THE GUARDIAN

Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by The Thomson Company Limited

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

Editor, Frank Walker
General Manager, Ian A. Burnett

Branch offices at Summerside, Montague and Alberton. Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

By Carrier: Charlottetown, Summerside $15.00 per annum; Elsewhere in P.E.I. $9.00. Other Provinces and U.S. $12.00 per annum

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1955

Legislature Meets

The Legislature opens today, with the customary formalities and military ceremony. As this is likely to be the last session of the present Assembly, political speechmaking will be the order of the day. The record of the Government will be elaborated upon by its party spokesmen, and the Opposition will be pointing with alarm to various sins of omission and commission, as it has done from time immemorial and as indeed it is its duty to do. There is, however, a great deal of pending business of a non-political nature in which our citizens are probably more interested, and in which the members can forget party alignments with advantage.

Even the political speeches, it is to be hoped, will be kept within reasonable bounds. This is a busy age, and there are too many competing attractions for long-winded oratorical performances to elicit anything like the interest they did in the past. Our legislators, for the most part, are aware of this fact and have shown in recent years a marked improvement so far as brevity in speechmaking is concerned. The newspapers, at any rate, are forced by space limitations and the increase in national and international news coverage to concentrate on factual statements of current interest in reporting our legislative proceedings.

It is a pleasure to welcome out-of-town members on this occasion, during the centennial observance of our civic corporation. The Legislature is the parent body of all our municipal organizations, and its powers and prerogatives are inherent in our constitutional form of government. The chamber in which it meets has witnessed many important events in our provincial history; but we too are living in critical times, and the best tribute to the past that our members can pay is to measure up to their own serious responsibilities.

Lobster Fishing Regulations

As noted in recent despatches from Ottawa, two important amendments to the lobster fishery regulations have been announced by Fisheries Minister Sinclair. The amendments, effective immediately, abolish the minimum lath spacing of lobster traps, and also allow pound owners and operators to sell lobsters which have become "berried" after retention for the first time since 1873.

The abolition of minimum lath spacing removes a regulation which was designed as a conservation measure by reducing the catch of lobsters below legal size. This regulation was first put into effect in 1949, after several years of experiments had shown that properly spaced laths in the traps would consistently release a large proportion of the short lobsters without reducing the catch of lobsters of legal size.

Although enthusiastically adopted at first by some fishermen, the lath spacing regulations have been vigorously opposed by others who, among other things, contend that it was extremely difficult to maintain minimum spacing because dry wood laths would swell when set in the water. In addition, they said, virtually all the short lobsters were being returned by the fishermen to the sea anyway.

Field officers of the federal Department of Fisheries have had a difficult job in trying to enforce the unpopular regulation among the thousands of lobster fishermen who use well over 2,000,000 traps in the fishery. The enforcement of the regulation was further hampered by the fact that the minimum lath spacing was necessary only between the two bottom laths of the traps. Many fishermen re-adjusted these laths before setting the traps at sea to stop short lobsters from escaping. The sale of undersized lobsters is a problem in some areas of the Maritimes, and is of considerable concern to the Department of Fisheries. There will be continued rigid enforcement of the regulations with regard to the taking of lobsters under the legal size limit.

Fishermen, if they wish, can continue to follow the former regulations which prescribed the distance to be maintained between laths in the construction of lobster traps. In this way they will save themselves the time consuming work of culling and releasing at sea the many more undersized lobsters which will be caught in traps without adequate space for escapement.

During the past year the Department has been engaged in a programme to educate the fishermen to return undersized lobsters to the water. The heavy poaching and the taking of short lobsters, it is feared, will jeopardize the stocks on which many inshore fishermen depend for their livelihood. Last year 46,100,000 pounds of lobster, valued at nearly $15,500,000 were caught in Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland.

Lobster pounds are an important link in the orderly and profitable marketing of lobsters. By retaining lobsters caught at sea in the pounds it allows a gradual distribution of this sea delicacy and prevents a wholesale dumping of them on the market. If pound owners and operators take out the $1,000 special permit to sell "berried" lobsters, they must provide a suitable separate retention area to enable fishery officers to properly check newly acquired lobsters to ensure that they are not "berried" when first purchased for retention

A Nehru Cult?

