

Beyond The Mountains

A scientist attached to Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. has expressed the opinion that "nuclear discoveries of the future will supply a source of energy which will raise the living standard of all peoples and maintain it for centuries." This, of course, reflects the fashion of the times—everything will be perfect as soon as the world passes completely under the benevolent influence of atomic power. It is a reasonable and a plausible view. Indeed, it could almost be worked out with mathematical precision. There is only one thing wrong with it. It doesn't seem to have the backing of history; and that is a serious drawback.

Ever since man built his first fool (a knife, in the opinion of most anthropologists) he has been saying that his Eldorado, the place of his dreams, was in sight. Each exploration into the unknown was seen as the introduction to the supreme good. Each mountain climbed seemed to open a straight road to fulfillment. But, somehow, the dreams did not come true, the final contentment eluded its pursuers, the straight road always led to new and greater difficulties in the distance. "Man never is but always to be blest."

The mighty industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, of which the present atomic age is the final chapter, was hailed as the saving grace of man's social and economic needs. Yet, it is a sad fact that the benefits of that revolution have never touched more than a relatively small fringe of the world's population. Even today, with our swift methods of communication, almost universal education, rapidly expanding medical knowledge and facilities and an unprecedented awareness of the need for international understanding (in theory, at least), two out of every three persons in the world lack the bare necessities of life, while one out of every three is in a permanent state of semi-starvation. Statisticians have revealed that there is, in fact, more social unrest in the world now than there was a hundred years ago.

Will the atomic process do any better than its predecessors? It will, without a doubt, provide cheap electricity, automotive power and the like, once it gets under way in earnest. But whether it will "raise the living standard of all peoples" or whether, as in the case of previous developments, it will be hindered by human disarray and frustrations which have nothing to do with uranium or thorium or any other mysterious substance of matter is a question which neither science nor philosophy is in a position to answer. But in the light of history, it seems probable that a thousand years from now—if the race can manage to survive as long—man will still be looking beyond the mountains for the world of his dreams.

Heralds Of Spring

Already, to the south, a stirring of birds heralds spring. Like parade units in a staging area, different flocks and species are about to fall in line for their spring march up the North American continent. Governed by an immutable schedule, each comes at its own time in the same order each year, the National Geographic Society says. On the pampas of Argentina, on the islands of the Caribbean, in the forests of Central America, and in the southernmost sections of the United States, preparations for the migration can be seen in twittering flocks, excitement-filled before the annual trip home.

The first robin of spring, one of the earliest migrants to reach its breeding areas, will arrive this year, as it has for so long, when the temperature averages about 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Not that the robin cares about the temperature itself. A few, with a good food supply, live through the winter in the northern climes. The birds time their arrival with another movement, measured in inches instead of hundreds of miles, but as much a migration as the

robin's own. This is the return of the earthworms. All winter they have hidden under the earth, below the frost line. As the ground thaws, they come to the surface. The robins are there to meet them.

Other species move on a schedule integrated with the vegetation. Hummingbirds, feeding on nectar, move along as the flowers bloom farther and farther north. In the annual upsurge, as closely meshed as a watch movement, tree buds burst, leaves begin to grow, insects hatch to eat the leaves, and birds fly up to eat the insects. Wood warblers, tiny jewels in their bright spring feathers, feed on caterpillars and other foliage-eating insects. Swallows and similar birds, which catch their food on the wing, await a time when insects are flying.

Earliest migrants across the continent are those with breeding areas farthest south. Their homes are ready first, and they move in. Later, as spring advances, the birds that live farther north come home, passing over the populations already in residence.

The spectacular migrations of the East Coast, when thousands of birds may appear in the morning where there were none the night before, are an effect of the changeable spring weather. A warm and pleasant day or two may be followed by a northeast storm, or a cold wave. In the face of such conditions, the migration halts. Return of good weather releases the flood. On the western seaboard, with a more equable climate, the migration is steadier and less noticeable.

Fisheries Report

While conditions may have changed in some respects since the Prince Edward Island Fisheries Development Committee was appointed six years ago to inquire into the resources and opportunities in this important industry, the findings of the Committee, as tabled in the Legislature this week, are bound to prove of great value and interest. A summary of the numerous recommendations appears in today's issue; but all interested should study the report in its entirety. Under the chairmanship of Hon. Thane A. Campbell, Chief Justice, the Committee made extensive first-hand inquiry into all phases of the industry, receiving the fullest co-operation from both federal and provincial authorities, as well as from individuals and organizations. In the course of its work it discussed problems which required early attention, and these matters were accordingly dealt with in two interim submissions. The first, concerning lobster regulations, was transmitted to the governments concerned on Sept. 15, 1952. The second was concerned with compensation for storm damage and was transmitted on Feb. 18, 1953. Acceptance of its recommendation was announced by the Minister of Industry and Resources in the Legislature on March 31 following.

A number of surveys and reports on various aspects of the industry were prepared by experts at the Committee's request and these are included in the extensive appendices to the report.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Hon. Mr. Clark says that "faults can be found with the best examination papers." To which all High Schools and College students will add a fervent "amen."

