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Credit Where Due

The cordial reception given by Premier Smallwood to the Minister of National Resources, Mr. Hamilton, on his visit to Newfoundland last week has created much attention.

Mr. Hamilton, we are told, was somewhat dazed by this reception; but he needn't have been. Nor does it warrant the surprise expressed by the able columnist of the Montreal Gazette, Mr. Arthur Blakely, who describes the episode as "astounding" in view of Mr. Smallwood's loudly voiced hostility to the Diefenbaker Government.

Granted the fact that Mr. Hamilton is a most likeable gentleman, and that it is to his credit that he received such a clean bill of health from the arch-critic of Tory policies at Ottawa, the plain fact is that the redoubtable Joey had been softened up in advance by our own Island federal cabinet member, Fisheries Minister MacLean.

We commented on Mr. MacLean's achievement at the time, and suggested that he would make an excellent trouble-shooter for the Diefenbaker Government. We don't want to see this credit taken from him, even on behalf of the amiable Resources Minister, who would no doubt be the first to admit that his P.E. Island colleague was the pioneer peacemaker in this case.

Soviet Farm Proposal

A share-the-wealth plan to improve the conditions of the poorest Soviet peasants at the expense of the wealthiest has been proposed in a major Soviet magazine. The proposal is significant in view of the fact that the Communist party's Central Committee is scheduled to meet shortly to consider ways of improving Soviet agriculture.

Under the new proposal, the Soviet Government would guarantee collective farmers on the poorest farms the money available by reducing the high income of the best paid collective farmers on the richest farms.

There is now a great difference in these collective farm earnings. In Central Asia and the Transcaucasus, where cotton, tea, and other high-priced products are raised, farmers may receive 30 rubles or more for a working day. In the Western regions of the Soviet Union, particularly in Byelorussia and Lithuania, farmers may get only a few rubles for a day's work.

On the richest farms they can earn what money they want with

comparatively few days of work, and after reaching a certain income they prefer to enjoy leisure. On the poorest farms, peasants are so poorly paid they prefer to spend their time more profitably cultivating their own small gardens, whose produce can be sold for relatively high prices on the free peasant markets.

The farmers on the rich collectives, of course, are going to oppose this proposal; but the magazine says that some such equalization is needed to provide adequate incentives to greater production. What is not mentioned is the fact that the richest farmers who would be most affected by the new policy are primarily members of non-Slavic Soviet minorities, including Uzbeks and Georgians, while those who would benefit are primarily Russians and Byelorussians.

Commonwealth Changes

When the Commonwealth Prime Ministers meet in London early in May, 1960, it is expected that there will be six white representatives and five Asian and Negro representatives. The former will be the Prime Ministers of Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The latter will be those of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Ghana, and Malaya.

This emphasizes the striking change which is taking place in the pattern of the old British Empire. And this change is going on at an accelerated pace. A group of other non-white countries—notably Nigeria and the West Indian Federation—are knocking at the door leading to full dominion status. Their Prime Ministers are considered most likely to be at a 1961 conference making a majority of non-European Prime Ministers. The proportions would be still further changed if South Africa were to quit the Commonwealth as has been suggested. As other African and other non-European countries such as Tanganyika, Uganda and possibly Cyprus assume dominion status within the Commonwealth, the majority of non-white representatives will be further increased.

There is nothing surprising in this trend. The Commonwealth has 85,000,000 whites and 455,000,000 Asians and others of non-European origin. Eventually, as Prime Minister Macmillan believes, the Commonwealth will turn full circle from being the foremost colonial power of modern times to setting an example how to make a multiracial partnership work. That is its new mission. In such a grouping, of course, there is no place for racial discrimination. And to statesmen of vision it is the most inspiring development of modern times. Britain is the workshop where this great dream is being forged into reality; for it is there that Negro and Asian people are coming in ever-increasing numbers to work or to learn how to take over the reins of power in their own countries.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Manchester Guardian report shows just how far Communist ability to stir up trouble in India has fallen since Chinese aggressions along the India-China borders. For the first time since independence, "the British owned tram company in Calcutta has been able to raise its fare without a riot."

