

The Guardian

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, 1956

A Cure For Colds?

Perhaps the strangest thing about science in this science-dominated age is its inability, so far, to produce a cure or even an effective palliative for the common cold. Almost every other disease and affliction known to man and beast has been brought under some measure of control; but the cold comes and goes its way almost at will. True, there are vaccines which seem to work more or less efficiently in certain instances; but that their effect is due as much to the psychological strength of those who receive them as to the vaccines' therapeutic ingredients is indicated in the fact that cold sufferers who are given "dummy" shots sometimes appear to get along just as well. An irritating aspect of this phase of the matter is that psychology can give as well as take. Indeed, some medical practitioners are half inclined to believe that most colds are caused by some psychological trait in the sniffing victims.

Be that as it may, it is good to hear that a medical team in a laboratory in Cleveland, Ohio, is of the opinion that, at long last, a real cure is in sight. Whether this is to be a drug, a vaccine, a psychological remedy, or a combination of all three, has not been revealed. In any event, honour and riches await any scientist or team of scientists who can remove mankind from bondage to the common cold. It will be as stupendous a discovery as that which led to the splitting of the atom—and certainly more welcome, since it will not have such terrifying implications.

It will not be an unmixed benefit, however. At the present time, a cold in the head can cover a multitude of human frailties and provide excuses for idleness almost without number. What will happen when the simple stab of a needle will keep colds at a distance for years or even take them out of circulation altogether? What then will the overworked clerk, or the weary schoolboy, or the person who enjoys, as the carpet-knights in Don Quixote enjoyed, "sleep and lazy ease", be able to substitute for these self-explanatory words: "I've got a cold"?

Strategic Mountains

In the strategic, oil-rich Near East a formidable geographic feature, the Zagros mountain range, has taken on sudden significance as a potential military barrier against aggression. Suggested as an international defense line for the five "Baghdad Pact" nations—Turkey, Iraq, Britain, Pakistan, and Iran—this range marches for nearly a thousand miles through western and southwestern Iran. It is shaped like a broad crescent. The parallel ridges on its outer curve rise southeast of Turkey's high mountain country, follow the Iraq-Iran border, then sweep along the Persian Gulf to join other mountain chains reaching the Pakistan frontier. Between the crescent's inner curve and the Russian and Afghanistan borders stretches still more inhospitable terrain—the sun-seared, salt-encrusted desert that forms Iran's heartland. Rain clouds from the Mediterranean break on the western flanks of the Zagros, creating a narrow strip of fertility in which such crops as rice, tobacco, fruit and tea are grown, and silkworms cultivated.

Yet an estimated 3,000,000 people, one-sixth of all Iran's population, manage to scratch a living from the Zagros region. Most of them belong to four main tribal groups, Kurds, Lurs, Bakhtiari and Kashgais. Hardy and fiercely independent, these tribesmen carry on the nomadic life their ancestors knew when Babylon was young. With wives and children, plus household goods piled high on camels and donkeys, many follow the seasons up and down the mountains with herds of fat-tailed sheep, goats and cattle. Home in summer is a goat-

skin tent pitched on an upper slope, in winter a stone or mud-brick hut on lower hillsides.

According to the National Geographic Society, each tribal group has its traditions and customs, kept alive within mountain walls whose peaks may reach above 14,000 feet. Some tribes are ruled, feudal style, by chieftains who live in soft-bed, silver-service comfort amid their wild surroundings. Other leaders send their sons to distant colleges, not only for culture but to bring back knowledge of farming, irrigation, soil erosion, and livestock that will improve their people's lot. A few modern-minded chiefs even fly their own planes.

It is not new, however, to find the Zagros range an international pawn. Centuries before Christianity, traders and conquering armies pushed over its high passes along the famous road that linked Syria with the Far East by way of Persia and Central Asia. In World War II, the Trans-Iranian Railway, manned and equipped by Americans, dipped and zigzagged through more than a hundred Zagros tunnels to carry supplies to Russia. Today, Iran's oil again flows—after settlement of the Anglo-Iranian dispute—from fields on the western Zagros that make this nation one of the world's richest in petroleum reserves.

Inconsistent

It would be hard to imagine, says the Moncton Transcript, a more shortsighted policy in making for the general advancement of Canada as a nation than that which the federal government and its supporters in the House of Commons turned down during parliamentary debate last week. The government forces, to the extent of 138 among their 170 members, in two successive votes on motions advanced by the Progressive Conservative and CCF parties, rejected the pleas that treasury assistance be extended down during parliamentary debate last week. The government forces, to the extent of 138 among their 170 members, in two successive votes on motions advanced by the Progressive Conservative and CCF parties, rejected the pleas that treasury assistance be extended down during parliamentary debate last week.

