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The Season's Change

Without the lifting of a scientific eyebrow, or a word or sign from Joshua, the sun stood still for a moment last week—or seemed to—and thus we passed another crisis and turning point of the year. Its significance means less to most of us than our pre-Christmas shopping problem, if indeed we thought about it at all.

We call it the winter solstice. By such reckoning, before it happened it was autumn; now—though it seems less like it than it did weeks ago—it is winter. The earth turned on an elliptical orbit round the great central fire. Daylight having reached its annual minimum, once more is on the increase. Sure, we learned that at school, didn't we? We know all about it, or think we do. It's been going on for millions of years, anyway; so what? But if we have a moment to spare we can look at it in a way that makes it as wonderful as anything out of a fairy tale. For while the moment of the solstice can be calculated with fantastic accuracy twice every year, its mystery remains as impenetrable as ever.

Our calculations tell us when it happens, and our explanations tell us how. But no one has been able to tell us why. It is a part, they say—but only a part—of the rhythm which beats through the universe, governing every atom, every star and planet, throbbing in the human heart and brain. It is the rhythm of day and night, of the surging tides, of life itself.

If we are floored by that explanation, let us remember that the great 18th century philosopher, Immanuel Kant, was equally at a loss to put it in more concrete terms. Two things, he confessed, filled his mind with ever-increasing wonder and awe, the more intensely his mind was drawn to them: "The starry heavens above me and the moral law within me."

Both are, in some mysterious way, interrelated. That was the only clue Kant had to work on, and he built an imposing metaphysical structure on the basis of it.

We don't have to read him—he's pretty dry—to feel that he had something there. As indeed the preachers have been telling us in simpler language for a much longer time.

The Democratic Way

According to an article by Glen How in the current issue of Maclean's magazine, pressure is building up in Parliament for the enactment of anti-hate laws to curb the spread of "hate" literature in Canada. Few Canadians have actually seen this trash. It is distributed anonymously in pamphlet form and makes a point of attacking the Jews, and to some extent the Negroes. A strong Nazi line is recognizable in it.

Mr. How is legal counsel for one of Canada's most controversial minorities—Jehovah's Witnesses—and one can regard him, in that sense, as having a professional axe to grind. But the points he makes are deserving of consideration at this time, in the interests not of any particular group but of our democratic system itself.

The first point is that we have laws making it an offense to mail indecent or scurrilous literature, to publish false statements, to incite persons to commit offenses and to conspire to effect an unlawful purpose. Anyone can put the wheels of justice in motion by taking a case to court on these grounds. It is reasonable to expect that before

passing news laws, the ones we have should be invoked; and it seems that this has not been done in the matter in question.

One can understand and sympathize with the feelings of Jewish people who are disturbed by this propaganda, especially those who have themselves come from Europe. They are haunted by the ghost of Hitler. He too, they say, started with a small lunatic fringe, and look what happened. Couldn't the same thing happen in Canada if we don't watch out?

But why was Hitler able to get so strong? Why should anti-Semitism in Germany and Poland plumb the horrible depths it did? Neither Germany nor Poland had the tradition of a free press. What little there was Hitler destroyed at the beginning of his vicious rule. The press and the courts were not open to the Jews; Nazi propaganda went unanswered and the excesses could not be exposed.

It would be a paradox indeed if in Canada, to suppress Nazism, we adopted the very tactics of Hitler in curbing freedom of speech and the press. The very loss of this liberty is the seedbed of all dictatorships. It is so important to a free state that no limitations, under whatever pretext, must be viewed with grave misgivings.

Up to now Justice Minister Favreau has refused to write any new sections into the Criminal Code that would interfere with liberty of expression. He is wise in doing so. Normal democratic remedies are open as the law stands. As a Jewish judge in the United States Supreme Court, Justice Brandeis, said on a similar occasion: "The remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence."

Wisely For Peace

On the eve of Christmas, when hopes turned to peace, Defense Minister Hellyer announced that \$11½ billion will be spent by Canada in the next five years. But this expenditure, as the minister says, is designed to help build a world where peace will be secured, in cooperation with allies in the United Nations and NATO.

The difficulty, as the Ottawa Journal points out, is for any friend or critic of the defense program to decide alone whether Mr. Hellyer is spending wisely. He has had the advice of services' experts and the knowledge of international bodies on what best can be done to make freedom safe. What would reassure the public that this vast sum for ships, planes, tanks, vehicles and guns is well employed would be the re-establishment of the Commons defense committee immediately the session resumes in February, without ever waiting for the debate on the Thrpne Speech.

