

Lovers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew... Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street...

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

TUESDAY, DEC. 6, 1955

Vaccine Results

The results of the Salk anti-polio vaccine, announced in Stockholm last week by the World Health Organization, are, admittedly, of a tentative nature.

Following are some of the particulars released by the report: In New York State the incidence rates of paralysis for vaccinated children were 4 in 100,000 population;

In Denmark and West Germany no paralytic cases were reported among vaccinated children. However, only 425,000 Danes were given the treatment, compared with 860,000 Canadians;

All in all, the figures give a good report for Salk vaccine. This coming year, it is expected, the report will be better still.

Risky Venture

Highway engineers and builders who grumble about the hardships they encounter in extending roads through Canadian wilderness—heat, mosquitos, heavy rains, prolonged droughts, and a few other inconveniences—should be comforted by a report from Costa Rica which tells about certain real dangers that face American contractors and their crews who are getting ready to build a road that will connect Costa Rica with Panama for the first time.

First, there are the tigers, more adept than are American road makers in the ways of the jungle, and almost certain to resent large scale human invasion of their ancestral preserves. They grow as much as 15 feet long and are very quick-tempered. Then, there are deadly snakes, which are even more aggressive in their habits than the tigers, and more stealthy, if that be possible.

Another difficulty facing the Americans is due to a clause in the contract which says that, whenever possible, native labourers must be employed. While this is a fair employment practice, it is bound to cause trouble and delay, for the natives are terrified by tigers and snakes and scared almost to death by headhunters; which means that, at the first sign of danger, the foremen are likely to find themselves

without workers. It is, of course, possible that the savage tribe will welcome the Americans and their bulldozers, glad to be in the march of progress. No doubt, the contractors are hoping that it will turn out that way and are keeping their fingers crossed. It is a risky venture, though, to say the best of it.

Facts Are Facts

It is difficult for anyone at this distance to understand the reasons for the current furore in the United Nations over the applications of 18 countries for membership in the Assembly. The United States seems irrevocably committed to keeping Outer Mongolia out by any measure short of the veto. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, appears determined to let Outer Mongolia in, or, if that be not possible, to veto the application of all those countries supported by the United States.

Of the 18 countries on the waiting list, 8 can be said to be definitely pro-Western in their political predilections; 5 are members of the Communist bloc; and 5 are on the fence, as it were, though probably a little to the right of centre. It would appear, therefore, that acceptance of Mr. Martin's package would mean very little advantage for either side in the present contest of power politics, at least from the standpoint of voting strength.

Every day we doctors call on this service on a 24 hour basis. In many cases we require not just one bottle of blood but many for one patient. Recently one of our cases required eight transfusions. Many operations just could not be successfully performed without the guarantee of an adequate supply of blood.

EDITORIAL NOTES

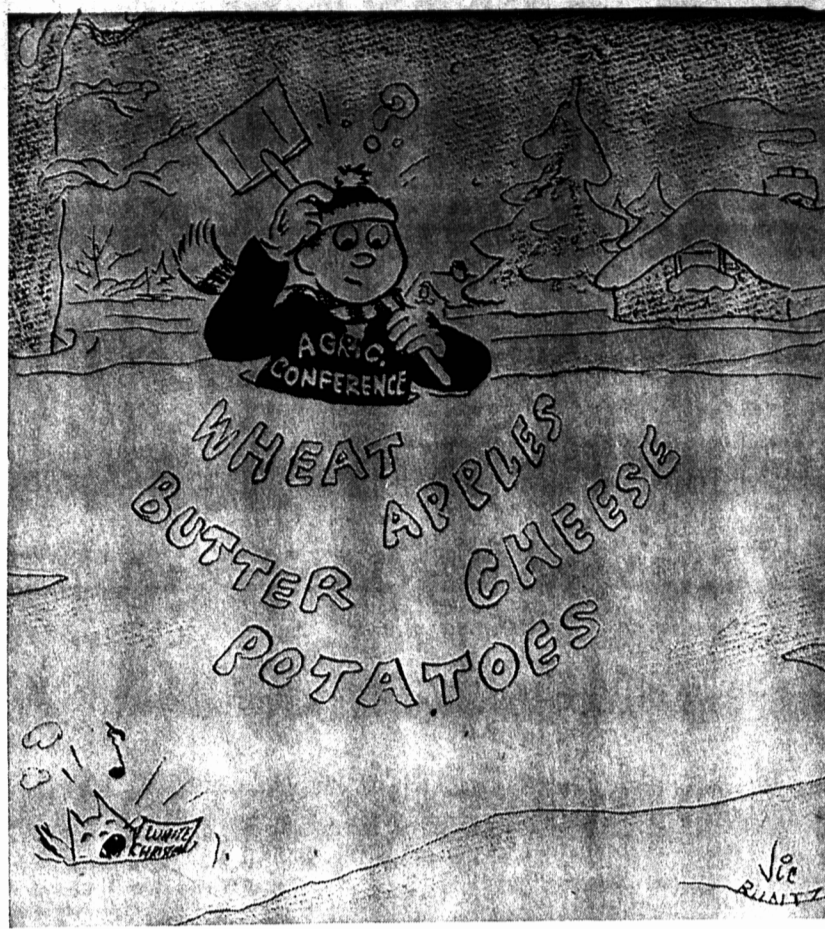
The Port Alberni, B.C., school board has ruled that slacks are good cold-weather garments and, therefore, may be worn in school during the winter months. It would not be surprising to hear that the Port Alberni girls have resolved that winter is the best season.