In the formative period of Soviet totalitarianism a sizable army of intellectuals professed to see in the Communistic doctrine much that was of social and political value. Later, most of them, having seen through the cunningly devised conspiracy, withdrew their sympathy. Now, it appears that many intellectuals are looking to Prime Minister Nehru of India for moral and wise leadership in the confusion and uncertainties of the times. Indeed, a Nehru cult would seem to be in the making..

The latest intellectual of note to join in this almost religious adoration of the Indian statesman is Lord Bertrand Russell who proposes, in effect, that the weightiest problem of the day—how to keep global war from breaking out—be transferred from the United Nations to Mr. Nehru and his Cabinet. This, briefly, is how it would work. Mr. Nehru would appoint a commission, presumably headed by himself, to investigate the underlying causes of present tensions and the evil results that would certainly follow another world war. Having done this, the commission would make a report to all the great powers and try to persuade them that neither side could hope to gain anything by aggression.

It all sounds very simple. It would be wonderful if Mr. Nehru, or some other person, could bring lasting peace to the world merely by conducting an investigation into the plainly obvious and then making a report about it. That is what the U. N. O.—with Mr. Nehru's assistance, be it said—has been doing for ten years. Hundreds of experts in one field and another have been working full time at it; and thousands of reams of paper have taken their reports of successes and failures into every corner of the earth. The inference that only Mr. Nehru is interested in peace is as foolish as it is false; the inference that the Communists would listen to reason if Mr. Nehru were appointed sole arbiter of the world's political fortunes is utter nonsense. As a matter of record, on the two occasions the Indian Prime Minister appealed to Peiping to be reasonable—in the case of the imprisoned airmen and that of the U. N. cease-fire proposal—he received no encouragement whatsoever.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Quebec, long the Province with the highest birth rate, has bowed to Newfoundland which has a rate of 33.6 births per 1000 population compared with Quebec's 30.6.

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If there are any mule-skinners looking for jobs all they have to do is get in touch with the United States Army at Camp Carson, Colorado. So far the two mule-pack battalions still in service haven't been atomicized. The appeal for recruits says that applicants must have "the required treatment", whatever that may mean.

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The death of Dr. John R. Mott at the age of 89 removes from the world scene—for he was known almost everywhere—one of the truly great men of his time. For many years general secretary of the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, and a Christian evangelist of distinction, he travelled widely and, wherever he went, he contributed something important to international goodwill and understanding. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.

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Anthony Hope (pen name of Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins), English novelist, born this date 1863. He is best known for "The Prisoner of Zenda", which achieved a tremendous popular success, both in book form and on the stage. Discerning readers will find more meat in R. L. Stevenson's "Prince Otto", from which the Hope romance was lifted.

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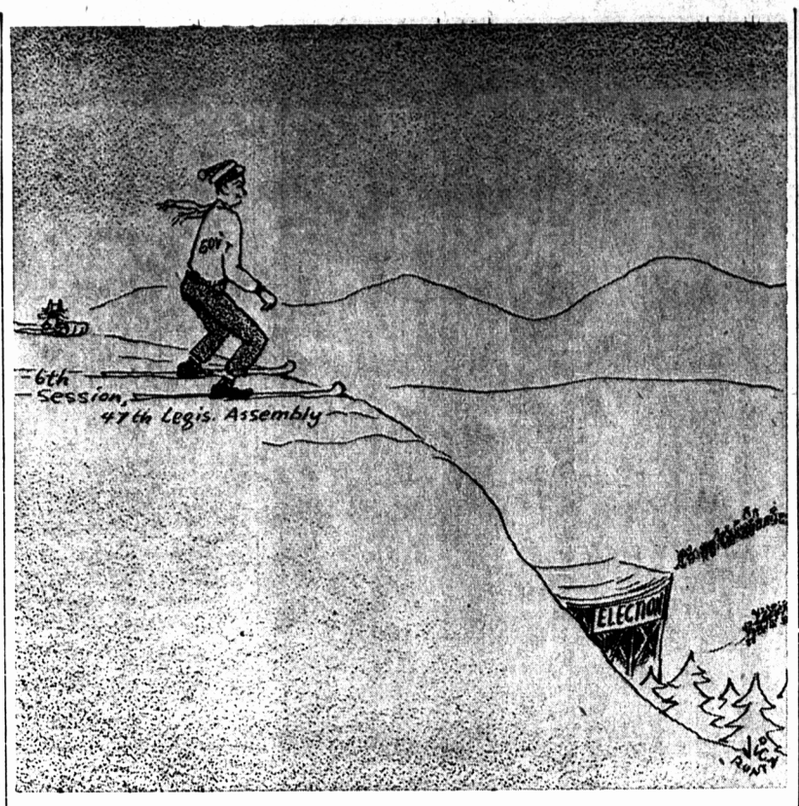
The latest piece of spectacular news from the American Atomic Energy Commission is that a new and bigger hydrogen bomb is in the making; it will be equivalent to 60 million tons of T N T, roughly three times as destructive as the biggest one now in stock. However, assurance that other and more useful purposes are being served by atomic power is contained in a report that, for $50,000, a plant can be made to keep potatoes from spoiling or sprouting for a period of two years.



