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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

The Christmas Tidings

It is against the background of a troubled world that the message of Christmas most truly speaks. We see a special significance in this fact today, and rightly so; but there was never a time when it wasn't applicable. It was on a troubled world that the first Christmas dawned. It was then, in the face of trouble, that the glad tidings were proclaimed. They were uttered, not in keeping with the situation prevailing in the world of that day, but in defiance of it. They rang out as a celebration, but also as a challenge. A hope and a challenge. The possibility of a new beginning, as night holds within itself the expectation of dawn, and winter the promise of spring.

While the Christmas challenge has been the same in every age, there is no doubt that today it has become more acute. The centuries of wrong have heaped up more wrong. Man's penchant for destruction has produced weapons of ever greater destruction. If there was urgency in the first proclamation of the Christmas message, there is much greater urgency in it today.

Perhaps no age more than this has been given to examining anew the basis of all that has been believed in the past. There has been much questioning. Concepts have been restated, beliefs redefined. Yet Christmas means precisely what it has meant for twenty centuries. The Nativity theme, with its tender appeal, dominates all hearts and minds. The whole world looks on an appearance of joviality and good cheer. There is a drawing together in the endless rediscovery of the power of love, human and Divine.

At this hallowed season, at this great festival of joy and promise, we have no better words to express our thoughts than in the time-honored greeting: "A Merry Christmas!"

Older Than We Think

This is the time of year when we should be writing about something of perennial interest. Toys, for instance, which have been around for much longer than most of us think, and are likely to outlast the more ponderous fruits of our civilization, and even our civilization itself, if the archaeologists are right. These are the people who dig down into the remains of earlier cultures, long buried in the earth, and reconstruct the kind of lives that were led in the dim and distant past. And what are they most likely to find wherever there is a trace of human habitation? Toys; mostly broken, or with missing parts, but unmistakable as things that were made for small hands to play with.

Pundits say that many dolls unearthed at prehistoric sites were probably burial offerings and miniature idols, rather than playthings. But a fig for these spoilsports! They are only partly right, at best. It is safe to say that many a scowling, fetid ended up by being snatched and cuddled by a little girl. And anyway, how do they account for marbles, and soap-bubble pipes, and pea shooters, which also are of hoary antiquity, and couldn't have come from anywhere but out of a youngster's grubby hands?

Scholars studying toys claim they have been with us as long as children, and that's far back enough for us. They've only scratched the

surface in discovering such toys as a small wooden sled runner taken from a peat bog in Finland and dating about 6,500 B.C. Almost modern, by comparison, is the display in a London museum of a little wooden baker from Egypt, estimated to be nearly 4,000 years old. He (the baker) bends over a sloped board and can be manipulated to knead "dough" by rolling a tiny wooden ball up and down the board. Another Egyptian relic is a wooden crocodile which cracks its jaw when you jerk on a string.

From ancient Persia and India come similar archaeological finds—of tiny chariots and donkey carts, much like many of the wheeled toys sold today. Preserved from ancient Cyprus is a museum collection of identical peak-capped soldiers, holding shields over their hearts. Rag dolls, too—estimated at over 2,500 years old.

Pictures on Grecian urns show children rolling hoops, skipping rope and playing on swings. Homer, Plato, Aristophanes and other classical writers mention toys which small boys whipped through the streets. The philosopher Archytas, who lived in the fourth century B.C., invented the rattle an "admirable invention" because "a young thing cannot be quiet." And Socrates, wisest of men, was known to ride a hobby horse to amuse his three young sons.

It's an entrancing subject, and we wish we could go on. Next year, at this time, we hope to return to it with more evidence to prove that human institutions don't change as much as we, in our arrogance, imagine they do, and that of all the institutions worthy of profound scientific research, toys top the list!

British Reaction

When President Kennedy and his administration publicly criticized the French nuclear weapons program, and refused to aid it, they were trying to prevent France from increasing her stature in the Western alliance. And when the United States cancelled the Skybolt program, it is not surprising that the reaction in Britain should be one of resentment. The substitute offered in the way of a submarine missile was a face-saving one for Prime Minister Macmillan, but it is recognized as that and nothing more.