In the bulletin of an English village church appeared this item: "The preacher for next week's services will be found hanging in the porch." They shouldn't have done that, no matter how bad a preacher the poor man was.

Chou En-lai of China says that he will liberate Formosa any day now. Chiang Kai-Shek of Formosa says he will soon be ready to liberate the mainland. The truth probably is that neither "liberation" is imminent. It's a good way to start serious trouble, nevertheless.

Dr. Dewar is right in suggesting that one solution to fishermen's problems would be more fish-eating by Canadians. The per capita consumption of fish in this country is one of the lowest in the world. The statisticians have discovered that if every Canadian family were to eat fish only twice a week, which is little enough, there would be no surplus at any time.



CINDERELLA LEFT AN IMPRESSION

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of national interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

MARITIME ECONOMY

Sir.—It was interesting and gratifying to read in Press despatches some months ago that Prime Minister St. Laurent had come to the conclusion that economic development of the Atlantic Provinces deserves consideration. The Prime Minister is reported to have stated that efforts on what we might call economic development seem to be desirable.

During the past few years I have on several occasions brought to the attention of our legislators the matter of Northern or Public Lands, consisting of millions of acres of incalculable value, having been handed over to Quebec, Ontario and certain Western Provinces, and the fact that the Maritimes were partners and should have received adequate compensation. The Maritimes can never be put on an economic level with the rest of Canada while this injustice is allowed to exist. The result is that those Provinces which received these lands are prospering at the expense of the Maritimes. In other words, we are carrying more than our share of the load when the Chancellors here make his Budget plans. Tax has been cut drastically in recent years on the lower-paid worker—although the average wage here is around \$32.20 a week, some workers, particularly in the country districts, get only about half that. But, in the upper wage brackets are yet to get comparable relief.

Suppose the situation was reversed, and those Public Lands would be reversed, and the Maritimes would be on the pig's back. It is certainly, to say the least, a very one-sided proposition, and most unfair to the citizens of Canada in this part of the Dominion.

Sir Robert Borden, when Prime Minister of Canada, agreed that the Maritimes should participate, and I have on hand copies of most convincing evidence that were filed at Ottawa. In addition to this, the Duncan Royal Commission dealt with this important question of Northern Lands on pages 17, 18 and 19 of their Report filed in Ottawa in the year 1925.

When you consider the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on the St. Lawrence waterways and canals, on duplication of railways, and now on the proposed gas pipelines from Western Canada, to which the citizens of the Maritimes contribute, without benefit to them, and thus centralizing industry to their disadvantage, is there any wonder at the loss of population in the Maritimes? While Canada, as a whole, shows an increase in population since Confederation of about 300 per cent, the Maritimes have an increase of approximately 60 per cent. It can easily be seen how our tax rental agreements could fare badly on a per capita basis, and we would be penalized as a result of default on the part of the Dominion.

Just one instance with regard to how it affected Prince Edward Island. We did not enter Confederation in 1867, but agreed to enter in 1873, on the guarantee that certain services would be carried out at the expense of the Dominion. Among them was the guarantee of efficient and continuous communication with the mainland railways during summer and winter months. This promise was not fulfilled till 1917, when the Car Ferry system was inaugurated, or 44 years after the guarantee was given, and as a result our three principal resources Agriculture, fisheries, and tourist traffic, could not be properly developed. Is there any wonder that many of our young people had to leave the Province for Central and Western Canada in order to secure employment?

It seems that this would be the opportune time for representatives from the Maritimes to co-operate

UNITED KINGDOM OPINION

Budget Guessing Season

From London, England Bureau of Thomson Newspapers

It's the guessing season over here. The season is an annual one, and it comes round regularly as Ascot Week, the opening of grouse-shooting on the Scottish moors, and carol singers in late-November. The guessing season, you may be sure, starts boiling up around this time—in Parliament, in the Press, and in the pubs. All the guesses are about the annual budget. Who will pay more—or the same—or less?

Indications are that the man who liked (before the war) to call himself "middle class" those earning between about \$240 and \$700—will get more tax relief. He certainly needs it.

A \$2800-a year man may get up to a third chopped off his salary here by income tax. If he tries to drown his sorrow in drink the thought that better than half of the 28 cents he pays for his nip of whisky goes in tax may help him not at all. It is no good turning to smoking, either—a packet of 20 costs currently around 56 cents, and better than two-thirds of that goes to the tax man.

It is not so much the tax on his smoke and drink that Mr. Middle Class begrudges. What he does want, though, is a bigger slice of the cake when the Chancellors here make his Budget plans. Tax has been cut drastically in recent years on the lower-paid worker—although the average wage here is around \$32.20 a week, some workers, particularly in the country districts, get only about half that. But, in the upper wage brackets are yet to get comparable relief.

The guessers have had help from one of the smoother politicians here—Sir David Eccles, who was responsible for "stage managing" the Coronation when he was the Minister of Works. Sir David is now President of the Board of Trade, and he let drop in Parliament the fact that entertainment tax in the cinemas (Film Shows) is to be cut in the next Budget.

