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Peat Moss Industry

A dispatch from Moncton says that the peat moss industry in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia has been given a "shot in the arm" by a new packaging idea. Demand for the product has been accelerated since producers started distributing it in small, easily handled bundles. Four new bogs in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia have been opened in the last few years.

J. E. McIntyre, Atlantic region agricultural agent for Canadian National Railways, said, after completing an inspection trip to bogs in N.B. and Quebec, that peat moss from the Maritimes now reaches almost all important centres in Eastern Canada and the United States. It is used chiefly for horticultural purposes, but it also has value as poultry litter, stable bedding and insulation.

The report notes that Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland also have "huge quantities" of the moss, but in neither of these Provinces is it farmed-as a business. We do not think this is strictly correct. We seem to have heard of a number of fishermen and others in this Province who gather the moss for market. There is no doubt, however, that the business could be expanded considerably. Perhaps a little more encouragement in the way of technical advice and supervision would make the industry as profitable here as it is in the neighbouring Provinces.

Sheep Raising

Some time ago the Federal Department of Agriculture appointed a committee to look into the sheep raising industry. Its principal assignment was to determine what steps might be taken to revitalize the industry and bring it to the point where it could be considered another important livestock business.

The committee has now concluded its hearings after having held meetings in every Province as well as talks with various official groups. J. W. Graham, the Secretary of the committee, reports that almost without exception the meetings were well attended and keen interest was shown. Many ideas and recommendations were brought forward. These, after careful study has been given to them, will be embodied in a report to the Federal Minister of Agriculture.

News From Israel

One of the great needs of the Middle East is fresh water. The dream of these areas for years has been to find ways of treating sea water to remove salts and minerals and make it usable for consumption and agriculture. Many ways have been found to do this, but all to date have proved too expensive. Now from Israel comes a report that an economical enough method has been found—a method that in time could be improved to make large scale use of sea water possible at a price people could afford.

The system was devised by an inventor, Alexander Zarchin, a refugee from Soviet Russia. It's a simple system, basically. Salt water is pumped into a vacuum chamber. The lack of pressure causes quick evaporation. Evaporation drops the temperature and freezes part of the water. Freezing separates fresh water from minerals. The water vapor rises into the tank, the icy crystals remain in the brine. The brine flows into another tank

where the ice and brine are separated. The vapor is piped out of the first tank, maintaining the vacuum, and into the second tank, where it rejoins the ice crystals and melts them into usable water.

Zarchin reports that his pilot machine can produce a ton of water with the expenditure of three to three and a half kilowatt hours of energy. Estimates are that the expenditure of six kilowatt hours would be within economic limits. And he feels sure that bigger plants could be even more economical.

If the device proves workable in sizes big enough to provide ample water for consumption and irrigation, it will be big news to the arid areas of the world. And all mankind would be the better for it.

Mr. Mikoyan's Trip

From the usually reliable correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor in Hong Kong, we learn that Mr. Mikoyan's visit to the United States is by no means gratifying to the Chinese Communists. There is evidence, he says, to indicate that they are "embarrassed, apprehensive and displeased at the spectacle of Moscow's First Deputy Premier talking earnestly with U.S. Government leaders, hobnobbing with U.S. capitalists and industrial tycoons, and cavorting with Hollywood stars." And this, he adds, is one of the principal reasons why Chinese Chief of State Mao Tse-tung has reportedly decided to make an unscheduled visit to Moscow in the near future.

—Be that as it may, from Russia's standpoint the Mikoyan trip has been a very ingenious and skillfully executed manoeuvre. As the Financial Post points out, had it been formally proposed that the Kremlin's No. 2 man should visit Washington and confer with top U.S. officials, taking sidetrips to factories and supermarkets across the land, months would have been spent in wrangling about agenda, personnel, itinerary, security precautions and what not. In the end the plan would have died of sheer frustration.

But Mr. Mikoyan brought it off, in a matter of days, by simply announcing that he wanted an American holiday and then asking for a visa. With a minimum of fuss and protocol, indeed none at all, he engineered something very like the summit conference—a sub-summit conference, it might be called—about which Washington and Moscow argued vainly for months last winter.

EDITORIAL NOTES

As science triumphs over old diseases, new ones appear. From London, Eng. comes word of a new form of paralysis. It resembles polio, but present polio vaccines have no effect on it.

Former President Batista of Cuba says that the rebels won because they had superiority in arms. That, no doubt, was a contributing factor. Another was public opposition to the Batista regime.

The firm of Ayre and Sons Ltd. in St. John's, Newfoundland, is now celebrating its 100th anniversary. With a staff of approximately 600, it ranks among the bigger mercantile houses of the Atlantic region.

