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for years the test of greatness. His time was 21 hours 15 minutes for a distance of about 19 miles. He later lost his life in the Niagara whirlpool.

The first woman to swim the Channel was the American Gertrude Ederle, who in 1926 broke all existing records by crossing in 14 hours 31 minutes. She has been followed by some 17 of her sex, among them our Winnie Roach. Florence Chadwick, the only woman to swim the English Channel both ways, swam the 21-mile Catalina channel in 13 hours 47 minutes, breaking the record made by Toronto's George Young in 1927. In 1947 the English Thomas Blower swam 25 miles from Ireland to Scotland in 15 hours 25 minutes.

The distance record belongs to John Sigmund, who, aided by the river and without the handicap of cold and stormy water, swam 292 miles down the Mississippi in 89 hours 42 minutes. In 1938, Charlie Zimmer, a legless swimmer, paddled 147 miles down the Hudson from Albany to New York. Mrs. Myrtle Huddleston, of New York, holds the women's record for non-stop swimming, with a time of 87 hours 27 minutes. Her feat was performed in a tank and does not compare with those accomplished in open water.

Vintage Rain

After it became more or less of a human habit to set off atomic bombs scientists became vitally interested in radio-activity in the atmosphere. There have been dire warnings that radio-active dust encircling the globe could extinguish life as we know it. To lend force to these sombre reflections it was found that rainfall tested after an atomic explosion was found to be radio-active.

Cheering news, however, has been received from the University of Chicago's institute for nuclear studies. Dr. W. F. Libby was aware, of course, of the phenomenon of radio-active rain. He was curious, however, to know how much it has increased in recent years. Examining samples of water of known age, including vintage wines, he was able to determine that there has been no significant increase in the past ten years.

Both the atomic bomb and cosmic rays in the atmosphere produce tritium atoms which have a half-life of 12.5 years. That is to say that they lose half their radio-activity that period. It was possible to calculate that the rain which went into the old wines must have been about as radio-active as the rain which falls today.

The findings are reassuring on the point that mankind has not set in motion forces which have changed the character of the atmosphere and upper air. Great as are the results of the explosions to date they have not changed the world we live in any more than man-made works have changed the level of the sea.

EDITORIAL NOTES

End of the Battle of Britain, 1940.

The opening of the new Federal Building in Montague today is an historic occasion. It is significant of the remarkable progress made by that town and an indication of the confidence of Federal authorities of greater things to come.

The Cancer campaign is under way in Charlottetown, the first returns being due tonight. The work of the Society is three-fold, to make our small but important contribution to research, to provide the latest equipment and training, and to inform the public.

A new method of pickling sheepskins has been developed in New Zealand. It was found that skins pickled with only the normal concentration of acid did not become water soluble. It was necessary, however, to treat the sheepskins with fungicide to prevent mould growth which would normally have been inhibited by the acid.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, died this date 1859, eight days after his "Great Eastern" started on its first voyage. He studied at Paris and Portsmouth, built a number of remarkable suspension bridges and the first steamboat to make regular voyages between Britain and America. That was the "Great Western". The "Great Eastern", however, was his most ambitious work, planned with Scott Russell, and it was the greatest ship in existence in its time.

"Only the Canadians seem likely to arrive in a cool and judicial frame of mind." Such is the comment of the London Economist on Foreign Secretary Eden's proposals which will be presented at a meeting in Paris. "The French are isolated and suspicious", it is explained: "the Germans are impatient and self-assertive; the Italians and their European partners in the Low Countries are vexed and apprehensive for the European idea; the Americans are close to exasperation; and the British are gloomy and puzzled."

Return From Korea

The simultaneous announcements from Ottawa, London and Canberra that two-thirds of the Commonwealth forces will be withdrawn from Korea during the next few months follows logically from the earlier announcement that the United States is taking out four of the six American divisions from that country.

It is more than four years since the invasion of the Republic of Korea and over a year since the truce was signed on July 27, 1953. No final settlement of Korean affairs has unfortunately been reached or even seemed in prospect. It is unlikely, however, that the maintenance of strong United Nations forces in Korea would in any way hurry the matter of settlement.

The duties of the U. N. force are principally to see that truce terms are not too flagrantly flouted and generally to keep the peace. It would obviously require to be very strongly reinforced to meet actual renewal of aggression? At the same time its reduction may well make the Republic of Korea hesitate to provoke the Communists while relying on U. N. support against their reaction.

In any case it is cheering to have troops returning home rather than being sent abroad. Canada's armed forces consist largely of career servicemen but they have home ties no less than citizen soldiers.

The withdrawal is far less significant, however, than the fact that the forces were sent in the first place. Korea marks the first success of joint action under the United Nations. Like other examples of fighting it may not have solved problems but it most definitely stopped aggression in its tracks.

Speed The Plow!

This is the plowing-match season, and the Provincial contest today at Dundas, following the Queen's County matches at Millview last week, will likely be attended by large crowds from all parts of the Island. In this agricultural Province no better competitive feature could be devised, and the fact that tractors are now replacing the horse in many of these matches in no wise detracts from the interest and educational value of the events.

Plowing matches seem even to have antedated agricultural fairs in Prince Edward Island. The contests in early days brought experts from other Provinces to the Island, but the Island competitors, with home-manufactured equipment, usually gave a good account of themselves. The revival of these contests in recent years has been phenomenally successful, not only here but in Ontario and other Provinces, and they are now firmly established in public favour. The younger generation particularly have shown great aptitude in the exacting performance required in matches of this kind, which have the advantage of being of practical utility wherever crops are to be grown.