Heading Towards A Big Jump

Freedom Of The Press

By Frank Flaherty
Canadian Press

Three members of Parliament have placed resolutions on the order paper of the House of Commons dealing with freedom of the press. This makes it certain that at the present session Parliament will stage a full-scale debate on the legal basis for the freedoms Canadians have long enjoyed.

Specifically the resolutions call for the enactment of a Canadian bill of rights, a fundamental statute which would prevent interference in future with religion, freedom of speech and freedom of the press and of radio.

Some countries, notably the United States, have such guarantees written into the Constitution. Canada inherited the unwritten constitution of Britain which is based on the idea of the supremacy of Parliament.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS

The resolutions raise serious constitutional problems. Some authorities hold that, under the Parliamentary system, there is no way in which any freedom can be given a hard and fast legal basis. Those who take this view feel that the best guarantee of freedom of the press, freedom of speech and the other freedoms is a free Parliament, that a free Parliament will never restrict such freedoms because by doing so it would destroy its own freedom.

The three sponsors of resolutions seeking a bill of right are John Diefenbaker, Progressive Conservative member for Prince Albert; David Croll, Liberal member for Toronto-Spadina; and M. J. Coldwell, leader of the CCF.

They are not unaware of the difficulty of reconciling a bill of rights with the notion of the supremacy of Parliament. But they are convinced that the loss of freedom of speech which has occurred in other countries can happen here.

It is doubtful if their resolutions will lead to any concrete results right away. They will, however, serve to focus public attention on the problem. Canadians cannot know what is going on unless they are free to exchange information. The debate can put the public on the watch for infringements of freedom.

MAY CLARIFY POWERS

The debate may also lead to some clarification of the respective powers of the federal Parliament and the provincial legislatures in relation to the rights of the individual.

Mr. Diefenbaker, an eminent constitutional lawyer, is particularly conscious of the need for this. His resolution declares Canada should have a bill of rights to assure, among other things: "Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and of radio."

It also calls on the government to ask the Supreme Court of Canada for an o[illegible] the degree to which f[illegible]s of religion, speech and the press are matters o[illegible]ovincial jurisdiction.

Under the British North America Act which divides up the unlimited powers of Parliament between the national and the provincial legislative bodies "property and civil rights" is placed in provincial control. A newspaper with its buildings and its printing press is property. The right to publish a newspaper is a civil right. Yet, in the Alberta press case the courts held a provincial legislature had no right to enact a particular law aimed at controlling newspapers.

MORE SPECIFIC

Mr. Coldwell's resolution is more specific. It calls for steps to include in the British North America Act a declaration that it shall not be lawful for Parliament or the provincial legislatures to make laws "abridging freedom of speech or expression, or freedom of religion or of the press or of other means of communication."

Such an amendment would be legally effective so long as it stood. But it will be pointed out that the British North America Act can be re-amended as well as amended. The Coldwell proposition would hand back to the British Parliament which passed the British North America Act in 1867 some of the powers the British Parliament then vested in Canadian institutions.

Under present procedure the British North America Act is changed by the British Parliament on the request of the Canadian Parliament. The Canadian Parliament could ask the British Parliament to strike out Mr. Coldwell's section the year after it had written it in.

Mr. Croll's resolution is general in terms, asserts Canada should have a bill of human rights and liberties in its constitution.

