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NOTES BY THE WAY

A woman in Nova Scotia has become a grandmother for the hundredth time. That's what's meant when a grandmother achieves a century.—Peterborough Examiner

Ontario, we're told, drank 88 million gallons of alcoholic beverages worth more than \$258 million in the year ending March 31, 1955. That's putting a high value on the water content.—Chatham News

A farmer instructed his hired man, who had been with him for a number of years, to write on each egg the date laid and the breed of the hen. Pretty soon the hired man resigned. Farmer, "Why do you want to leave? Hired man, "I'm through. I've done all sorts of jobs, but I draw the line on being secretary to a bunch of hens."—Ottawa Journal

Records are made to be broken, and the impossible remains that only until someone proves it possible. There will always be goals, physical or spiritual, towards which man must strive just because they are apparently impossible of achievement. It is mankind's very nature to be dissatisfied with what has been attained.—London Free Press

People keep talking and writing about plans for "National health insurance." Actually there are plans in Canada, by governments or anybody else, for national health insurance. All we have before us are plans for hospital medical insurance, something very different. National health insurance is what they have in Britain, where the state takes care of hospital, medical and dental bills. Hospital insurance as we have it proposed in Canada embraces only hospital services, with diagnostic and radiological services possibly thrown in.—Ottawa Journal

A New York skipper named Samuel K. Rowbotham has designed some 'ol'ly nautical flags for the yachting fraternity. The flag is a black square with a red field in the center. A black skunk on a red field says the yacht party has just been skunked.—i.e. caught no fish. And so on.—Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D. DECORATE BABY'S ROOM WITH LEAD-FREE PAINT If you plan to do any interior decorating during your vacation this year—I'm sure many wives have such plans for their husbands—let me give you a few words of advice.

Infants get acquainted with things, tasting them as well as looking at them. This oral examination is a natural tendency in children but it can result in tragedy if the objects they taste are covered with paint containing lead.

LEAD-FREE Most manufacturers of children's cribs and toys now use lead-free paints. You should, too, when you do any decorating around the home.

A GOOD IDEA It's probably a good idea not to use green, yellow or orange paints in a youngster's room unless the label plainly states they do not contain lead.

QUESTION AND ANSWER Q: What foods are beneficial to a person with low blood count? A: Low blood count means a deficiency of the number of red cells in the blood. Foods rich in iron, such as meat, particularly liver, green vegetables, egg yolk, and whole grain cereals are helpful.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (June 23, 1931) The first meeting of the Summerside Boy Scouts to be held since their organization last Thursday took place on Monday evening in the Town Hall.

TEN YEARS AGO

(June 23, 1946) More than 200 delegates will gather in Charlottetown today for the annual convention of the Maritime Chapter of the International Association of Public Employment Service to discuss an improvement of employment services on the Province.

THE AGE OLD STORY

I will praise thee; for I am fearful and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the low parts of the earth.

APPROVE RECORD BUDGET

ROME (AP)—Italy's Chamber of Deputies Thursday approved a record post-war defense budget equal to \$1,050,000,000, an increase of \$64,000,000 over last year.



OUR WEEK-END GUESTS

Three In A Row

By Heath Macquarrie

PUBLIC FORUM

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

FRENCH EXAMINATIONS

SIR.—In view of the forthcoming Grade Ten examinations which will be written by town and rural candidates at the various centres next week, let us hope that rural pupils who do not begin French until Grade Nine will not be expected to compete with town pupils who have had French from Grade Seven up and in the majority of cases here they have had perfect French pronunciation by French teachers.

Britain and Egypt

By W. N. Ewer United Kingdom Information Officer

A democratic country, as Mill pointed out long ago, cannot be permanently held by an Empire in subjection. It is bound, of its very nature, to establish and maintain self-governing institutions, which must develop into full self-government. Nor can it use, as a dictatorship can, completely ruthless methods of repression against a nascent nationalism.

MIXED FORCES

The forces behind the imperialist urge were mixed. The economic motive, though strong, was not all. There was the sheer sense of rivalry and competition between the powers; a desire for expansion for its own sake; an emotional feeling that national greatness was measured by the extent of "colonial" territory.

The Poet's Corner

LOVE'S GIFT If, as in waltz, stir'd more circles By Produced by one, 'love such additions take, The like so many spheres but one heaven make, For they are all concentric into thee; And though each spring do add to love new heat, As princes do in times of action get, New taxes and remit them not in peace, No winter hail abate this spring's increase. —John Donne

development that certain Canadian universities have come to consider that the principal function of a university faculty of agriculture is to turn out science specialists. From certain quarters the view has been expressed that in the past, the best basic training for work in agricultural science was obtained in an arts faculty, because it was held that the courses in biology, physics and chemistry taught there are more fundamental, and therefore better suited as background for the work of a research scientist.