The plow is among the most ancient of mankind's symbols, and perhaps the most universal. It is an enduring reminder, not only that man must earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, but that in compensation there shall be an unfailing reward in earth's bounty. It was in the assurance that "seedtime and harvest shall not fail," that our pioneer forebears toiled valiantly from day to day, earning the tribute paid them by a later Island poet in lines which are well worth recalling at this season:

They rest in peace beneath the sod their toiling hands have won; These fruitful fields, so green and broad, proclaim their work well done. And we, who bear the lighter part, shall keep this legend in our heart. Of these whose race is run: "The Axe, the Bible, and the Plow, have made our nation mighty now."

Historic Swims

The achievement of 16-year-old Marilyn Bell in swimming Lake Ontario has prompted the Toronto Telegram to search the records for similar resounding exploits. The most famous distance swimmer in history, it finds, was a youth who swam for love. Leander, who lived near the Hellespont, loved Hero, a priestess of Aphrodite, and swam the 2 1/2 mile strait every night to meet her. One night, when the guiding light in a tower went out, he was drowned, and Hero, finding his body, threw herself into the water to share his fate. The story was a favorite with poets, and Byron later swam the straits, better known as the Dardanelles, at the same place.

The man who brought marathon swimming into modern favor was the English Captain Webb, who swam the English Channel in 1875, and made that crossing



Another Perfect Furrow

PUBLIC FORUM

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Now they are trying to tell farmers when to sell their potatoes and what they should get for them, and pay them whenever they feel like it. Between the potato bugs and the potato pools and the blight, the potato industry will soon be on the rocks. So far as a Potato Board trying to keep the price up is concerned, it will be of no use as it is supply and demand that rules the market. So my idea is that it would be better for the potato growers if the Board would keep out of it altogether.

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A Garden of Friendship

By Heath Macquarrie

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Despite the grants from national and regional governments the Garden still relies primarily on private individuals and organizations for its major support and inspiration. Various organizations have undertaken long-range projects for the beautification of the Garden; among these are the I.O.D.E., the Order of the Eastern Star, Women's Institute in Canada, the Federated Countrywomen of America, the Business and Professional Women's Clubs and Chambers of Commerce.

Leading experts in National Parks from both Canada and the United States have worked out a master plan for the development of a formal area which when completed will rival some of the great classical parks of Europe. The six units of the elaborate formal area are to be so constructed that the international boundary will form the center of each and both sides will be identical. In addition to

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NOTES BY THE WAY

The old time pioneer who put notches on his gun has a grandson with dents in his fenders. —Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Girl babies usually talk before boy babies, statisticians tell us. It doesn't seem fair — getting both the first and the last word. —Sudbury Daily Star.

The only thing wrong with the pioneers was that they located the cities so confoundedly far from the airports. —Hamilton Spectator.

Premier Nehru framed the loosest phrase of these international weeks thus: "The only alternative to co-existence is co-destruction." If you can't do with co-existence, you can't do without it. —Peterborough Examiner.

The population of the world is increasing at the rate of 100,000 people every twenty-four hours, a total of some 66,500,000 every year. At this rate the present total of about 2,500,000,000 will be doubled in less than a century. These are staggering figures! They underlie the main problems studied in Rome by the United Nations Conference on Population. There scientists from seventy nations have been looking into the rapidly expanding needs of the peoples of the globe. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

With the present-day, vastly increased opportunities for education on the one hand, and the very low number of grammatical encumbrances in English on the other, there is no excuse for anyone to speak the language incorrectly. The criteria of good English should be grammatical accuracy and pleasantness to the ear. Good English, as opposed to the mythical standard English, is thus well within the reach of all Canadians, or any other user of the language. —Winnipeg Tribune.

With the naked eye, on a clear night, anyone can make out the blotch of light which is the Andromeda galaxy, nearly two million light-years from ours. The observer will see it, of course, as it was nearly two million years ago, though it is the nearest galaxy to our own. It is hard to decide which are the more remarkable: the enormous distance to this galaxy and its own immensity; or the eye which can see it so far away and the mind which has discovered its makeup. —Edmonton Journal.

At a time when one reviews the number of new enterprises created by the industrial expansion, it is well to remember that such an expansion has to be paid for. The money is derived from these investments which would otherwise be distributed among the stockholders or in other savings investments. The thought that these investments provide work should dissipate any resentment toward stockholders who receive their modest dividends. If they had refused to lend their money, as was their entire right in a free country, the expansion of factories, which created 34,000 new openings in 1952 and 23,000 in 1953, would have been impossible. —Le Soleil, Quebec.

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Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

CHERRY VALLEY

"Cherry Valley settlement, Lot 50, was named after the nearby estate of Captain Joseph Beers, a Loyalist settler. 'Joseph Beers, ensign, Kings Rangers,' is one of the signatories to a testimony published in the New York Royal Gazette, March 5, 1788, and dated Island of St. John, Nov. 30, 1782, pointing out to Loyalists the eligibility of Prince Edward Island as a place to repair to.

"A great-grandson, Mr. Geo. W. H. Beers, of Charlottetown, writes: 'When he first came to this Province he was stationed at a fort in the mouth of what is now known as Charlottetown harbour. Here a small garrison was stationed, he being either in command or second in command. This was about the year 1783. Later he was given a grant of land in a place known by the French as Marguerite and which he named Cherry Valley. It consisted of 1,000 or 1,500 acres and here in 1785 he built a two-story old English style of house. This house stands intact and inhabited to this day. Its timbers are of pine and show no sign of decay. Cherry Valley was the name of the place in one of the New England states that he came from. The Beers came from Devonshire, England, and I think the place was named from in Devonshire was called Cherry Valley.' Lord Selkirk lodged a night at Cherry Valley in 1803."

—Place-Names of Prince Edward Island, Ottawa, 1925.

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