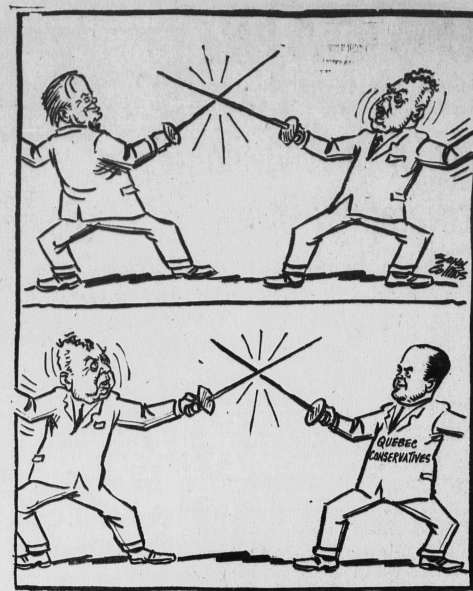
In 1964 this proved to be an industrious, inquisitive body, asking the questions about defense a layman wants answered—are we doing our share in the defense alliance, are our weapons keeping pace with, for example, the high-speed nuclear submarines, and has the morale of the forces been affected by integration plans? Besides, the committee are interested in tax bills and wants to know why the final cost of weapons so often exceeds the initial estimates.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Hellyer gives heed to this request. The defense committee could prove the best available check on whether this vast sum is being spent wisely for peace.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to Agriculture Minister Hays, Canadians this year will have consumed 1,250 million pounds of beef. This is about 9 per cent more than last year, 27 per cent more than in the six years from 1957 to 1962, and a fantastic 62 per cent more than the average from 1952 to 1956.

Quebec had the good sense not to adopt Prohibition in the years when that "noble experiment" was being tried out in other parts of the continent. As a result, it became the mecca for thirsty tourists from the United States as well as other Canadian provinces, and it had no problem so far as bootleggers and hijackers were concerned. But now the tables have been turned. This festive season sees Quebec government liquor stores closed by a strike, and there's no telling what may happen if the strike continues into January—as it threatens to do.



DUEL PERSONALITY

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Chaotic Spring Election Is Anticipated

Monday, May 3, 1965 may see very many Canadian voters flocking from voting in their fifth general election within eight years.

Nasser Shows His Colors

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer

In the churches of Bethlehem, those who pray for the salvation of man must be expressly concerned with the rattling of guns in Jerusalem and the great war echoing over the Middle East and Africa.

The Senate Did Well

Hamilton Spectator

The senate could have made a fool of itself over the new Canadian red maple leaf flag. Fortunately for its image, it did not.

Free Trade In Cars

Toronto Star

Industry Minister Charles Drury's plan gradually to establish a duty-free North American car market is a step towards reality.

Blood Test For German Measles NOTES BY THE WAY

By Dr. Theodore R. Vandell German measles (rubella) is not serious unless it occurs during the first three months of pregnancy. These women are likely to bear a child with a defective heart, cataract, or abnormal hearing. This hazard is so well known, some pregnant women want the pregnancy terminated.

The uncertainty mounts when a questionable illness or a rash develops before the woman realizes she is pregnant. She recalls a faint skin eruption but her description is vague. It may have been a drug rash or a mild form of scarlet fever.

Another worry is exposure to German measles during early pregnancy and being slightly indisposed but not sick enough to consult a physician. A few weeks later she does so, but by this time, everything is so indefinite a precise diagnosis cannot be made.

These problems have been overcome by new laboratory methods that show whether German measles occurred. One is a throat culture that is positive up to a week after the appearance of the skin outbreak. The other is a blood test to determine if the woman has immune antibodies. These agents begin to form in the blood approximately two weeks after rubella develops and increase in number with each ensuing day.

Two blood tests are done 14 (Continued on page 5)

"Mother," said Johnny, "is it correct to say 'water a horse' when he's thirsty?" "Yes, quite correct." "Then (picking up a saucer), I'm going to milk the cat." — Toronto Star.

Overheard during a coffee break: "I feel so sorry for my wife this morning when she was shovelling the snow off of the sidewalk. I almost went out to help her." — Montreal Star.

I noticed he was driving in strict conformity to the highway code and was not exceeding the speed limit. From this I formed the opinion that he was trying to avoid contact with the police. — Report in London Daily Express.

Spelling is more an art than a science; it's a knack that you either have or lack. Many university graduates are abominable spellers; some in high positions rely upon their secretaries to send out letters with all the words written correctly. It is for such semi-literate as these that a British publisher, has brought out the A-Z spellers' Dictionary. It's a great idea, but it won't do much good. It's all but useless to tell the poor speller that he should keep a dictionary at his side. Only the man in constant doubt will use such a book, and bad spellers are usually supremely self-confident people, who have been like that ever since public school.—London Free Press.

Approximately 11,000 major explosive items have been removed from the soil, the beaches and the surrounding sea in Britain every year since the war. There is one part of the Norfolk coast where fine beaches are still closed to the public because of the presence of land mines that have been buried by cliffs that have slipped. Battered social bombs are still being found in fields and woods, and potentially dangerous if improperly handled. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Nobody wants education skimped in any respect but auditoriums, gymnasia, swimming pools, luxurious draperies, waiting rooms, and a Johnny for every four little girls don't add one thing to a child's absorption of knowledge. Just to the impossibly high cost of education.—Oakville Journal-Record.

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