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Boys And Tractors

A boy of ten is not allowed to drive a car. Should he be allowed to drive a tractor? Emphatically not, according to a recent Western Canada conference on farm safety.

Child labor seems a strange topic in these days of much talk about shorter hours and more pay. But the safety experts at the conference were not chasing ghosts.

What can be done to keep children from getting caught in, or being run over by, farm implements? The conference suggested legislation forbidding youngsters under a certain age to operate farm machinery.

But a new law could not completely remove the real cause of farm accidents; that is adult carelessness. Most children like machinery.

"Child labor may be a technically correct description of the work a boy does with the tractor or combine. But usually it could more aptly be termed parental indulgence.

"The delegates to the safety conference have good reason to be alarmed over the growing number of farm accidents. If they can convince the proper authorities that a new law is needed to keep children off tractors and implements, that is all to the good.

Big Business In Bells

The making of bells is one of the oldest crafts known. At the present time, however, according to the National Geographic Society, there are fewer than 20 foundries engaged in casting the huge bronze bells that peal from towers throughout the world.

The demand for bells has been especially brisk since World War Two when thousands of them were melted down for metal or destroyed by bombs. In the City of London only three churches remained where bells could be rung.

No one knows the exact origin of bells. It dates back a long way, however. In 2697 B.C. the Chinese Emperor Hoang-ti ordered a set. The nature of the craft has not changed much during the centuries.

Engravings of the 17th century show foundries much like those of today. To make a bell, the foundry builds up a core of brickwork and fine clay bound with hair to shape the vessel.

The world's largest bell has never pealed. The 193-ton Tsar Kolokol was cast in Moscow in 1733 and allowed to cool off in its earth-covered molds for 103 years.

A Concession

The United States and Britain have made an important concession to the Soviet Union in an attempt to end the stalemate at the Conference in Geneva for ending nuclear tests.

Hitherto, the Western Powers have insisted that any ban on nuclear tests be linked to progress made in the general field of disarmament.

Now, the Western Powers have separated the two approaches to the problem. They have agreed to let nuclear tests' ending stand on its own merits, while hoping but not demanding that gradual general disarmament take place concurrently with the other.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Perhaps the weather is not quite as favourable as some would like it to be. But it is a lot better than the 100-plus temperatures that have been responsible for the death of more than 100 persons in Australia over the past few weeks.

Several United States Senators have expressed the opinion that the United States is lagging behind the Soviet Union in the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Strange how people will go out of their way to turn simple things into subjects for controversy. Take, for instance, the demand by certain members of Parliament for legislation to authorize a "distinctive" Canadian flag.

The legal profession is still alert to the dangers of vested administrative power, as revealed in a brief presented to the Gordon committee investigating government organization in Ontario.



THE ICE FISHERMAN

OTTAWA REPORT

Biographical Notes

By Patrick Nicholson

The vital statistics of the 1958 crop of new Members of Parliament have just been made available for the first time, in the 1959 edition of the "Parliamentary Guide."

We can draw a vivid picture of the norm among our M.P.s, from the mass of detail contained in the Guide's biographical notes. "Mr. Parliament," multiplied 265 times, is the person who proposes, criticizes, endorses and finally passes or opposes the parliamentary acts which increasingly fashion our daily life.

This "norm" among M.P.s today is a married man, with three children. He is 47 years old and a lawyer by profession. He was born in Canada, attends the United Church of Canada, and is now sitting on the Conservative benches in his third session of Parliament.

But there are very few M.P.s who approximate to that "norm," which is arrived at by striking an average among them all. In age alone, for example, there are Conservative M.P.s of every age from 26 years to 70 inclusive, as well as one M.P. aged 74.

Toil, Sweat And Speeches

Ottawa Journal

Mr. Speaker Michener is going to enforce the rule prohibiting the reading of speeches in the Commons, his hope being that this will improve the quality of speeches.

Mr. Michener's hope will come true only on one condition: The condition that M.P.s, deprived of their manuscripts, will put more work into their speeches.