According to the World Health Organization, 247,000 cases of smallpox were reported in various parts of the world in 1958, 88 per cent of them in India and Pakistan. The disease was imported into 11 countries through international travel during the 12-month period ending June 1959. It occurred on board 11 ships and two aircraft engaged in international traffic. The Organization's committee on international quarantine, which met in Geneva recently, stressed that more publicity should be given to health regulations relating to travel.

If claims by the manufacturers, a firm in Hamburg, for a new type of fishing gear, prove to be true, chances of survival for the fish have become very small indeed. The device will suck fish into a trawler at the rate of 12 tons in 8 minutes. This is said to be equal to a full day's catch of an average trawler during the peak of the season. After the fish are located by radar, they are concentrated by means of a lamp and lured towards the suction tube by an electronic wave-transmitting device. Once sucked into the ship, the fish are pumped upwards at a greater speed than any net hoist could manage.



AND HE'S ONLY GETTING STARTED!

OTTAWA REPORT

Canada's Future Threatened

The world today is dramatically in motion, as never before in history. We are passing through a "Cold Revolution" in the social, political, economic, scientific and technical fields, affecting variously every continent.

The Asian and African nations seek political independence and industrial equality. That backward giant Russia in 40 years graduated from peasantry to a spectacular pre-eminence in scientific fields. A social upheaval has swept away the last traces of feudalism in Europe. New materials and new sources of energy have made manufacturing simpler and cheaper.

The replacement of the human hand in factory and kitchen has brought the pleasures of leisure to the lowest economic bracket. U.S.A. has emerged from isolationism to assume global responsibilities; may she also learn the traditional obligations of a creditor nation.

IT IS YOUR BUSINESS The man with the lunch pail, driving his hypothesized car down Main Street, Canada, may not regard any of these developments as important to his daily life. But he would be wrong: they encompass sensational new trends, which could either throw more than one million Canadians out of work, or reduce our cost of living by up to 25 per cent while creating more

support, to make farmers capable of standing on their own feet. He frequently bemoans the fact that the government spends about \$9,000,000,000 a year for farmers and in addition has another \$9,000,000,000 tied up in purchases of surplus food.

He has free-the-farmer campaign hasn't caught on. Instead it has heaped abuse on his head. James Patton of Denver, president of the National Farmers Union, says Benson is a "churchman more interested in expanding his philosophy" than in defending agriculture.

Republicans say that if Benson won't step down, they will attempt to launch a new attempt to "sell" him to farmers. Democrats chuckle. There is no doubt they will aim for Benson's scalp in the 1960 election campaign.

PERSONAL MISSION In effect Benson regards his cabinet career as a mission, to reduce the use of public funds for farms, to chop high federal price

do so voluntarily, without causing the Republicans acute embarrassment. Benson, 60, is one of the few remaining cabinet members first appointed by Dwight Eisenhower when he became president back in 1952. Controversy has dogged Benson's footsteps during the years, but generally he received the president's support. It is not likely Eisenhower would reject him at this late date.

RESIGNATION SOUGHT Many in the party have called on Benson to quit, but Benson, recuperating from a gall bladder operation, refuses to yield. The question, he says, is not whether his program makes good politics but whether it is "right" and if it is right, "it will prove to be good politics."

His argument may not resolve the issue of whether he is good for the Republican party. But it is unlikely that Benson can be forced to step down if he won't.

INFORMATION SOUGHT Sir,—I am currently engaged in writing an historical book, "Pioneers of the Canadian West". Many of the old pioneers from the prairies and British Columbia seem to have retired now in your district.

I would like to hear from any of your readers who themselves, or their parents or grandparents might have memories of helping to settle our Canadian west.

I am, Sir, etc., FRANK BASKY Editor, "Liberty", 73 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ont.