"NEGATIVE FREEDOM"

Speaking in Parliament on the same subject a few years ago he said:

"There is no fundamental law in Canada prohibiting the exercise of state power in denial of civil liberties. Ours is a negative freedom. Free speech, for instance, is in the position where it is not forbidden. But a negative freedom in itself is not enough."

In an interview Mr. Diefenbaker expressed the view that a bill of rights would be educative and authoritative rather than impregnable under the Parliamentary system. It would declare to the world what the rights of a citizen are so that the citizen would know when those rights are being infringed.

It would establish a broad principle in the light of which legislation, prompted by local or emergency situations, could be judged if it should tend to whittle down freedom.

It would, for example, set up a standard by which changes in the libel laws might be judged. The law of libel aims at protecting individuals from unjust defamation. Carried too far it can prevent the dissemination of information the public has a right to know.

LAWS MAY INTIMIDATE

Laws which seek to compel publishers and writers to disclose sources of information can interfere with the exercise of the public's right to know, by intimidating people who have information which may be embarrassing to others from giving it to the press.

The fact that three prominent members of Parliament in three different parties take an interest in the preser[illegible] of freedom of the press reflects a growin" awareness o[illegible] in a period when the [illegible]atic way of life faces a challenge.

Could Save Tempers

(Financial Post)

In its brief to the Ontario Government the other day, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce asked for the standardization of stove pipes. It wants them all to come in the same length and thickness. To urban people accustomed to all the convenience of automatic cooking and heating, that request may seem out of date. But not to Premier Frost. He doesn't live in a big city. He has had experience with stoves in farm houses or summer cottages.

Under the best of conditions, putting up stove pipes is no job for the man whose temper is short or whose blood pressure is high. It is certainly one of the most exasperating of all household chores. But when we have to drive ten miles to town and then find that these things come in half a dozen shapes and sizes and we don't know which one is ours, then the trouble really begins. All too often we guess wrong and bring back a length that can't be warped, twisted or forced into line. It's a good bet we will end up using the rusted and dangerous pipe we planned to discard.

Stove pipes, of course, are only one of the many items where some sort of standardization would help. There are washers for taps, and bolts and screws. There are storm windows, and common replacements for radios, cars, locks, and hinges. We can't expect and probably don't want absolute uniformity but some sort of reasonable standardization in these common things would make life smoother and happier.

The Poet's Corner

CLOCK ESCAPEMENT

No need to look. There is always
on the wall
A symbol that soon will stop if you
once forget
To tighten its tension with your
tension, set
Its hands with your hands, subjective simple small.

Mechanic measurer never running
quite true
To time. One's absence can cut it
off, or weather
Disrupt its tense, till you cannot
tell whether
You are running this thing or it is
running you.

But remember the window and
ignore the wall
With its finite face that tells and
tolls like fate.
Then utter irrelevance will annihilate
Time in the clock with the nothingness of all.

—Carleton Drewry in the New York Herald-Tribune.

Where Tradition Counts

(Hamilton Spectator)

Every January the editor of The Times of London can rely upon receiving from one of his faithful correspondents a list of boys' and girls' names chosen by proud parents who make their birth announcements on the front page of that newspaper. This year has been no exception, and, as usual, the list shows the names in order of preference with the previous year's standing alongside.

The most striking thing about this list is the continued popularity of traditional names. Some Christian names come in and go out of fashion, they appear suddenly adapted to the time until it seems that almost every other child has a name that is topical. But John for a boy and Mary for a girl seem to be first favourites in every British generation and all the elegant names that suddenly make a brief appearance are usurpers by comparison. John has a long lead over its nearest competitor, David. There was one sharp change in the list of boys' names; in 1953, Robert had been in eighth place and James in third, but last year they changed places and James now languishes in eighth place, though the demotion of this traditional name will, no doubt, be only of a temporary nature. Charles has retained its position as fourth on the list; a royal influence may have something to do with this, though Charles has always been a staunch favourite in Britain, Michael continues in fifth place; Peter in sixth; Nicholas has stolen up from ninth to seventh place; Christopher moves up from tenth to ninth and Robert and William share the tenth place.

The invisible influence of tradition is as much in evidence in the choice of girls' names as it is in boys'. Mary retained only a narrow lead on Ann (or Anne), due no doubt, to the growing popularity of Princess Anne. In 1953, Elizabeth occupied third place, but last year Jane pushed her down to fourth and took it herself with a long lead. Margaret was in fifth place and Susan in sixth in 1953, but last year they changed places, and the same happened with Caroline, which lost its seventh place to Sarah. Helen was ninth and Patricia tenth, both having crept up from thirteenth and eleventh respectively.

