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British Empire Games

The opening of the fifth British Empire Games in Vancouver is an occasion of friendly and family rivalry, none the less keen for that, but lacking the jealousies which have sometimes marred other international contests.

This country is happy to be host to the top athletes of the Commonwealth. It seems inevitable that placings should unofficially be given a value of 10-5-4-3-2-1 although all entrants are regarded as individuals and there will be no official placing of teams.

Until the big events are over our visitors will undoubtedly be too concerned with training to see much of this country or enjoy Canadian hospitality. After the Games, however, they will no doubt travel in various parts of Canada and may be sure of a warm welcome anywhere.

One More Hope

For many years cancer-research scientists have been looking for a chemical that would destroy malignant cells without at the same time injuring healthy ones. Now, from the Sloan-Kettering Institute, the research department of Memorial Hospital, New York, comes word that a high percentage of cures for several types of the disease in rats has been recorded over a six year period and that, in one type, that known as Jensen Sarcoma, the rate of cure has been 100%.

It is all very complicated, of course, and it is to be stressed that, so far, the experiment with all manner of chemicals has been confined to rats. Soon, however, the technique will be tried on human beings, and an official of Sloan-Kettering believes that "further study may reveal compounds for achieving permanent cures in man of all forms of cancer now beyond control."

Staggering Initial Cost

It is anticipated in Ontario that atomic power for industrial purposes can be produced in five or ten years. The cost, however, will be staggering, according to Sir James Chadwick, Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics and an authority on the atom. A reactor of the type required, producing from 90,000 to 100,000 kilowatts of electricity would need a charge of 14 to 15 tons of uranium and from 50 to 100 tons of heavy water. If heat was to be converted into useful energy with efficiency it would be generated and delivered to the prime mover at a temperature of 500 degrees F. or more.

cost of a conventional coal generating station which ran from \$140 to \$180 per kilowatt. Fuel costs for the atomic plant could be high, at least in the earlier stages, but there would be the expectation of developing "breeder" reactors in which the long run fuel cost would be negligible.

It is evident that a good deal of expensive work remains to be done before atomic power for industry and household is available at prices competitive with those of water and coal plants.

War And Births

Experts say that the normal ratio of births is 106 boys to 100 girls. This has stood as the average for a great many years. In times of peace, that is; in times of war, the situation appears to change. This interesting information was brought out recently in an article in the American Journal of Human Genetics prepared by two prominent medical scientists—Dr. Brian MacMahon of the State University college of Medicine in Brooklyn and Dr. Thomas F. Pugh of the Harvard School of Public Health.

The findings were based on a study of live births of white babies in five States. They show that from 1942 to 1947, during and immediately after the Second World War, the average ratio was 108 boys to 100 girls. This two point increase may seem to the laymen hardly worth mentioning, but to the experts it is of some importance. While they did not attempt to explain the reason, the two scientists declared that "some factor or factors associated with war, or the end of war, must influence the secondary sex ratio in man."

Incidentally, the belief that during war more boys than girls are born has been held in most European countries for centuries; but this is the first time it has been supported by evidence resulting from scientific inquiry. Doubtless, the next step will be to determine whether or not the results arrived at in a circumscribed group can be confirmed by further study on a national or international scale. This may be considered a small matter in view of the many serious problems confronting mankind in these days. Nevertheless, no bit of information that helps to add to knowledge concerning human life is without value.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 7th Sunday after Trinity, 8th after Pentecost.

Jumping the gun on the shooting season will be harder this year. There is a single opening date/Oct. 9, for ducks, geese; brant, Wilson's snipe and woodcock.

Today marks the official opening of the iron ore development at Sept-Iles, Que. The vast changes which it brings include such incidentals as the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Ever since the Picasso dove was adopted as a Communist symbol the breed has been suspect. Now at last the American National Science Foundation is promoting a two-year study of the bird's behaviour.

Doses of radiation appear to enhance the keeping qualities of potatoes, according to the United States atomic energy commission. Perhaps the cost of obtaining power from atomic energy could be reduced by preserving potatoes as a sideline.

To avoid collision between a car and a moose a Lands and Forests official recommends reliance on brakes rather than horns. The same rule would no doubt prove equally valuable in avoiding accidents involving car and car.

In 1953 Canada's Maritime lobster catch had a value of \$14,585,000 to the fishermen. The catch was 42,007,000 pounds. This does not include the lobster catch in Newfoundland which last year was 4,330,576 pounds valued at \$1,109,121.

William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, died this date 1718. Born in London, he came under the influence of the Quakers while at Oxford, joined the sect and eventually became one of their leaders. In 1681 he obtained a grant of land, afterwards called Pennsylvania, in payment of a debt owing to his father by the Crown. He made of it a refuge for persecuted Quakers.