There is room for differences of opinion among potato growers and dealers regarding the proper functions of a marketing board. But it is certain that only by getting together and working amicably for the industry as a whole will it be possible to achieve any worthwhile measure of economic security.

Senator Estes Kefauver, the Tennessee gentleman who feels he ought to be President, says he will take his celebrated coonskin cap into the '56 nomination race just as he did in '52. He may have better luck with it next time, seeing that the Davy Crockett vogue, during which almost everybody had at least one such cap, is on the decline.

Does it matter much whether a federal building has one storey or two? Yes, it does, say the residents of Harbor Grace, Nfld. They are so incensed over the one floor structure proposed by federal architects that they have requested Ottawa to change the plans and that soon. It will be interesting to see if the representations have any effect on federal officials. Probably not; for governments don't like to admit their judgment was in error.

English "pub" proprietors, whatever their shortcomings may be, have at least two virtues to their credit: They obey the law governing hours of business, and they treat everybody alike. That, at any rate, is what H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh would say. After dropping into a neighbourhood saloon during the course of a housing inspection and drawing a can of beer from a pump he was told he would have to drink it another time as it was past closing hours.



PLENTY MAKES A PROBLEM

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

Sir.—With Blood Donor Clinics being held this week, the time is opportune to point out to our citizens the outstanding value of this free Red Cross service and the dire necessity of everyone in good health and between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five being among the 2,000 donors required this week.

Every day we doctors call on this service on a 24 hour basis. In many cases we require not just one bottle of blood but many for one patient. Recently one of our cases required eight transfusions. Many operations just could not be successfully performed without the guarantee of an adequate supply of blood.

Patients in our Island hospitals require on an average of 250 bottles per month and I understand that, at the present time, Prince Edward Island is in debt by over 500 bottles. The 2,000 donors being sought this week at five centres throughout the province are required to pay off our debt of 500 bottles and provide a credit of 1,500 bottles to do for the next six months since no further clinics can be held until early next June.

I would therefore urge all who can to report as donors at one of the clinics this week.

I am, Sir, etc., J. P. SWENEY, M.D., President of the Medical Staff, Charlottetown Hospital.

SPENDING CHRISTMAS

Sir.—Every year at this time our thoughts are all about Christmas. We are planning for that big event that comes once a year; and despite all this planning and getting ready how many of us will spend the time as planned? Let us stop right short and look back into the time of our past Christmas days and see how we spent them, and from that backward look we can draw our course for this year, the year that for many of us will be the last.

Will we spend it with our families by the home sickness and hear the laughter of little children around the Christmas tree, or will we spend it in jail and hear the screams of others in a drunken state in another cell? We can plan it now. True, some will be over-taken with sickness and accidents and spend the time in hospitals through no fault of their own.

Others, we regret, will spend it in cold prison cells paying for their mistake in the past. They look ahead to another day, when they will be at home again, but you and I who are free to plan our Christmas let us get ready for the happy time, let us prepare to spend it with our families. We can enjoy life to the full; we don't have to be rich to do this. Think now how nice it will be if we can swing the gate of the jail open and leave it open as the police have no free riders in their wagon, no drinking and fights in the homes. If our homes were a hell last year let it be a heaven this time. There are so many who were here last year that will look back this year from Eternity into a world they left so quickly. Now is the time, as we stand at the crossroads, to prepare.

I am Sir, etc., WALTER A. O'BRIEN, Charlottetown

THE LAW OFFICES OF McLEAN & McKINNON formerly conducted by the late Mr. Donald McKinnon, Q.C. with whom was associated the late Mr. Malcolm McKinnon, Q.C. will continue to be carried on in the same offices in Royal Bank Building, Charlottetown, under the management of Miss Suzanne MacKinnon with J. A. Bentley, Q.C., as legal adviser and counsel.

Seeking Zoological Freak

By J. C. Graham Canadian Press, Wellington, N. Z.

An expedition will set out from Wellington this month in search of a "zoological improbability"—a sea creature so strange that science has no record of it, either alive or in fossils.

Yet one man has caught several of these creatures and has been able to supply such accurate details of them that scientists have no doubt they exist—a fish that surely not remotely resemble any species ever recorded.

Somewhere in the black depths of the 30,000-foot-deep Kermadec Trench, off the east coast of New Zealand, there lurks a sea monster with a jet black skin like the texture of shark skin. It has numerous crescent-shaped dorsal fins, whereas no living shark has more than one, and no fossilized specimen more than two.

SEVERAL GILLS It has several gills, a spongy snout and a mouth on top of its head.

The only man in history who has ever seen this creature is G. Davis, a commercial fisherman, who as a hobby put down set lines into the ocean depths to see what strange life might catch. Using 3,000 feet of line off the east coast of New Zealand, he caught several great fish with many dorsal fins, but he never brought a specimen back.