This list is narrowly limited to readers of The Times of London, but over the year it no doubt presents a fair picture of "name-choosing" in Britain. Next year we may be able to check its trends, for Martin, Nigel and Simon are said to be creeping up towards the boys'. They may all become exceedingly fashionable, but we expect to see John and Mary sitting sedately at the top of the list. They seem to occupy it as a right.

POLICE CRACK DOWN

TORONTO (CP) — Police said Monday a stepped-up drive against bootleggers, gamblers, drug addicts and prostitutes was started during the weekend. Seventy persons were arrested on morality charges. "The drive will be rigidly maintained," said Inspector Ellsworth Walker of the morality squad.

The Age Old Story

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.

Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

ESTABLISH REGULAR HABITS

If you're constipated, it's probably your own fault. Chances are, you've neglected the fundamentals for good bowel movements — regularity and plenty of bulk in your diet.

In our rush to keep up with our business duties or household chores, we frequently just don't seem to find time for this natural function. Then, too, toilet facilities aren't always available.

Regularity Important

Regularity is important. Get up a little earlier in the morning, or set aside a certain time during the evening. Have a regular schedule if you can. Fundamentally, the bowel function is a matter of training and habit. Of course you should never neglect the call for a bowel movement.

It's important to relax, too. Try not to be tense. "If you change your job or home, or alternate your living habits in any important way, you're apt to become constipated.

If abdominal muscles are flabby, you might want to try some exercises. Lie on your back on the floor or some other firm, flat surface and raise your legs without bending your knees. Do this as many times as you can. Try one series of exercises in the morning and do them again in the evening.

All of you, of course, are not going to have the same bowel habits. Everyone does not have the same size colon.

The colon, incidentally, does not empty completely at one time. The residue in the colon on the left side moves out as other residue begins to enter on the right side. Thus, it is perfectly natural for some persons to have bowel movements after each meal, while others have movements every two or three days.

What about drugs, laxatives and enemas?

Well ,they are artificial means and won't produce regularity. Maybe one or two teaspoonfuls of milk of magnesia are all right occasionally, but I don't advise any large doses of any kind of laxative.

Frequent enemas aren't wise, either. In time, they may dull the normal function of the mechanism which notifies you that a bowel movement is required. If you do need an enema, however, use only a pint of warm water to which you have added one teaspoonful of salt.

The proper foods are also important to regularity. I'll discuss them tomorrow.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

C. A. F.: Is a perpetual subnormal temperature an indication that something is wrong?

Answer: This might be due to a deficiency of thyroid secretion. In many instances, the temperature may be as low as 97.6 when no abnormal condition is present.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The federal government plans to introduce sheep to Ungava Bay, where they may become a source of food and income for the Eskimos. Some farming, especially the growing of potatoes, will also be encouraged. It is hard to think of settled agriculture coming to lands once considered barren, but as the North's frontiers are pushed back, perhaps it will not be long before Canadians begin to take it for granted. —Ottawa. Citizen.

The Communist group, and especially China, fears an attack from the West. However unjustified the fear may be, it exists, as indicated in conversations Premier Chou En-lai has had in recent months with Premier Nehru of India, and with Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, secretary-general of the United Nations. A prerequisite to peace is the removal not only of the West's fear of China, but of China's fear of the West. Trade could be a first step. Diplomatic recognition, and a vigorous effort to negotiate a settlement in the Far East, should follow, if a stable peace is to be attained in that area.—Ottawa Citizen.

Science, probing the mysteries of the human body, now presents discoveries which may make the colour of an individual's skin a matter of personal choice. Research workers believe this can be accomplished by manipulating the pituitary gland. The results could be deeply significant. They could lead to the elimination of a great cause of discord — the colour bar, one of the most unfortunate prejudices of the present age. This would not, in itself, cure racial discriminaton. Those people inclined to super race and inferior race theories would still find grounds on which to base their likes and dislikes. But it would prove to the world that pigmentation is not nearly as important as some people attempt to make it. Were colour to become optional, a psychological impediment to closer intermingling of people would be removed. The colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady could be sisters both on the surface and under the skin. —Victoria Times.