For the too common notion that some men can rise and speak well without preparation has no substance whatever; there is no such thing as a brilliant extemporaneous speaker. A classic example of this was Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Sir Wilfrid's major addresses were a joy in structure and beauty, and some of his perorations, notably the closing passages of his speech on Riel, were authentic eloquence.

One of the finest speakers in modern parliamentary history was Mr. Asquith; his "Occasional Addresses" should be a model for all. Yet Mr. Asquith had a rule that at dinners or other functions where he might be called upon to "say a few words" he must be given two weeks' notice. The truth is that good speeches are organized and the right words and phrases chosen, are the result of sweat and toil. Thus Mrs. Gladstone put on record that for two weeks before the GOM delivered the speeches which used to enthral Westminster, he "was not fit to live with."

Occupations Vary Widely

The Conservatives include 58 lawyers, 34 farmers, 26 engaged in industry and 10 merchants. There are also doctors, dentists, contractors, journalists, accountants, economists, teachers and engineers.

The Liberals also include lawyers as the predominant calling, with commerce a poor second. Their ranks also include two retired civil servants, Lester Pearson and Jack Pickersgill, both of whom were appointed to the Cabinet before being elected to Parliament in the typical Mackenzie King reverse play.

There are 64 Conservatives and 3 Liberals who entered the House for the first time in 1957-59. Conservatives and 8 Liberals who came in on the 1953 election; and 2 Conservatives who first won by-elections even later.

There are 43 Conservatives, averaging 11 1/2 years, in Parliament, who are in the veteran class, and 36 veteran M.P.s in the Liberal ranks who average 9 parliamentary years each.

In addition to the 208 Conservatives and 49 Liberals surveyed above, there are also 8 C.C.F. Members whom I exclude with apologies solely on grounds of restricted space in this column.

This summary shows that our house of Commons indeed represents a very typical cross-section of our population.

Still Fighting Integration

By Joseph MacSween Canadian Press Staff Writer

Virginia has admitted a major defeat in its fight to keep Negro pupils out of white schools, but the state is a long way from surrender.

The admission of Governor J. Lindsay Almond Jr. that he is helpless to prevent some desegregation of schools has great importance because Virginia now is the focal point of the southern school issue.

But the matter of degree remains and there are literally hundreds of legal angles and contests in this struggle that has been spilling since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1954 against state statutory racial segregation.

The current emergency session of the Virginia legislature results from two court decisions Jan. 19.

Oldtime Ideas About Tobacco

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

ALL OF YOU, I'm sure are familiar with the arguments for and against smoking. However, I think you will be surprised at the varied role tobacco has played in the medical field almost from the time of its discovery.

A number of these medical applications, I might add, have had rather disastrous results.

Back in 1839, it was claimed that the application of tobacco to a bad spot was "useful" in making hair grow.

And during the Great Plague of London—in 1665, children were advised to smoke in their school rooms for protection against the dread disease.

In 1859, it was reported that a physician successfully treated a case of strychnine poisoning with tobacco smoke per rectum.

Tobacco was used both externally and internally as a remedy for snake bite in 1860 with favorable results reported.

In 1880, tobacco was tried as a narcotic for toothache. But a pea-sized plug of tobacco inserted into the hollow of a painful tooth resulted in poisoning.

When a seven-day-old infant was given tobacco in the form of water impregnated with tobacco smoke to induce quietness, fatal nicotine poisoning occurred.

More recently (1944), a morning cigarette was advocated by one doctor to promote regularity.

He closely watched some 100 patients for a period of five years. He classified them cured when they recovered their normal bowel habits after having smoked one cigarette following fasting for a while.

PRONOUNCED CURE

Of the 62 non-smokers thus treated, it was stated that 49 were pronounced cured and 13 were listed as failures. With the 38 smokers in the tests, 26 were cured and 12 were failures.

Thus, the doctor claimed that a cigarette in the morning restored normal bowel habits to 75 per cent of those he tested.