ALL-CONCEALING GARMENT The Afghan chaderi (sometimes spelled choudry) is probably the most extreme form of dress ever devised to conceal a woman's face and figure.

Reaching from the top of her head to her feet, it billows down in accordance with the cover whatever is worn beneath—house dress, pantaloons, or smart Paris

NOTES BY THE WAY

The only Canadian business which makes money without advertising is the MIMI at Ottawa. —Barndon Sun

If the motorcycle industry ever gets a motorcycle under all the young bucks wearing motorcycle jackets, they'll have something. —Aradia News-Leader

Without parts and laws and greenery, a city is simply a collection of buildings—it has no heart, or soul or beauty. —Winnipeg Tribune

The typical male teen-ager drive a car as if he were dead set and determined to arrive at his destination in the shortest time possible or never. —Sarnia Observer

A visitor to England from Canada said on his return that the English do not know how to heat their homes. It is a common cry, but how many people with central heating can sit round a fire and roast chestnuts and tell stories as the English can. We have substituted the television set for the fireplace. —Peterborough Examiner

OUR YESTERDAYS (From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Dec. 22, 1934) During the heavy gale which raged during Wednesday night and into the late morning hours of Thursday, a barn along the Pope Road, west of Summerside, belonging to W.K. Llewellyn of Summerside, was blown to the ground and was a total wreck.

The drawing for the Plymouth Sedan, which was given away by the Abegweit Athletic Association took place at the Prince Edward Theatre last night. The lucky ticket was held by Mrs. C.W. Mallett of Brackley and the ticket was drawn from the drum by His Worship, Mayor Kennedy.

TEN YEARS AGO (Dec. 22, 1949) Work commenced yesterday morning on the extension of the Summerside Electric Light Plant to house the new unit which has been ordered and is expected to be delivered early in the new year. The contract was awarded to Morrison and Harris for \$15,000. The new brick addition will be approximately 38 feet by 18 feet in width.

J.S. DesRoches of Summerside has been named County Judge for King's County. He will replace Judge C. St. Clair Trainor who has been transferred to Charlottetown to take over the Queen's County Judgeship following the retirement of Judge Gavan Duffy.

The Age Old Story

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can buy any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom.

Trucking Across Canada

Unlike railroads, which operate under Dominion Government jurisdiction, Canada's trucking industry is regulated in 10 different ways by 10 different Provinces. The British North America Act leaves no alternative. The framers of the BNA Act might have arranged things differently now, but when they wrote in 1867 they could not possibly foresee the impact on society of the motor vehicle.

This divided authority has created problems for inter-Provincial truckers in the past, but they have been relatively minor because of the absence of a highway linking the whole country. The problem will become much more serious on completion of the Trans-Canada Highway, now expected by the end of next year.

NATIONAL SYSTEM When this happens, a national trucking system linking all the mainland Provinces will for the first time be possible. Yet in each of these Provinces, there are now different regulations setting different limits on length, weight and various other aspects of the vehicles. This jumble of conflicting legislation could well inhibit the development of a national system.

In view of these circumstances it is good to learn that something is being done to remove the obstacles. Good progress has been made on attempts to standardize reciprocity and to achieve license regulations, procedures and equipment. This co-operative effort was discussed at the annual meeting of the Automotive Transport Association of Ontario.

HOWARD McINNIS

FOR SHOES McINNIS FOR OVERSHOES McINNIS FOR RUBBERS McINNIS FOR SLIPPERS McINNIS FOR VALUE McINNIS 175 QUEEN ST.

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Annoying But Not Dangerous

By Herman N. Bandesen, M. D. DO YOU see spots before your eyes? Well, maybe you can blame it on nearsightedness or even on indigestion. Then, again, maybe you're just getting old.

See an eye specialist about it but don't worry, it is a fairly common occurrence. FLYING FLIES We call the condition "muscae volitantes" which means flying gnats or flying flies. And that's just what the pesky spots or specks look like. They just seem to float in front of your eyes.