An agreement that would make it impossible to be a "man without a country" has been drafted by the international law committee for submission to the United Nations General Assembly. The problem is of considerable proportions because of the large number of refugees, particularly from Communist countries. Even when that is a thing of the past, the increasing mobility of mankind will increase the situations in which it would be possible to lose one citizenship without gaining or regaining another.

The Neighbors



"But wouldn't you rather play cards than sit and listen to our wives talk politics?"

Another Munich?

After eight years of costly and bloody warfare a truce has come to Indo-China. Greeted with jubilation in Communist countries the settlement has received a restrained welcome in other parts of the world, and in some quarters has been denounced as a major retreat for the West.

Thus the gloomy ghost of Munich is stalking the chancelleries of Europe, and the relief felt of the avoidance of a major war in Asia is tempered by grave doubts as to whether or not a great diplomatic reverse has been suffered. In many parts of the world, and notably among certain popular American commentators, Mr. Anthony Eden is described as another Chamberlain, and the master of weak appeasement.

It is true that the West has lost a great deal in South East Asia and that the Communist domain has been dramatically and significantly extended. It is true also that American diplomatic efforts at building up a defensive alliance in South East Asia have been thwarted. The gain in prestige for the Communist-Nationalist coalition is bound to be impressive. The West has little cause for self-congratulation on either its diplomatic or military achievements in this latest international agreement as being the best possible under adverse circumstances.

Regardless of the angry denials of Walter Bedell Smith there are reasons for likening the Geneva agreement to that of Munich. In both, the Anglo-French nations have receded from a strong position previously held. It is not long ago that French leaders were pledging everlasting support to the Vietnamese and the American government was insisting that the loss of Indo China would be a disaster of the first magnitude. In a very real sense the French and their allies were "backed down" at Geneva, with diplomatic consequences which we cannot yet appraise.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There doesn't seem to be enough horse sense to go with all the sensepower we have. —Kitchen-Waterloo Record.

It seems funny that so many public officials find it easier to write books than to balance them. —Galt Reporter.

A kick from a mule restored a Tennessee man's speech. It would be interesting to know what he said. —Sudbury Daily Star.

Few people are happier than a young man riding a motorcycle at high speed with a girl passenger holding on to him with a death grip to keep from being thrown out of the county. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Women who smoke, so we read, are taking to the pipe. But the cycle will not be complete until the feminine fan of My Lady Nicotine "chewing" in her handbag. —Ottawa Journal.

Maybe he has got something there. A baker in Portsmouth, England, now sells doughnuts partly for toast and partly for sandwiches. —Niagara Falls Review.

At a party the other night a thoughtful guest asked the hostess if these new furniture sets were resistant and she said she hoped it was to a somewhat greater degree than her husband. —Ottawa Citizen.

Police in Ontario found a motorist with a television set installed in his dashboard. The car, police pointed out that television sets in cars are illegal, and ordered the motorist to remove same. The wonder of this is that a motorist would even think of installing a television set in the dashboard of a car whether it was illegal or not. Safe driving on the highways of today demands a constant visual vigilance. Driving, while distracted by a television set, would be little less than suicidal. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

An annoyed or unhappy person is often referred to as being "disgruntled". On the other hand, if logic held sway, we might expect to find a happy and satisfied person referred to as being simply "grunted". But there is no such word. A queer language. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

The Poets Corner

FROM "ESSAY ON DRIFT" How thought you to withstand, Narrow heart, this power That touches dimmest star, That pierces finest seed? Narrow brain, how thought You'd shrink to shut out The undimensional mind? And you, most narrow sight, Your glass set in the skull, Reflecting the least leaf, The littlest flake to fall, How thought you to lie blind To the absolute light? Yet since he everywhere, In water, land and air, Moves as everything— The gull on stony wing, The sliding rock, the fish, In the sea's dim mesh, Then minute breath of bone, Behold how all unknown You drew him home as breath In crystal lapse and flood. Heart that refuses God, You bear him for your blood; Obdurate mouth, he is The food that fed your hunger. Deny him then no longer— Bewail him for your bread Behold how, unaware, In breathing the wild air In seeing, being fed, In knowing even now These words, this mist and snow, These birds at the earth's rim, Whether you will or no, You have accepted him.

—Elder Olson.

Old Charlottetown

V. P. E. I.

SENATE REPRESENTATION

Some of our pro-Union delegates pretend to argue that there is an analogy between the little State of Rhode Island in regard to the United States, and this Island, in reference to the Confederated Provinces. A knowledge of the Constitution of the United States, and more especially of the Constitution of the United States Senate, shows us that there is no analogy whatever between our case. In framing the Constitution in the neighboring Republic due care was taken, by placing all the States on an equality in the Senate or Upper House, that no State, because of its limited territory and population, would be liable to be swamped; and hence it is that the little State of Rhode Island has as much influence in the United States Senate as the State of New York. In the Senate, the former has as many representatives as the latter, in order to counterbalance the system of Representation by Population upon which Congress or the Lower House is based. In the proposed Confederation, this Island will have a representation of only four in the Upper House, whilst Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will have ten each, Newfoundland five, and the two Canadas forty-eight. Our Unionists are evidently at fault, and have been grasping at shadows, in assuming that because Rhode Island has not been swamped in the United States Congress and Senate, this Island will equally make its influence felt in the Confederate Parliament and Government.