By The Stars

Astrology is not the important study it used to be, say, in the Middle Ages when hardly any venture was undertaken by prince or peasant without the advice and admonition of an astrologer. All the same, it is by no means an obsolete thing. There are, indeed, a great many practitioners of the "science"—that being the word used by the astrologers themselves—on this continent; and 400 of them met in annual convention in New York City a few days ago.

Most conventions can be convened at any time, morning, afternoon, or evening, without risking untoward difficulties. Not this one, however. A special committee had worked for months before agreeing on 8.41 a.m. as the propitious starting point. If it had been a minute before or later, the stars in their courses would have fought against the 400. As it was, things went along smoothly and according to plan.

The heavens did not fall, the planets went their merry ways, and everybody was happy—within certain conventional limits. Part of the time was spent in grumbling about one thing and another, which showed that despite their preoccupation with celestial affairs, astrologers have not lost the common human touch with terrestrial delights. They complained especially about the scant consideration given them by radio and TV stations and about the sceptical manner in which their long range weather forecasts are received by the public.

On the bright side, the belief was expressed that astrology may yet play an important part in promoting peace among the nations. As to that, they may as well be given the opportunity to show what they can do. They could hardly do much worse than the many other agencies which have tackled the problem.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow marks the 875th anniversary of the founding of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, parent body of St. John Ambulance. Today in Canada the latter organization trains some 60,000 people a year in first aid and several thousand more in home nursing.

Some military experts are making a great ado over the "two mile error" which marked the dropping of the first American hydrogen bomb at Bikini atoll on May 21. Since a hydrogen explosion can destroy everything within a radius of 20 miles, one wonders why such a little mistake is of any importance.

For the first time since the end of the Second World War, the Unemployment Insurance Commission is making an actual count of the number of insured persons in the Dominion of Canada. Forms have gone out to more than one-quarter of a million employers, and when the returns are in it is expected that almost 4,000,000 employees will be listed on the Commission's master index of insured persons. The survey is being taken in conjunction with the annual renewal of unemployment insurance books to cause as little disruption as possible to employers' operations.

Shepilov's Shenanigans

If the new Soviet Foreign Minister Dmitri T. Shepilov doesn't win the Egyptians over to his country's side, it won't be due to any lack of political finesse on his part. By the way he talked on his recent visit to Premier Nasser, the Egyptians must have compared him favourably with the true prophets of Allah. The Soviet Union has the "greatest sympathy" for Egyptian nationalism and is prepared to lend the government more than a billion dollars to do what they like with. Its leaders hate colonialism "in any form"—even the Communistic type, presumably. They agree with Mr. Nasser that the Baghdad Pact is "an aggressive military bloc". They want to live on friendly terms with all the countries of the world, and they have a special regard for their "good Arab neighbours". No mention was made of Israel; but this could have been an oversight to be rectified when Mr. Shepilov goes to the Jewish state, as he is certain to do in due course.

To cap it all, the Soviet leaders, according to the Foreign Minister, love everybody. Communist and non-Communist alike. No wonder 200 young Egyptians danced with glee and abandon in the presence of the visiting dignitary. Even the Premier himself must have felt like shaking a leg—unless, of course, he managed to see through Mr. Shepilov's shenanigans, which ought not to be too difficult for anyone with the slightest knowledge of Soviet life and manners.

Popular Official Retires

One of the best known railway officials in the Province, Mr. L. J. MacDonald, has retired as district freight and passenger agent, C.N.R., and his many friends will wish him the best of health in which to enjoy his well earned leisure. Mr. MacDonald has been continuously with the railway since 1911, except for his years of service with the armed forces overseas during the First World War; and he knew his duties thoroughly. His position of late years was one of heavy responsibility, in which his efficiency and conscientiousness were recognized by all. While he was devoted to railway interests, he has been first and foremost a Prince Edward Islander, and active in promoting its welfare at all times.

His successor, Mr. D. Bligh Smith, was chief clerk to Mr. MacDonald for some years and his familiarity with the service here will be of invaluable help to him in his new duties.

Farm Degree Courses

The striking post-war developments in industry and in agriculture have forced the faculties of agriculture in several Canadian universities to seriously reconsider the courses that are taught leading to a degree in agriculture. There has already, according to the Country Guide, been a general raising of entrance standards, so that in most institutions the completion of a high-school education is now required before entering upon a university degree course. There is a general feeling that it is not yet practicable to extend degree courses beyond four years; and the problem which faces faculties of agriculture at the present time is to decide how best to use this limited four-year period for the benefit of the graduating student.

Up to about 1940, around 80 per cent of the agricultural college graduates working on salary in Canada were employed by provincial or federal governments. Today, that proportion has been substantially lowered by the greatly increased numbers of graduates who have been employed by non-governmental organizations and by industry. Along with this change has come a very pronounced emphasis on science in agriculture, as a result of the significantly greater impact of science on farm practice. So pronounced has been this