hear these athletes (swimmers) described as having courage, determination, endurance, stamina, ability and many other outstanding qualities. The fact is that a great many people have these same qualities but they are not athletes. Their skills are those of tradesman, accountants, businessmen, professional men, and somewhat less glamorous job of work, many of these people are displaying every bit as much determination and courage and ability as athletes.

Finances of "gentlemen" farmers sometimes challenge the wisdom of the Income Tax Appeal Board, but at least one basic principle has been laid down. "It appears to be accepted," the Canadian Tax Journal reports, "that a farm which consistently produces nothing but losses is not a source of income."

From Ottawa we hear that three new penitentiaries are in the planning stage. One for men will be in Eastern Ontario, another in the far West. A third for women only will be located at Kingston, Ontario.

In noting that none has been prosecuted for Northern Ontario, residents of the area will not be disappointed. It could be considered a left-handed compliment as yet we are not considered in need of such an institution.

Lewis Bradford fell from the top of the scaffolding around famous Big Ben, the clock on the tower of the Mother of Parliaments. He says his climb was not really dangerous.

Canada, where I was born, I climbed trees 300 feet high when I was tree-felling." Bradford was born at Fort William but must have done his tree climbing elsewhere. Three hundred feet is a long way up. The maximum height for California is a famous redwood is given by the Encyclopedia Americana as 350 feet, with "occasional giants" exceeding this. Ontario has trees to match these redwoods or the trees of Bradford's memory.

Green Apple Pie has been on Nova Scotia tables for some time now and should have been mentioned before because, with many, not even the earliest strawberries outrank its tart sweetness, its spiciness and freshness. And nowadays there are really no other "first" fruits of the year; all can be boxed and brought from abroad or frozen and kept in storage.

They are good, but not best, and that is why, in green-apple season, it is worthwhile to be living in or near orchard country. No one has yet thought it wise to attempt to catch the quality of the unripe Gravenstein and to trap it in a can or bottle or package. There are limitations.

Charles Allger, 85, and Charles Dickens, 70, got lost recently in the wilderness near Vancouver, Wash., and lived for a week on a can of beans, a little jelly and a small packet of powdered milk. They were tired but perky when rescuers found them—and had a valid explanation for their escapade. They'd been prospecting for uranium—and after resting up might have another go at it. Mrs. Bernice Sharkey, 75, accompanied by a youngster of 52, Mrs. Averil Ferguson, got lost in the wilderness near the Columbia river gorge recently. Eight days later they were found, pluckily fighting their way through thick undergrowth hunting civilization.

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