The P.C. motion was general in content, calling for joint federal-provincial investment in any such requested undertaking be it hydro or thermal power sources or the gasification of coal deposits in the underground workings to produce gas and also for utilization of the latter in generating electrical energy. The CCF motion was for proceeding with a specific project which has been advocated for several years, the South Saskatchewan power-irrigation plan.

As our Moncton contemporary points out, the central government has, for the past half dozen years, been sending outright gifts ranging from \$25 million to \$31 million of the Canadian taxpayers' money to aid the economic development of India, Pakistan and Ceylon; and included in such programs are hydro-electric power schemes. The government's adamant stand against extending similar aid to the Maritimes and other sections of Canada needing such assistance, certainly does not reflect consistency of policy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

On a visit to Montreal publisher Alfred Knopf said that television is not affecting book sales. The people who spend all their time looking at TV never did read books anyway, he said.

After spending a half million dollars in the fight, the Australian Government has brought the worst grasshopper plague in history under control—so it is believed. Millions of the insects appeared suddenly in many of the richest farm areas, destroying millions of dollars worth of crops. In some places the insects were so thick that highway traffic was brought to a halt.

Whatever areas may or may not benefit from the St. Lawrence Sea-way Project, Chicago is getting ready for great industrial expansion as a result of it. In the opinion of Dr. Harold Mayer, a geographer at the University of Chicago, that city will get from 40 to 50% of the overseas commerce through the seaway. He sees, further, a minimum of 300,000 new jobs in industry and as many more in various subsidiary commercial establishments. All of this, Dr. Mayer believes, will increase the population of Chicago by at least 2 million in the next generation. Not bad as the result of a project which is being financed very largely by Canadian taxpayers!



MAKING LEAP YEAR MORE HAZARDOUS

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.

THE DRAMA FESTIVAL

Sir.—As Chairman of the P.E.I. Regional Committee of Dominion Drama Festivals, I beg to thank you for your editorial, "After The Festival," which should go a long way towards furthering the appreciation of Islanders for what their local talent can offer them. I was interested to receive, today, a copy of a letter, addressed to Mr. Richard Macdonald, Director of Dominion Drama Festival, by the Secretary of the Central Ontario Regional Committee, I think that your readers will be interested as well, so I quote from the letter, in part: "When next you write to the Dominion Drama Festival Program, would you please inform them that tickets for the final night of the C.O.D.L. Regional Festival of D.D.F. (Saturday, April 7, 1956) will be held for them until March 10, 1956. Tickets for Saturday night performance cost \$2.50 each, and this year we are charging 50c per ticket for the on-stage coffee party following the adjudication and prize-giving."

After reading the above, I began to wonder if we who are interested in drama in P.E.I., were selling our talents too cheaply. Admission to our final performance, at which the play of that evening was adjudicated and awards were made, was 75c, only; and the play presented, "Angel Street," was performed with a perfection which could only be equaled by the best professionals. I am inclined to doubt that the majority of Island people really appreciate the talent which we have among ourselves. I am, Sir, etc., J. A. LAWSON, Chairman, P.E.I. Regional Committee, Dominion Drama Festival.

North Pole Visit

(Frederick Gleamer)

The Governor-General's visit to the North Pole area next month will be watched with a great deal of interest by Canadians in general, particularly because of the strategic importance of the world is now giving the Northwest Territories. This vast district to the north was once just an outpost of Canada. Now, because of its proximity to Russia, it has become one of the Western World's main defence areas.

Associated with the announcement that the Governor-General would fly to the North Pole area came news of particular interest to New Brunswickers. Superintendent D. O. Forrest of the RCMP's "D" Division, stationed at Fredericton, has been named aide-camp to His Excellency and will accompany him on his flight. This is a great compliment to the superintendent who has been there before. Eleven years ago he was inspector commanding the Aklavik sub-division of the RCMP. No doubt his special knowledge of the district was considered in his appointment.

Thousands of miles of frozen wasteland will be crossed by the party and both Canadian installations and American posts on this country's soil will be inspected. The Governor-General will see many parts of this still little-known land which sprawls across Canada's North for 1,309,682 square miles. He will talk to many of its residents, most of whom are officials, police men, aires, transport and company workmen, and some of the 16,004. The Northwest Territories are not overcrowded.