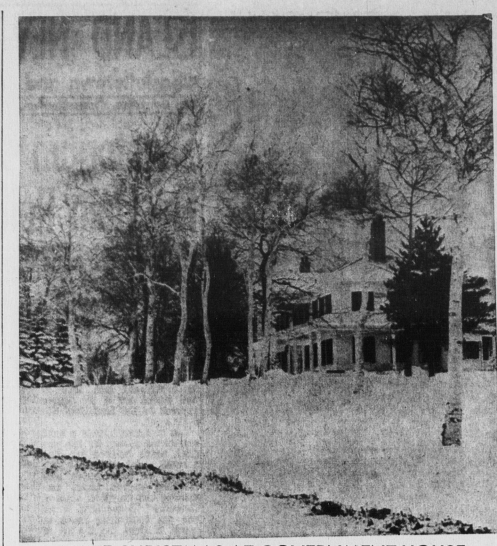
The outspoken desire of the Kennedy administration to do away with other national nuclear deterrents within NATO was perhaps bound to lead, eventually, to the sort of difficulty that has arisen between Britain and the United States. Yet, as the Montreal Gazette points out, even if such an event was inherent in general American policy, it could surely have been handled more tactfully. And the policy itself is open to criticism as being unrealistic. Unless President Kennedy's parallel offer to sell Polariss missiles to France is accepted, France will continue to develop its own deterrent.

Whoever controls the West's deterrent will, in the last resort, run the alliance. This is why the entire question of nuclear weapons within NATO is so important, and cannot be considered purely in military terms. With the suspension of the Russian danger after the Cuban crisis, this entire problem of Western unity and co-operation may become increasingly difficult and controversial. The problems have existed for some time, but the need to preserve a common front against an external threat has kept them within bounds. Now they are developing, and it is doubtful if the cancellation of one missile project by Washington will spell the end of them.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Canadian Underwriters' Association estimates that that nearly one-fourth of all fires are caused by matches and smoking. One of the best ways of insuring a safe Yuletide is to keep our smokes away from the Christmas tree.

A Swedish newspaper discovered that the nation had no national bird and held a contest to remedy the situation. Readers selected the common blackbird by a wide margin. It seemed they liked best of all its faithfulness to its native land by staying behind in winter when other birds migrate



WHITE CHRISTMAS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Lambert Proves Good Disciplinarian

Speaker Marcel Lambert, the visiting hero who emerged safely from a day on the beach at Dieppe, has emerged as triumphantly from his first session presiding over our House of Commons. The eager "new boys" of Parliament, and the undisciplined veterans of our lax previous Parliament, had tried to turn the opening hours of each day's proceedings into a circus. They abused the intern practice whereby Members may ask spoken questions of the Ministry on matters of urgent national importance. Questions of less importance should be submitted in writing, and are normally replied to the same way. At the beginning of this session, Speaker Lambert determined to eliminate the waste of parliament's time by halting the free-for-all of the previous Parliament, when the most trivial questions were permitted to be asked orally. This session, this seemed like a good game; and the eager new boys seemed to be playing their part unless they each drummed up some spontaneous question. When Speaker Lambert slapped them down, and b commanded that their papers be submitted in writing to be printed in the daily "Order Paper", there were unmitigated howls of protest from the KEEN QUESTIONS. But gradually the critics were silenced, and now are happy that the rules are respected, and all questions are dealt with expeditiously and without waste of time—in writing; except for the comparatively few which are really of urgent national importance. There is however a more potent source for information than in any previous parliament, judging by the huge volume of these questions.

Going back to the days of the previous Liberal Government, I note that in the first week of February 1957, only three written questions were answered on the Monday, with one, five, one and two answers being supplied on the following days of that week. In vivid contrast, on 29th October this year, there were 164 questions on the Order Paper, of which 71 were answered that day and the balance held over temporarily. Three weeks later, 83 out of 131 questions were answered. Come December on 19th, 20th and 21st, 112 were answered, and on 17th 38 out of 120 were answered; the balance standing over always until a later date. The M.P.'s thirst for information is insatiable. For example, one day Mr. J. E. Brown, Liberal M.P. from Montreal, asked: "I am sorry, Guzenko in receipt of a pension from the Canadian government?" The one word answer was: "Yes."

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THE PEOPLES COMMON. GIVE ME THIS What do you want for Christmas? The first gift I would ask Is that enduring virtues Attend to every task I want to share a kinship With folk who find a star Above their heads in a stable. No matter where they are, I want to know, tomorrow, As men go on their way, That someone heard my footsteps In Bethlehem today. What do you want for Christmas? A quiet hillside near, Where a man visits shepherds Each night throughout the year. I want the spice of humor That comes with every sign, I want to win a holiday, No gold on earth can buy, The almost cock-sure common sense of the utilitarian and liberal. King Alfred the Great had time-keeping candles manufactured to burn for 24 hours.

