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 "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."  
 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 1954

Proposed Canada Council

A recent statement by Prime Minister St. Laurent is interpreted as meaning that the Federal Government has decided to set up a Canada Council at the forthcoming session of Parliament. Such an organization was recommended by the Massey Commission, the purpose being to create a council for the arts, letters, humanities and social sciences. The commission believed it should be partly advisory and partly administrative; it should be a central bureau to serve as a clearing house of information and to act as the intermediary between various voluntary groups and societies and the government on drama, music, arts and letters and in the humanities and social sciences.

The Council should perform in this cultural sphere the same kind of function that the National Research Council performs for the sciences. The commission mentioned no sum of money but suggested a Council of 15 members of whom the chairman and the vice chairman would be full time and the others would be paid travelling expenses, and a per diem allowance. The Council would be equipped with a staff.

The chief duties of the Council would be to advise the government on scholarships in the humanities and social sciences and to grant financial aid to music, drama, ballet and so on.

The present decision, notes an exchange, is to set up this Council and to go no farther, for the time being, than to award scholarships. The scope and cost of the activities, however, do not affect the principle. The Council will lack funds but not authority and the assumption is that once launched it will not be long before the votes are increased and the activities extended.

The most serious criticism of the Canada Council is basic and rests on the belief that the arts flourish best when free of state subsidies and the control which, however unconsciously exercised, goes with them. In the second place, it is pointed out that all of these activities fall not within federal but provincial jurisdiction. The federal government, it is urged, with a present budget of \$4,800 millions has enough to do attending to federal matters and ought not to invade the provincial field. The Massey Commission report cited the precedent of the British Council but it is pointed out that the United Kingdom is not a federal state. There are no provinces there.

All this notwithstanding, it must be recognized that art and artists are tender blooms, not designed to compete with the hardy inhabitants of the national garden. Patronage with ulterior motives can destroy artistic integrity but patronage which forgets all interests but the encouragement of talent can sometimes produce a Golden Age.

Auditor General And The CBC

An extraordinary statement appears in the 1953-54 annual report of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, just released. It is the statement of the auditor, Mr. Watson Sellar, Auditor General of Canada, who writes:

"Weaknesses having been noted in the accounts, this office wrote to the Chairman of the Board of Governors on October 23, 1952 with supporting details and concluding with the words . . . it is suggested that the system be carefully reviewed, and appropriately revised and co-ordinated so that there may be no need to qualify the audit certificate in this regard." Subsequent action by the Corporation not having been of a nature to remedy the situation, the manner in which the accounts were kept during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1954 was not found to be conducive to satisfactory audit."

Mr. Sellar also states that the appropriateness of the accumulated allowance for depreciation and obsolescence is "open to question" for the reason that the rates used through the years have never been scientifically established or consistently applied. He notes that he has made this comment in previous reports.

The CBC, in a press release accompanying the report, appends the following explanation:

"The letter from the Auditor General on page 51 of the report mentions the manner in which the accounts were kept." This is understood to refer to the technical system on which the accounts have been based. Since its foundation, the Corporation has used a 'modified cash basis' for its accounts, as do most Government bodies. The Auditor General is of the opinion that the

Corporation's cash system of accounting should be changed to an accrual system, as used by most companies at the present time. The CBC is at present studying this suggestion. It has asked a firm of chartered accountants to advise on the practicality of carrying out a change to an accrual basis and the extra costs that would be involved."

Commenting on the above statement, the Winnipeg Free Press points out that the Auditor General is appointed by the Government to see that its business is run on sound financial lines and as economically as possible. To talk about "studying" his recommendations, so long after they were first made, is equivalent to the CBC thumbing its nose at the Auditor General — and, through him, at the people whose taxes support the CBC.

Freedom Of The Seas

Wars have been fought to preserve the freedom of the seas, the right of men to traverse the oceans of the world upon their lawful occasions. In recent years there have been a number of countries which have taken steps to abridge that freedom by purporting to extend their territorial waters by unilateral action. Iceland and Russia, perhaps, have been the chief offenders. Now a South American country, Peru, has levied a heavy fine on foreign shipping for engaging in whaling, not within the internationally recognized three-mile limit but within their own designated 200-mile limit.

The ships involved are owned by a Greek, registered in Panama, manned by Germans and insured in Britain, which possibly might lend a comic opera air to the affair. There is nothing comic about it, however, for there are altogether too many restrictions already on land and sea and air.