LABOR FOUNDER DIES

NOTTINGHAM, England (AP)—Arthur Hayday, one of the founders of Britain's Labor party, died Tuesday. He was 88. Hayday was a former member of Parliament and chairman of the general council of the Trades Union Congress.

OTTAWA REPORT

Population Prospects

By Patrick Nicholson

"Twenty-five by Seventy-five" should be the slogan of this ambitious country. Mrs. W.E. Austin has just told Ottawa business men. As one of Canada's leading public relations advisers in the world of commerce, he knows this country's potentialities and possibilities. We can therefore place reliance upon his interesting judgment, when he coins the phrase "Twenty-five by Seventy-five." To achieve a similar increase over a population of twenty-five million by the year 1975.

Our population today is nudging sixteen million. This represents an increase of nearly one-half over our population nineteen years ago. Our population in similar increase over the next nineteen years does not seem unreasonable, and this would just about fulfil the Austin program.

With this prospect, a great economic future is in the offing for Canada, said Bill. The expansion of our market by 50 per cent over the next 19 years was an appropriate topic for his audience of business men, making up the Ottawa Junior Board of Trade.

As guest speaker at the annual Past President's banquet, Bill Austin pointed out that even with our present small population, we are the fourth largest international trader in the world. We are keenly alert to our future possibilities, and already thinking about atomic power for peaceful uses, he said. Yet we have an enormous untapped market for the chrome-plated adjuncts of greasy living. Half of our households have yet to buy vacuum cleaners, he said. Half of Canada's families have not yet bought their first car. Many Canadian homes are without bath-tubs or showers. Half the farms in Canada still lack electricity. But if we are to achieve twenty-five by seventy-five, the greatest demand will not be for the vacuum cleaners and cars which Bill Austin refers to. I suggest that General Motors should consider these figures suggest that, if the growth of our population follows the pattern of the past twenty years, births rather than immigration will take us to the Austin target.

From the beginning of 1936 up to the end of 1954, our population grew by 4,049,000 persons. The natural increase, or excess of births over deaths, in that period was 3,784,756. So net immigration accounted only for the small difference of 264,244 persons in all those nineteen years, for the astonishingly low annual average of 13,907 persons.

IMMIGRATION NEEDED

This almost incredible figure suggests what growth of population we could achieve, if we aim at a net immigration figure of say 200,000 per year. It should not be difficult to attract that number of immigrants—it is less than half of that pre-World War I wave of the men in sheepskin coats. And it should not be difficult to make this land of opportunity appear attractive enough to keep those who migrate here, rather than see them treat Canada as a way-stop on their journey to the green-back pastures to our south.

Canada today rates as the 27th largest country in the world, on population. An increase to 25,000,000 would put us in 17th place. Then we would number just one per cent of the world's population, with an area equivalent to 8 per cent of all the world's land.

Public Forum

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sandesen, M. D.

EXERCISE, HEAT, REST HELP TO CURE BURSTITIS
You "do it yourself" fans had better take it easy. While you might save on a carpentry or painting bill, too much effort by unconditioned muscles can lead to a painful bout with bursitis. The bursas are your body's bearings and are scattered throughout different layers of tendons and muscles. They are collapsed and ballooned with slick inner surfaces and generally are present wherever one muscle rubs another or touches a sharp edge of a bone.

IRRITATED BURSA

When a bursa becomes irritated, the well-lubricated inner surfaces become harsh and rough, producing a painful grating with every movement. By slowly exercising the muscles you plan to use, such as your arm and wrist muscles, for some time before you actually begin your chores, you may prevent a siege of bursitis.

Once you're hit, there are numerous things you and your doctor can do to ease the pain and get the bursa back in working order.

MILD CASES

Light X-ray treatment will do a good job in most instances. Many mild cases are aided by infrared or heat lamps. Very short-waved diathermy machines are also a great aid and some doctors report success with ultra-short sound wave machines. Many doctors, however, still prefer contrast baths for curing bursitis. In these baths, you soak the affected area for four minutes in hot water, then one minute in cold water, and then back to hot water for another four minutes.

You can do this several times just as long as you start and end with the hot water.

BED REST IS HELPFUL

Bed rest and certain drugs also play an important part in treating bursitis. Since naturally produced pain, the best thing to do is to keep it still. Aspirin has always been helpful; it still is. And some doctors commend butazolidin, a new drug used in treating gout.