His remark has caused some hoo-ha among Opposition members, who after forcing him into a corner so that the statement slipped out are now insisting that Sir David should not have said it. But it is good news, not so much for the middle class, but for the men who run the cinemas. At the moment one third of every £1 that goes tinkling into the box offices goes to the tax man. But the theatres (live shows)—many of which are running the type of show which if they were put on celluloid, would hardly be a "B" film rating—are milked far less.

But some Britons have found that with Nature's help you can fix it out in that, for once, the tax man pays you something instead of vice versa.

In the past week or so I've been making frequent pilgrimages to a maternity home near London to check on various things, including the fact that a certain arrival there, discounting the advantages on possessing a startling resemblance to his father, is making progress.

But while I was there I learnt that this maternity home, like most others in the country, is in the middle of the busiest time of the year. It seems that more and more people are trying to arrange for Junior to arrive some time in February or March. That will make it a few weeks before the end of the financial year. Tax-relief is retroactive to the beginning of the tax year—that is, to the previous April. And that means that most of the baby carriages now being pushed around the country are paid for indirectly by the tax men.

I have just wandered from my... with the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council in demanding justice and fair play.
I am, Sir, etc.
J.O. HYNDMAN.
Charlottetown

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

THOSE NEW RESIN LENSES ARE PRACTICAL IN SPECS When your eye doctor recommends glasses for your youngster you may want to ask him about the advisability of using plastic lenses.

Plastic lenses were introduced in the United States back in 1937, but because of their poor wearing qualities their production was halted two years later.

By 1939, however, scientists had worked out method of making lenses from the hardest optical resin ever developed. These now can be fitted to almost any present-day type of frame.

They have been found to be especially desirable for active youngsters who are apt to break ordinary glasses during their overzealous play.

The new resin lenses have 30 times as much scratch-resistance as the best ordinary plastic lenses. They are four times as resistant to high-speed impacts as the best safety glasses, according to the Better Vision Institute.

WON'T BREAK When they do give way they don't break into dangerous sharp pieces. They merely crack.

The new resin lenses are softening by heat and weigh only half as much as glass lenses.

They have another advantage, too; they have great moisture-resistance. In fact, ordinary glass lenses are 75 per cent more subject to high-speed impacts than the plastic ones valuable to butchers and others who are constantly going in and out of refrigerated or steamy places.

SAFETY AID Industrial workers on such jobs as sandblasting, grinding or welding might find them a great safety aid. The hard resin lenses are ten times more resistant to welding spatter than ordinary glass.

The advantages are not all on one side, however. The hard resin lenses are more costly than glass lenses. And they are more easily marred.

ROUGH SURFACE You've got to be especially careful not to put them face down on a rough surface. Use only soap and water to clean them, then wipe them with a soft cloth or tissue.

Barring any careless handling or serious accident, they will last until there is need for a prescription change.

QUESTION AND ANSWER W. P.: I have been gaining weight steadily, although I eat no more than before; I seem very

tired, usually in the afternoons and my hair is thinning. Can you help me?

Answer: From the symptoms you describe you are probably suffering from a lack of thyroid secretion.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Miser: A person who lives as if he didn't have any money because he's afraid of how he would have to live if he didn't have any money.—Wall Street Journal

A pormoter says that honest wrestl' just wouldn't be popular, a handicap which the sport shares with international diplomacy.—Orilla Pocket

The state of Massachusetts has passed a law that may well set a pattern for other governing bodies on the North American continent. In future, all deer hunters in the state must wear bright red or yellow clothing or be subject to a fine. The maximum fine will be \$50.—Owen Sound

A new and profitable use for railway trains has been reported—in Northern Ontario an engineer collected a \$25 bounty when his locomotive ran down and killed a coyote.—Ottawa Journal

We note that the two extremes in generations, the old age pensioners and the c'ildren, may benefit most from that surplus revenue account of Mr. Harris. Well, the money could not be passed along to a finer—more deserving group of people. We will personally gladly forgo any income tax reductions to see the pensioners receive a pension on which they can live, and the parents of children receive sufficient aid to properly care for their offspring.—St. Catharines Standard

A British motorist, coasting downhill to save gas because of rationing was fined \$10 for speeding. No doubt, he planned to make the hill he was approaching without wasting gasoline.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review

The United States information agency started its first "live" English language broadcast to Africa. The daily 15 minute program on short wave via Voice of America facilities at Colombo, Ceylon, will be beamed at the people of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Tanganyika. This will bring total daily broadcasts to three and three-fourths hours.—Milwaukee Journal

One wonders how it is possible to hit anything as big and as noisy as a train, but three collisions in as many days with trains in Peterborough and the near vicinity, show the dangers on the roads are not confined to other cars and pedestrians. In Peterborough the motorist has to be especially careful since there are 76 sites in the city where such collisions are possible.—Peterborough Examiner

The Age Old Story

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.

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