It is a principle of international law that it cannot be changed by unilateral action. Any country might feel that it could draft better international law than now exists, but to do so would destroy its very foundation. All countries, or almost all, recognize the law of nations as developed by seafaring peoples over the years and as codified and amended by international agreement. It will be a long step backward if any nation is permitted to make its own rules regarding the open sea or arbitrarily extend its jurisdiction over it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Charlottetown choir leaders escape one problem of their fellows in Charlotte, North Carolina. There it was found that one caroller was singing: "O Lil' Ol' Town of Bethlehem . . ."

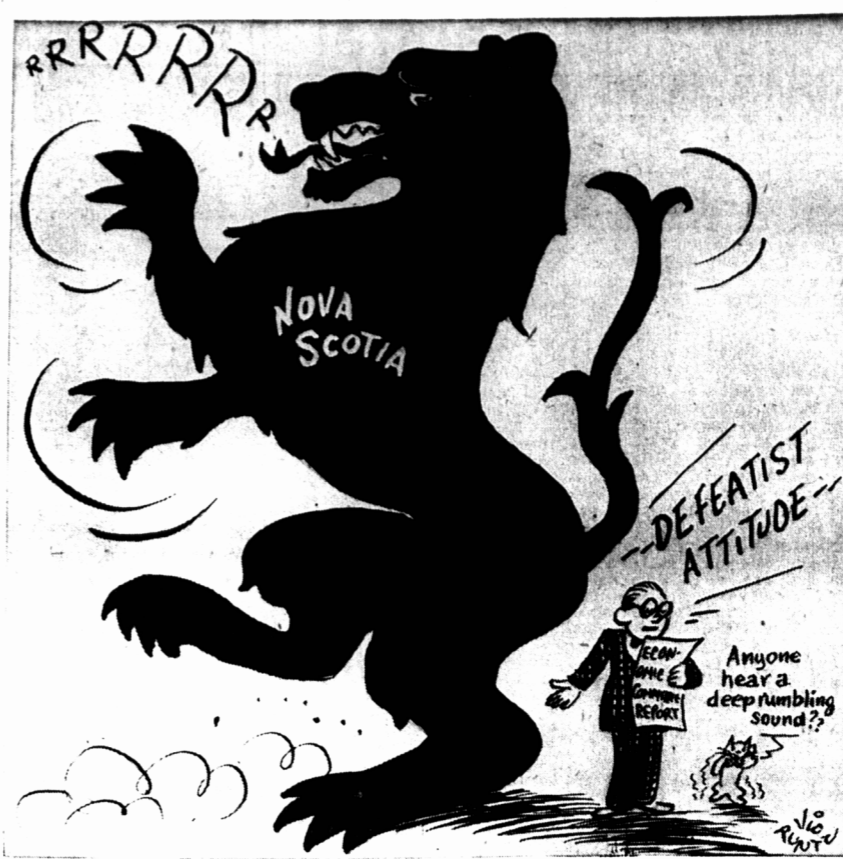
Milk vending machines are slowly gaining popularity in Canada. A machine recently installed at an Edmonton high school is adaptable to any size container, sells two products at two different prices, and gives change for odd-cent prices. More than 100 half-pints sold during the first day of operation.

According to a sampling by the London Daily Express 94 per cent of British homes have at least one fireplace and 61 per cent of their owners are determined to keep them—smog or no. The Englishman's home is his castle and he feels that he is entitled to keep the smog out of it with a fireplace even if the fireplace brings more smog to his neighbours.

The display concludes today of the Coronation Robes and Regalia at Queen Charlotte High School. Consisting partly of the original vestments and partly of replicas, the effect is much more impressive than would be possible with only those originals which could be permitted to go on public display and be shipped about. The inclusion of numerous articles actually used in the Coronation, at the same time, makes the exhibition well worth while.

Bill of Rights Day, U.S.A. The first ten amendments to the American constitution were adopted in 1789 to guarantee religious freedom, and freedom of speech; prohibit slavery, excessive bail, excessive fines, and the infliction of cruel punishments; maintain the popular right to bear arms; prohibit the quartering of soldiers in private houses in time of peace; give a person accused of crime the right to a speedy trial; preserve the right of trial by jury; regulate balloting for president; and prescribe the status of citizens.

Canadian Press reports hearing a clarification call for national farm unity in Canada. What it hears is the President of the Ontario Farmers' Union calling for extension of the scope of the three-year-old Inter-provincial Farm Union Council. Farmers will agree on the desirability of national unity within the craft or class, but are apt to be dubious of any particular group of leaders. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture they know. The Farm Union they are not so familiar with.



"How's That Again?"