—The Herald, Dec. 21, 1864.

drivers who fall to turn on the meter. It works this way: Passengers sit on seat, thereby pressing button underneath. Button lights sign on roof saying car is occupied and meter ought to be ticking. Button also turns on counter which checks distance travelled between time passenger sits and meter gets going. To the disgust of Tokyo taxi drivers, 2,000 of these sneaky devices have been ordered by the fleet operators. —New York Herald Tribune.

Even in heavily-infested areas, babies under six months old never seem to catch malaria, says Dr. F. Hawking of the National Institute for Medical Research, in London. His explanation: These babies are fed almost entirely on human or cow's milk, which is deficient in one of the B vitamins. This substance is essential for the growth of malaria organisms in the human body. A double-check on the theory is provided by other British workers, who found recently that rats fed on a milk diet are resistant to malaria. If the milk diet is supplemented with the B vitamin, the resistance is destroyed. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

For the last one hundred years it has been a common-place to say that the world is growing smaller. It began when steam successfully challenged sail and it has continued down to the present time. Now speed is demolishing distance at such a rate that the earth is no longer big enough for man to stretch his wings and he is reaching for the stars. About 50 years ago there were still white patches on maps of the world marked "unexplored territory". The existence of these areas, with their promise of mystery and adventure, attracted the imagination of youth. These places were also the last outpost of writers of that kind of fiction concerned with "lost worlds" inhabited by hitherto unknown civilized races, or primeval creatures. But now, these writers have joined the scientists and find their inspiration in space, or on the planets. —(An editorial for young people. —From an editorial for young people. —Hamilton Spectator).

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

VOICES FROM THE PAST (Continued)

I think the most striking thing about the answers given by prominent Canadian citizens in 1938 to the question "Are you in favour of a Canada-United States merger?" is the conviction that Canada was headed for independent big-nation status. This conviction, coming as it did long before the Statute of Westminster was thought of, is evidence that thoughtful Canadians even then were thinking in terms of what we now call Commonwealth relations or absorption. "This sentiment can be noted to a degree in all the letters; in some of them it is explicit. Ralph Smith, M.P. for Nanaimo, B.C., was especially emphatic on this point. "The independence of Canada as a nation," he wrote, "is becoming more and more distant, and it is noticeable that, as she develops independence, her efforts have to be constantly applied against restrictions of the United States, especially in extreme commercial tariffs. Canada had already become a nation, actually, and is now considering ways and means for closer relations with the mother country, to unite permanently the bonds of the British Empire. My personal influence, such as it is, will always be exerted to that end."

A similar view in slightly different words was expressed by another writer who for political reasons asked that his name be withheld from publication. "Within the last few days," he stated, "the Hon. Elihu Rook, former Secretary of War, has said that Canada promises to be as prosperous and as great as the United States. I believe in this prediction and therefore would offer the most unqualified opposition to any suggestion of annexation or merger or absorption." Not to be undone in faith in Canada's future, the Hon. Charles Macdell of Ottawa expressed the opinion that "Canada is destined to become not only as great as but also much greater than the United States; we have the most perfect system of constitutional government which can be found anywhere in the world."

And Senator T. A. Bernier of Manitoba seems to have summed up the whole case for the negative in this way: "Canada is progressing wonderfully and has in store a brilliant future. It would be to the advantage of neither the United States nor Canada to be united closer than they are at present. Better work out our respective destinies separately in a spirit of sincere friendliness on both sides of the line."

Quite a few of those questioned were not satisfied with expressing negative answers and the reason for this, as it were, suggested that, instead of merging Canada with the United States, it would be much better to merge the United States with Canada. "At first sight," commented the journalist who had circulated the question, "I thought this suggestion was a bit of good-tured fun; but as I read on I could see that the writers were quite serious in their views."

Perhaps the most outspoken letter in this class was the one from Bennet Rosamond, M.P. for an Ontario riding. "This is the way he had thought the matter out: "I admit that something might and should be done toward a union of the two countries, but it would have to be very gradual. We might begin by taking into the Dominion some of the contiguous States—one or two at a time, say. It would take time, as you must know, gradually to train your people into a proper respect for law and order. I do not think, however, as some do, that this would be impossible, and, once we got started, we could go on until the larger part, at all events, was absorbed. Frankly, I do not see any other way to meet your views."

"There is much to be done in your country before a possible union in any other way could be tolerated."

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The Age Old Story

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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