FOODS, VITAMINS Will Not Cure Common Cold

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen THERE are no foods, vitamins, medicines, plasters, or electrical devices that will prevent or cure a cold. On the other hand, the chance of developing a respiratory infection can be reduced by keeping the body at disease-fighting strength. Sleep an important factor to respect and so is a well balanced diet, an adequate fluid intake, and ample exercise. Try to avoid close contact with others who have colds. This is a respiratory infection and organisms, including viruses, are strong enough to overcome our natural resistance. So e throats and nasal colds are also passed along via contaminated fingers. Wash the hands frequently during the day, especially before eating. Certain situations and conditions tend to make us more susceptible; it is here that we must exercise sitting in a draught, particularly when sick, or overheated, and overindulgence in spiced food. The members in the nose and throat change to the extent that there is lowering of local resistance to existing microorganisms. Many parents acquire the colds from the children who are more susceptible and have more opportunities to catch these infections. Teach the youngsters to use of own glass, towel, dishes, and utensils. Parents ought to set the example, particularly when sick, by kissing on the mouth should be avoided.

What is the best thing to do when a person feels a cold coming? Not every sneeze or scratchy sensation in the throat develops into a full-blown respiratory infection, but there is no need to take a chance. A hot bath and a glass of hot lemonade help some but a good night's sleep is likely to do more. There are those who swear by the use of one or two sulfonamide or antihistamine tablets; others argue with antibiotic, whisky, or a favorite movie. Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request. RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS Mrs. J.R. writes: Every time my children get sick, the doctor says they have a virus; occasionally he calls it the flu. Very recently he referred to it as a cold. What is the difference between a cold, the flu, and a virus? REPLY These three terms often are used interchangeably and we must admit it is confusing. It is better to refer to these disorders as upper respiratory infections because there is no way to tell what micro-organisms are responsible without doing a battery of laboratory tests.

SAMOAN FACE LIFTING National Geographic Society American Samoa, one of the last island paradises, is relaxing from a building boom and returning to its slow-paced South Sea life. In the past year new houses have mushroomed; old ones have been repaired and painted from a building boom and returning to its slow-paced South Sea life. In the past year new houses have mushroomed; old ones have been repaired and painted from a building boom and returning to its slow-paced South Sea life. In the past year new houses have mushroomed; old ones have been repaired and painted from a building boom and returning to its slow-paced South Sea life.

SAMOANS DIVIDED The island of Samoa lies 2,276 miles south of Hawaii. It was a ward of the United States since 1899. The five volcanic islands (Tutuila, Aunu'u, Tafu, Otu, and Olosea) and two coral atolls (Rose and Swains) have a total land area of 76 square miles. Western Samoa, a former United States Territory administered by New Zealand, became independent in January. People of the islands feel no need of Western-style houses for themselves. The demands of a climate with temperatures no lower than 60 degrees and rarely higher than 80. A Samoan house has no walls. It consists of a strong thatched roof, supported by poles and equipped with screens to withstand tropical rains. The house is mounted conspicuously on a round stone platform in full view of the community. The relaxed attitude of the Samoans prevails in all aspects of life. Until recently, the jailer for occasional offenders would employ a land of "all chiefs and no Indians." The mated, or head, of each family is elected; any member is eligible. At 18 a child, there were more than 900 registered chiefs and innumerable unofficial leaders for the population of barely 200,000. Some chiefs are so exalted they need "talking chiefs" to speak for them and help them rule. Early manials had the power of life and death, but American law is now the final judge. Samoans make careful, skilled workers — when they care to. However, the lush climate provides more than the bare necessities, so income is needed only for luxuries. A typical Samoan works a week or two, then quits so a brother or cousin may have the job.

OUR YESTERDAY'S (From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO December 24, 1937 Berlin, Dec. 24. Protestant church circles reported today the 50 pastors giving Christmas furloughs from prison must return to jail after the holiday season. Among the 51 denied furloughs was Rev. Martin Niemöller. THE SANTA PAU DEPARTMENT of the Charlottetown Guardian distributed more than 875 parcels here Saturday with both names to many little ones in Charlottetown. No needy children whose names were submitted, were overlooked. TEN YEARS AGO December 24, 1952 Hannover, Germany, Dec. 21. (Reuters) - The first post-war marriage of a Canadian soldier to a German girl was celebrated here Saturday with both a German and a Canadian priest officiating. The bridegroom was Cpl. Wilfred E. Blais, 24 of the 27th Infantry Brigade Provost Company, who comes from Grand Prairie, Alta. The bride was Luise Fanslow 30 of Hannover. Rex Dawson, North Tryon, is in hospital in Montreal with severe and painful injuries to his right foot, resulting from being trampled on by a horse. Mr. Dawson was thrown from horseback at his home when a rein became caught. The scared animal stepped heavily on Mr. Dawson's foot.

DRUG STORE OPEN BOXING DAY MacKenzie's Pharmacy Will be the only Drug Store open in Ch'town on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th... There will be no drug store open in Charlottetown on Christmas day. DIAL 4-4920 FREE DELIVERY

The Government of Prince Edward Island extends to all its citizens cordial good wishes for the Christmas Season. W. R. Shaw, Premier.

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