News From Israel

Russian has become the most popular foreign language at the University of Montreal. 100 students are studying the language in the university's department of Slavic Studies, the largest of its kind in Canada.

A Canadian, who acted as a part-time agent for the leader of the Cuban revolution, says that it is "fairly easy" to purchase arms in the United States. And it is evidently a lot easier than it ought to be for Canadian citizens to participate in civil strife in a foreign country.

A Roman Catholic teaching nun in Washington, D.C. has been given a \$1500 fellowship from the National Science Foundation to further her research into the question of why sea turtles do not grow old. It is worth looking into. They live longer than any other organism on earth, some reaching an age of 300 years. Age does not appear to have any effect on them.



MORE UPSIDE DOWN LANGUAGE

OTTAWA REPORT

Efficient Hansard Staff

By Patrick Nicholson

Parliament's hardest working staff is once more performing its invaluable task of taking a word-by-word report of everything said by every Parliamentarian who makes a speech, asks a question or delivers an interjection during every sitting.

Both the Senate and the House of Commons has its own reporting staff, some of whom make a shorthand record of all English-language contributions, while others handle the French-speakers. From their shorthand notes, the official record of the proceedings, called Hansard, is prepared.

The House of Commons has seven English reporters and two French reporters, the difference being accounted for by the much more frequent use made of the English language. This may be changed, so that French will in future perhaps be more widely used, now that a system of simultaneous translation has been introduced.

Visitors to the Commons Chamber can see the Hansard reporters at work, sitting at tables right in the middle of the Chamber in the broad space between the front Opposition seats and the front Government seats. The English-language reporters relieve each other every ten minutes. Then they take their shorthand notes up to the Hansard office, where

they dictate them back to a typist who types them directly, making ribbon and carbon copies, and a stencil.

Murdering An Old Road

Judith Robinson in the Toronto Telegram

To start a year in anger is bad. But there are times for anger and this is one.

New Year maledictions therefore upon the Ontario Department of Highways. The ill-wishes of the season to the Ontario Minister of Highways add all his duties and subduties, contractors, surveyors and chain men.

May their sidersules warp, their chain saws seize up, their wobbles wobble right over, their scoops, scrapers and bulldozers scoop, scrape and bulldoze them into the bottomless pit.

May their engineers spend eternity running survey lines to perdition, may their traffic and tourist experts wait for judgment day in a stalled tractor on a six-lane super-highway in the shadeless heat of a noon that never wanes; may their tongues parch and their heads be sunstruck and their sweat run down them there forever. Selah.

Our First Public Building

P. E. Island Historical Society

Did you know that, the first meeting of the Assembly of this Island was held in the Cross Keys Tavern, corner of Queen and Dorchester Streets, Charlottetown, in 1773. The proprietor of the establishment, Alexander Richardson, was appointed clerk of the House, for he was a schoolmaster and a learned man.

We may reasonably suppose that, through his good office, the members were able to combine business with pleasure, an arrangement that increased both the earnings of the tavern and the volubility of the speeches.

The Town Constable performed the double functions of sergeant-at-arms and door-keeper; but despite the gravity that these honourable duties should have deposited in his bosom, his inherent lack of reverence for parliamentary assemblies (perhaps brought to the surface by his current libations) got the better of him, and, during the proceedings, he took occasion to remark in audible tones that "This is a damned queer Parliament!"

No doubt there was more truth

Advice For Mothers-To-Be

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. ONE of the greatest worries of an expectant mother is whether she will be able to handle her new baby properly.

Well, if you are expecting, and if you have any qualms about how to take care of a child, I have a few words of advice for you:

Practice on the neighbor's kids. NOT FOR EXPERIMENTS. Now I don't mean to imply that the children across the street are expendable and that they can be used as material for experiments.

But practical experience is the best way of preparing yourself for caring for your own children. Babies, you know, are put together pretty well; they don't come apart easily. And in the vast majority of cases, this fear of handling the baby and coping with various situations that are likely to arise, isn't well founded.

SPECIAL COURSES Many maternity organizations have special courses for parents-to-be. In such courses, the future father and mother are permitted to practice diapering, bathing, and so forth on dolls.

This is excellent training and if a course such as this is available to you, I recommend it. However, working with the real thing is even better.

Of course I don't want you to try bathing the neighbor's baby, but you can volunteer as a baby sitter for them. Most new parents welcome the opportunity to get out for an afternoon or evening and I'm sure your offer will be well received.

GET ACQUAINTED This will give you a chance (if the mother agrees) to give the baby his bottle, diaper him and generally become acquainted with the care and needs of a baby.

Moreover, it will give you an opportunity to become adjusted to the presence of a baby in the house, even if it is his house and not yours.