Cortisol and ACTH are reported useful in controlling bursitis in the vast majority of cases until they heal by themselves.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

A.K.: My child is now recovering from a viral infection due to a virus. Should I disinfect his room? Answer: It is not likely that the infection can be spread by objects in the room. Therefore, disinfecting the room would not be of help.

The Age Old Story

And why beholdeth thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

After Washington

By W. N. Ewer
United Kingdom Information Office

While it is too early to assess the full results to be expected from the visits to Sir Anthony Eden to Washington and Ottawa, the process which (one hopes) will produce those results has already begun.

In Washington the British and French Ambassadors and the American Under-secretary of State are meeting, as a sort of three-power committee, to consider the "various contingencies" which could arise from the Arab-Israeli tensions and measures that could be taken to meet them.

Early next month Mr. Selwyn Lloyd and Mr. Dulles meet again at the SEATO Council session in Karachi. They both visit Mr. Nehru in Delhi. My Lloyd on his way out and home stops for talks in Cairo, Teheran, Baghdad and Ankara. Mr. Dulles makes the long tour through South East Asia and the Far East.

AFTER THE TALKS

What picture is visible of the policy of the Western Powers after the Washington and Ottawa talks? First, as regards relations with the Soviet Union: there appears to be unanimous agreement that the time is not ripe for a second major move—such as a second "Summit Meeting" or even further meeting of the Foreign Ministers. There should, of course, be what the French official statement calls a "continuation of the exchange of views"; but that is another matter. That is what a diplomatic organization exists for.

I do not think that anyone who attended either of the two Geneva meetings last year will dissent from this judgement. For in spite of the amicable tone in which Marshal Bulganin came to the proposal for a new treaty of friendship with the U.S. and, as an afterthought, with other countries, there are no signs that it had other than propaganda purpose. As Mr. Dulles put it, the search will go on to see if there are any "hidden nuggets". The omens, however, are not very hopeful.

Speeches at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union may throw more light on the current trends of the Soviet policy, but the prevailing impression, both at the Washington talks and after them, is that the Western Powers would be wise to adopt a waiting attitude until M. S. Khrushchev and Bulganin have talked with Sir Anthony and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd in London. These

Notes By The Way

Those 42 robins just arrived at a bird sanctuary near Windsor ahead of the usual time either know something or are using the reformed calendar.—Branford Expositor.

Now that the General Motors of Canada strike is over we'd like to know you. The striking workers lost \$1,553 each, the company lost production on 60,000 cars, GM lost production on 60,000 cars, GM dealers lost five percent of their gross business! The union lost \$4 million in union benefits and the public lost its patience.—Sarnia Observer.

We were distressed to read the other day that an Illinois GI had been serving too many potatoes. He was convicted of serving up large portions to his mates after the mess sergeant told him not to. It sounds to us as if the case calls for a full-dress investigation by Congress. We want all the facts. Surely no Maine officer would convict a GI of serving too many spuds.—Bangor Daily News.

Those who have argued with some fervor that the West Block of the Parliament Buildings should be preserved because it contains an office once occupied by Sir John A. Macdonald may have some difficulty in proving their point. For the Public Archives, after long and exhaustive search, have been unable to produce any evidence that the great Sir John ever actually had a desk in the building, much less an office in the Mackenzie Tower.—Ottawa Citizen.

The sensational attacks on Stalin by leaders of the Soviet Government invite the obvious comment that it requires no great courage to kick at a dead lion. But this was no ordinary lion. Stalin was a system and a legend. In his lifetime, he towered in superhuman proportions over his colleagues and over the Communist world. After his death, the new rulers remained dependent upon him. Their hatred of the dead despot can scarcely have been lessened by the fact that they could not even know the degree of their dependence. It has taken them two and a half years to summon the power and confidence necessary to this challenge to the dead.—Winnipeg Free Press.

A judge says teenagers of today know all the answers. Perhaps their school teachers who check examination papers might tell a different story.—Oshawa Times-Gazette.

In a Montreal court a woman struck and injured by an automobile lost a suit for damages because when part way across the street she had changed her mind and direction and stepped in front of the car. The operator of a motor vehicle must exercise every possible precaution, but the pedestrian too has responsibilities.—Ottawa Journal.

Although the glaciers in some parts of the American Rockies are reported increasing those on the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies, we are told, are diminishing. Now the water resources of the continent are being given serious study these days as water spells life. To conserve the water of a country is essential to the national welfare as we in this semi-arid section of the West realize.—Lehighbridge Herald.

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