Between the retina and the lens of the eye is a substance known as the vitreous humor. Normally, this is jelly-like and transparent. However, sometimes it becomes watery. When this happens, some of the cells of this vitreous humor might become opaque and float around in the field of vision.

SELDOM DANGEROUS It might be annoying, but it is seldom dangerous. Rarely do the spots interfere with vision or become worse. Often they are associated with visual errors such as nearsightedness. And the condition may be temporarily aggravated during digestive disturbances.

APPEAR IN MIDDLE AGE If they are going to develop at all, the spots usually appear in middle age, sometimes earlier. Correction of any visual error you might have may solve the problem by eliminating the annoying spots. See your eye doctor at any rate, if you see spots.

While we are on the subject of eyes, perhaps you have wondered why persons from northern countries, such as Sweden and Norway, almost always have light eyes, generally pure blue, and those from southern Europe, Italy, Spain and others, usually have dark brown irises.

SIMPLE ANSWER Well, the Better Vision Institute says the answer to that one is easy. Light-colored eyes are more sensitive to glare; thus, in the northern countries where the sunlight is weak, the inhabitants tend to have light eyes. Dark eyes offer some protection against intensely bright sunlight, such as that of Spain and Italy.

Nature, in a way, provides its own sun glasses. The third danger is the only one which we alone have full power to curb. This is that wage demands by Canadian workers may, unless compensated by increased output, touch off another round of inflation. Our Finance Minister, Hon. Donald Fleming, recently declared: "Canada enjoys no immunity from the dangers of inflation. Indeed, we have a special interest in avoiding those perils. If we do not maintain the stability of our currency while all the other principal countries are doing so with theirs, we will most certainly be priced out of world markets, with results that will be a catastrophe for Canada."

These imminent threats indicate our urgent need for assured tariff-free access to a market larger than that provided by 17 million Canadians. The most significant problem facing our Government today, a problem bearing on the future prosperity of every one of us, is to decide which of several possible steps to this end would be most beneficial to the greatest number of Canadians.

Out of the far, uncharted, salty deep, Through bays and estuaries, and the twists Of branching streams, with many a rush and leap, The salmon, heedless of cat-facts, persists Back to his native brooks—and what wise force Leads him unflinching on that devious course?

Watch the ways of bird and fish, and how Even in blindness they achieve their goal, I think of those old doctrines that endow The whole live cosmos with a clockwork control. And hope that man as well may reach his mark In his long migration through time's stormy dark.

—Stanton A. Coblenz in the New York Times

MAXIMS

To cultivate a garden is to walk with God. ward dress is only one of many changes in present-day Afghanistan. Like other parts of the awakening East, this land of geographic and social extremes is showing the impact of modern inventions and thinking in programs for development, irrigation, and health.

Some of the more advanced Afghan women are reaching enthusiastically for opportunities gradually opening to them in fields of education, welfare, and handicrafts. They are studying nutrition, hygiene, and mid-wifery. A few have become typists, radio announcers, and airplane hostesses.

Career-minded women have actively pressed for the banishment of the restricting chaderi. But many of their sisters in various walks of life have shown their eagerness to be rid of their shrouds.

One obvious sign has been the alacrity with which Afghan women have thrown off the robes on boarding a plane to leave the country. The Queen herself, according to an American visitor recently returned from Kabul, once made just such a revealing gesture.

Afghanistan Goes Modern

National Geographic Society A sudden change in women's dress may herald a new way of life in Afghanistan—one of the most remote countries to be visited by President Eisenhower on his present tour. For centuries women in that rugged, landlocked kingdom of south-west Asia have had to develop themselves in the shapeless burka, or chaderi, whenever they ventured out in public. Hardy rebels occasionally flouted the convention, but with little effect. Some 30 years ago a king who promoted reforms in this and other customs lost his throne in the process.