BOOKS HELPFUL I also suggest that you read some good books on the subject of baby care before the birth of your own offspring.

You will get some very pertinent pointers in the hospital, so by the time you get home you should know what it is all about.

Still make sure you have another woman around to give you a helping hand, at least with the housework.

QUESTION AND ANSWER R.J.F.: When I tilt my head back or lean forward, it is difficult for me to breathe. What could cause this?

Answer: This may be due to compression of the trachea (wind-pipe) by an enlarged thyroid or other tumor in the neck or upper chest. An X-ray might reveal the cause.

It could also be due to pressure of the diaphragm especially in an overweight person or to a diaphragmatic hernia.

A medical examination is indicated.



MESSAGE AT PARTING

I cannot speak you many words My time is short, I must press on. Before my theme could be expressed The hour would sound I must be gone.

I put it all within a look, I put it all within a touch; They must in memory be the book In which you see my truth was such.

And do not doubt the hieroglyph In which my life's report is dressed Or cloud with any unbelief The me it carries to your breast. —Hal Summers —in "The Listener"

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Jan. 20, 1934) Damage estimated at \$10,000 was caused yesterday afternoon when the spacious Roman Catholic Parochial House at St. Andrews, occupied by Father A. P. McLellan, was completely razed by fire. It is believed the fire started from a defective flue in the attic. Sufficient insurance was carried to provide for the construction of a new parochial house.

The audit of the Town of Summerside accounts for the past year show a current revenue of \$67,463.45, current expenditure of \$63,748.99, leaving a surplus on current account of \$3,714.46. The statement also shows taxes for 1933 outstanding at only \$1,406.55, and a total accumulated outstanding taxes of \$3,629.40.

TEN YEARS AGO

(Jan. 20, 1949)

A deficit of \$31,708.88 for the year 1948 was reported at the annual meeting of the Summerside Town Council last night. Coun. Gorrill said that the deficit was partly caused by the increased costs in the electric light department and by extra expenditures in the street department. Mayor Arnett said that in order to balance the budget in future it will be necessary to get more revenue from taxation.

OLD VICTORIA

The site of Victoria on Vancouver Island was first occupied in 1843.

NOTES BY THE WAY

At modest cost, you can purchase one of those rubber gadgets that enables you to cradle the telephone receiver on your shoulder. By fastening down the phone buttons with a piece of tape, you can keep your shoulder to the phone all day while you write letters, or read. This technique also enables you to wave your bosses who come by with "what are you doing?"—Playboy New York

New Brunswick peat moss industry has developed so gradually, and with so little fanfare, that it came as a pleasant surprise to many people the other day to learn that it is now a well-established business which gives employment to hundreds of men during the "harvesting" season. Four new bogs have been opened in this province during the last 16 years — at Pokemouche, Shipigan, Lameque and Inkerman—as well as one near Berwick, N.S., and four in Quebec Province.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal

Posthole digging is one profession in which to be successful you must start at the top and work toward the bottom. And no matter how well it pays, you'll finish in the hole.—Ottawa Citizen

In continental France alone, by 1975, the population is expected to rise some 3,649,000 to a total of 47,938,000. According to the National Statistics Institute, in 1975 the over-seventy-five-year-olds will number 6,150,000, a 20 per cent increase over the number of oldsters today. Also, in 1975 there will be 875,000 more women than men in France.—France Actuelle

The neighboring mad scientist is working on the ultimate, yet humane weapon. It is a ray which immobilizes the opposing army by melting all its carbon paper.—Hamilton Spectator

The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

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55 QUEEN ST.

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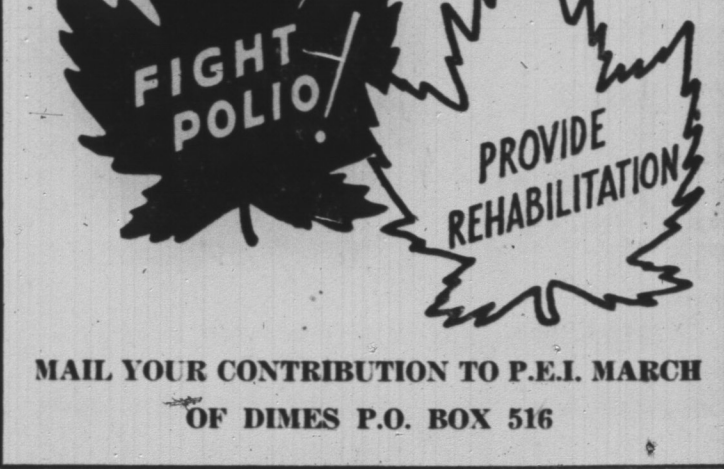
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