If a suggestion advanced by a University of Wisconsin physics professor proves at all practical, aircraft take-offs in the future are likely to be dizzy experiences. Professor J. Gibson Winans says the shortest way to go up in an airplane is to go around. He has already successfully experimented with his idea of taxiing in a circle and taking off in a spiral. His plan calls for the anchoring of a cable at a central point and attaching the free end to the plane. The latter whirls around and around at the end of the cable until it gets up flying speed and then flies upward in a tight spiral to a safe altitude when the cable is cut loose. This might mean a reduction in the size of airports, if someone could only come up with an idea of attaching the cable to an incoming plane for a landing in reverse order. However we don't think that cash customers of the airlines are going to be happy about the effects of centrifugal forces in a whirling plane, either going up or down. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

A church is not a business or financial institution. Its services to a community are not to be assessed in material terms of dollars and cents, or even in number of members. Yet the annual reports now being made by various congregations do reflect the tempo of activities. Their financial statements, membership statistics, etc., do offer some gauge of spiritual and moral values. People who support their churches by attendance and contributions do reveal their interest in church work. Reports thus far published give evidence of a healthy condition. Attendance generally is high, and people are paying to help the churches provide their spiritual services. While reading these reports one is impressed by the sincere, diligent work of the pastors, and by those church members who willingly serve in the various church offices. These worthy people are the backbone of any congregation or parish. Their religion means more to them than a mere formal observance of Christianity. The entire community is in a constant debt to the churches and their influence. A community without churches would be horrible to contemplate, and certainly would be no place in which a decent person would wish to live. The better our churches are able to function, the better for all of us. — Windsor Star.

The hope for mankind lies in balancing the glandular processes which alone can keep the body functioning properly. In fact, experts predict that in this way the human life span may be extended to 100 years or more—a prospect that would not appear so grim as at present if it were accompanied by a sound body.—Victoria Times.

Third grade pupils in a California school were asked to draw pictures of what they wanted to be when they grew up. One little boy turned in a picture of himself as a plane pilot. Another drew himself driving a fire engine. But one little girl turned in a blank piece of paper. When the teacher asked why, she explained "I want to be married — but I don't know how to draw it." — Los Angeles Examiner.

Paris fashions may lead the world, but it is Paris mannequins who display them to best advantage in the various dress presentations. The profession of mannequin is not as easy as some might think. A reporter of "Le Figaro" who went to a mannequin training school declared he thought he had dropped in at a rodeo show instead. He saw a woman holding the end of a rope, of which the other end was firmly round a young girl's legs. If the pupil with the rope around her legs made a wrong movement the teacher gave a pull. It appears it was to make the would-be-mannequin take a more upright stand. A golden rule of the mannequin school is: "Every woman has two parallel legs that have to remain parallel while she walks, that is to say, when she puts her foot forward." — Foire de Paris.

A report in The Times of London admirably illustrates the raw pluck and doggedness demonstrated by such men. It describes the ordeal of a team of eight men who set out to ring all the combinations of, and permutations possible on eight bells which required that for 20 hours each man should pull his rope 40,320 times in the right order. This, apparently, is a feat rarely attempted and never accomplished to the satisfaction of the central regulating body of bell ringers. There was one complete performance about 200 years ago in Leeds, Kent, but then, The Times observes tartly, "the organizers were so un-English as to use a relay of 14 men, a thing now positively not done." In the most recent attempt the law was adhered to scrupulously and a wooden shovel was provided to spoon food around because one of the [illegible] stated most firmly that "no food must be handed to the ringers." The eight men were in shirtsleeves, all tieless some even collarless, and they included in their ranks, a schoolmaster, a policeman and a university undergraduate. This small but valiant band rang splendidly through thousands of permutations but, as they neared the present record of 21,600 changes, the conductor grew worried over the growing whiteness of countenance of one of the team who was ringing on in determined fashion although suffering from influenza. In that moment of distraction he gave the order to "stand," the traditional ending of a peal, when he should have ordered "bob". And so it was the team failed in its gallant attempt, but even in the manner of its failure there was triumph and, as The Times points out, another attempt can be made later and "this is one record Englishmen can be somewhat leisurely about achieving. The Americans and Russians are not keen on ringing bells." —Hamilton Spectator.

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