However, there is no doubt that, despite this study, many smokers are severely constipated.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. J.T.: I have hardening of the arteries and ulcers and am on a salt-free diet. I eat a cake of yeast, oatmeal, and liver several times a week. Is there too much sodium in them? Answer: No.

The Age Old Story

The Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Feb. 2, 1934)

At the recent meeting of the Summerside Board of Trade, a discussion was held relative to frost proof warehouse at Summerside which would materially assist the farmer and shipper during the potato season.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the P. E. I. Division of the Canadian Red Cross Society, elected at the recent annual meeting was held yesterday afternoon. President George Tweedy occupied the chair.

Those present included Miss I. Arsenault, Miss C. MacLean, Mrs. V. L. Goodwill, Miss Fullerton, Dr. H. D. Johnston, Dr. Creelman and Messrs W. F. Tidmarsh, D. A. MacKinnon, John McKenna, William Moran, T. E. McNutt, and R. H. Rogers.

MAXIMS

A great leader never sets himself above his followers except in carrying responsibilities.

Anyone charging discrimination because of race under this law would have to prove the charge under the rules of evidence and each suit would be a separate action.

Observers feel that in conditions such as these, integration—can be kept to a minimum for a long time.

NOTES BY THE WAY

With all this talk of inflation, here's a handy definition: Inflation is a time when it is easier to make money than to make a living.—Sherbrooke Record

In the Great American Midwest, a woman gets a divorce because her husband used a homemade whip on her. Too cheap to go out and buy one, eh?—Winnipeg Tribune

The 1959 edition of Yale University's calendar has assigned three extra days to February this year. All but 1,000 copies of the calendar had been sold before a student caught the error and drew it to the attention of the 21-year-old student publisher. He is hopeful of selling the remaining copies. He should have no trouble.—Sudbury Star

One of the most comprehensive New Year greetings we have seen, and most apposite in view of recent events, is offered by the "Flying Saucer Review" to "all our readers and to mankind throughout the Universe." There is no question that the "Review" takes itself very seriously indeed and several of the articles adopt quite a sharp line in dealing with unbelief.—Manchester Guardian

The army quartermaster corps is seeking 1,000 German shepherd dogs to serve in the missile age. They are not destined to be sent aloft in rockets as was Russia's space travelling Laika in Sputnik II, however. The New York Times reports that the army needs them for sentry duty at Nike and other missile installations. Thus it is to "man's best friend" that the development of electronic eyes, radar and other detection devices.—Milwaukee Journal

If you want to be a hero to your own children, dad, don't help them with their homework.—London Free Press

Juvenile delinquency begins at home. Case histories at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, for example, show that almost 90 percent of the young men serving sentences there for relatively minor crimes came from broken or unhappy homes or had been deprived of a normal relationship with one or both parents.—Winnipeg Free Press

The Poets Corner

ON THIS OLIVE TIDE This is a day for reading and long thoughts, Having laid the book aside; Rain marches at a slant across the hills And on this olive tide One can extend his meditations for Across the grass, and wide. May even probe the tangled roots of things Where many answers hide.

This is a day for staring through a glass That offers new perspective, for eyes that see through cleansing streaks of rain And heart newly receptive. Earth has grown smaller, nearer, friendlier. Impressions more selective; This is a progress-day toward fresh beginnings. And pigeon-tooled objectives.

—Alma Roberts Gordon In the Christian Science Monitor

Need a loan for car repairs? NIAGARA LOANS. LARGEST ALL-CANADIAN LOAN COMPANY. 152 1/2 Great George Street Phone 7306

New LONG size RECESSED FILTER SKYWAYS. The Age Old Story. The Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.

"CHARLEY'S AUNT" THE RED-HEADED BOMBSHELL FROM BRAZIL (where the nuts come from) "FUNNIEST COMEDY EVER WRITTEN" DON'T MISS THIS LAUGH RIOT AT QUEEN CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL FEB. 2nd - 3rd. TICKETS 75c and 35c CURTAIN AT 8:15 SPONSORED BY P.E.I.D.F.A. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT FOSTERS, HUGHES AND PATTERSONS