He cut most of them up for bait. Once he cut one up and sold the flesh to a wholesaler as "Chinese ling," the nearest description he could think of. There was no subsequent complaint, so the fish is apparently edible, but the people who ate it little thought they were consuming something unknown to science.

Only a few years ago ocean surveys disclosed the existence of a great ocean canyon or trench off the coast of New Zealand. It is one of the deepest ocean depths within easy reach of land, and scientists of Victoria University College, Wellington, began plans to probe into it in search of new species.

TRIP PLANNED One plan is to set and bait a mammoth "mouse trap" at extreme depth. It is believed that the giant squid, a creature with plate-sized eyes and tentacles 25 feet long, lives in this canyon, as the strong tides which sweep out of it have cast remains of squid on the New Zealand coast.

Word of these activities aroused the interest of Davis, who realized for the first time that his casual deep-sea fishing had been over part of the Kermadec Trench, as it is called. He also realized that some of his catches might have been unknown species.

Davis forwarded details of his interest to the scientists in Wellington and also contributed practical ideas on methods of catching creatures at extreme depths. His detailed description of "the monster of the Kermadec" at once aroused the interest of scientists.

"If we catch one of these things

GOOD TRAINING OTTAWA (CP)—Duck hunting is excellent training for young army officers, particularly infantry, says Maj-Gen Chris Vokes, general officer commanding the army's Western Command. In an article in the Canadian Army Journal he says it teaches reconnaissance, organization, digging, camouflage and occupation of a position.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. S.S.: Is liquor injurious to a person who has hardening of the arteries?

Answer: Whether or not alcoholic beverages should be used by a person with hardening of the arteries could only be determined by the physician who, after making a careful examination, will decide whether their use might be harmful.

Refrigeration

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

KNOW CANCER'S SIGNALS Most cancer can be cured, if it is treated in its early stages. Although cancer ranks second only to heart and circulatory diseases as a cause of death, physicians are now curing almost one-third of all known cancer patients.

Wiser application of our present medical knowledge may enable us to save as many as another third. But you've got to help us help you.

DANGER SIGNALS Cancer can occur in any part of your body, but it is more likely to be found in certain sites. If you know where to look for it and can recognize the danger signals, you are more apt to detect it in time to save your life.

Women tend to develop cancer in certain parts of their bodies and men in other parts. Just why this is so we don't know, but it might be due to differences in habits and occupations.

Women more frequently develop cancer of their reproductive organs and breasts. Unmarried women are more likely to have cancer of the breast. It's believed that nursing a child reduces the chances of breast cancer.

On the other hand, married women who have borne children have a better chance of getting cancer of the womb. If you have given birth to a child, you must be sure that no minor injury to the birth canal goes uncared for.

It is important that women learn how to examine the breasts for cancer. The American Cancer Society has an excellent motion picture showing how this can easily be done. I suggest you contact the society in your area and arrange to view the film.

It is also important that you wear comfortably light-fitting clothing that may irritate or chafe you, especially at the breasts or abdomen.

Most common sites of cancer in women, in order of incidence, are: genital, digestive, breast, skin, respiratory, urinary and mouth.

Men are more apt to develop cancer in the digestive tract, skin, lungs and mouth.

Regular eating and bowel habits, careful care of your mouth and teeth and moderation in use of tobacco might help provide protection.

How can you tell whether you've got cancer? You can't always, of course, but your doctor can.

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Americans and Canadians are proud to claim the highest living standards in the world, and on the basis of average per capita incomes the claim is correct. But income averages do not tell the whole story of material well-being in a society. When it comes to providing medical care on a basis of need, and not of purse, the United States and Canada lag behind many countries which are far less wealthy. M.J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, asserts that the United States and Canada, in fact, the only two democracies in the world that have not provided their people with some form of national health insurance—Toronto Star.

It is interesting that a comment on "the spirit of Geneva" should come from Geneva itself. This comment has been made by the most eminent of Geneva editors, Bernard Beguin, in the newspaper, Journal de Geneve. Beguin believes that the true spirit of Geneva is the humanitarianism and the historic respect for others. This spirit, he believes, shone "like a splinter of light" upon the meeting between the West and Russia in July. But it is now "dimmed" by the brutal machiavellianism of the Russian leaders. The splinter of sunlight that shone at Geneva in July has disappeared behind a heavy, chilling cloud. In international affairs, it will be a long cold winter.—Montreal Gazette.

The other day this column quoted the late W. W. Whitaker, editor of the Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly, as once asking why we capitalize "I" when "me, mine, we and ours, you and yours" do not get the same attention. Miss Ida Belle Williams has written from South Georgia college, at Douglas that the answer is found in histories of the English language. She says the custom originated in England when printers requested authors to capitalize the pronoun "I" to distinguish it from the small "i". The authors evidently complied. Before that, the printers had been having trouble telling the little "i's" from little "j's". "As far as I know," says my erudite informant, "no language except English writes the pronoun I with the capital."—Atlanta Constitution.

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