Modern Blood Transfusion

BBC Weekly Summary

Sir Lionel Whitby, Regius Professor of Physics at the University of Cambridge, said in a recent talk that transfusion was first attempted centuries ago, when it was thought that new blood alone would revitalize a body in which life was ebbing. "Another ancient idea was that blood conveyed not only its fundamental physiological properties, but also the spirit, the convictions, and the peculiarities of the donor," he said. It was quite certain now that no features, criminal tendencies, temperamental peculiarities or anything of the kind were conveyed by blood. "A capitalist can receive a transfusion from a Communist or a Moslem from a Christian with complete confidence that their respective convictions will not be altered," said Sir Lionel.

Race and colour made no difference, but species was important. "Man can give to man, but the blood of a monkey, a sheep or an ox is foreign to man, and as such may give rise to immediate or eventual trouble," he said. There were sometimes disastrous accidents in early transfusions until the four blood groups were discovered. These four groups depended upon whether blood corpuscles contained some combination of the inherited factors which by international agreement were known as A, B and O, and they were known as AB, A, B, and O, the last containing neither A nor B.

Blood transfusions within these groups had been carried out successfully for more than a quarter of a century. Some people reacted to a transfusion more strongly than others and the explanation was that red corpuscles contained more factors than just A and B — the best known being the Rhesus factor inherited from parents. There were at least 8 kinds of Rhesus factors and if a person born with No. 1 were given a transfusion of No. 2 there might be trouble at future transfusions. A mother who belonged to a different Rhesus group from the child she was to bear might have a serious reaction if transfused with the wrong type of blood and the child would be liable to suffer from one of the blood-destroying diseases of the newborn. The discovery of these facts had enabled doctors to treat effectively a disease of the newborn which previously had a mortality of 80 per cent.

Blood transfusion was practised during the 1914-18 War, when the possibilities of storing blood were explored in a small way, and the procedure was developed during the Spanish and 1939-45 Wars. Most big civil hospitals had a store of blood to meet emergencies and much research had gone to finding ways of how to prolong this storage period. Blood could now be kept for about four weeks, but if storage were faulty the blood would be lethal instead of life-saving. It was the delicate red corpuscles that deteriorated, and the other fifty-five per cent of stored blood — the plasma — could be kept for some years in fluid form and almost indefinitely in dehydrated form.

Those who suffered a big loss of blood died not so much from the loss of red corpuscles as from volume loss which consisted largely of plasma. "The reason for this is a simple matter of mechanics," said Sir Lionel, "the heart is no

The Poet's Corner

WHEN YOU ARE OLD  
 When you are old and grey and full of sleep,  
 And nodding by the fire, take down this book,  
 And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
 Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;  
 How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
 And loved your beauty with love false or true;  
 But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,  
 And loved the sorrows of your changing face.  
 And bending down beside the glowing bars,  
 Murmur, a little sadly, how love fled  
 And paced upon the mountains overhead  
 And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.  
 —W. B. Yeats.

Old Charlottetown

COAL DEPOSIT AREA  
 "It is generally supposed that Gallas Point is the most likely locality, in the central districts of our Island, where borings might be made for coal. This is not the case, however. Governor's Island is much lower in the system than Gallas Point, and the true coal beds are there many hundred feet nearer the surface. If successful attempt is, anywhere in this district, to be made to reach the productive beds of coal, it is on that islet; and the time may yet come, when its low desolate shores shall present the liveliest scenes in the Bay; when belching engine chimneys and bustling loading piers shall mark the scene where the mighty stores of ancient fuel sunk beneath the Gulf are yielding up their riches to the hand of industry and enterprise."  
 —From 'Notes of a Naturalist', in the Daily Examiner, Dec. 13, 1882.

HISTORIC CHURCH

The Christian Basilica church at Bethlehem was built by Emperor Constantine in 330 AD.

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The Age Old Story

And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.  
**BANK HOLIDAYS**  
 MONTREAL (CP) — All bank branches across Canada will close Christmas and New Year's Day, T. H. Atkinson, president of the Canadian Bankers' Association announced today. He said banks ordinarily open for business Friday nights will remain closed after regular hours on the eve of both holidays.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

It costs a lot to raise a family these days—that is, if you try to get them ten per cent of the things they'd like to have. —Chatham News.  
 While electricity might be saved a bit with the cutting down of current for lights — and vocal cords must certainly get a rest while the silent audience is watching — these are about the only things which are saved.  
 Donations "for the cause" may become part of the evening routine when the crowds begin to gather! —Brookville Recorder and Times.  
 It seems that some towns have more than their share of town boosters while others may be hindered by the excessive operations of the town knockers. One industrialist planning to expand his operations visited the main street and chose the town with the best main street boosters, feeling more secure in the future of that centre. —St. Mary's Journal-Argus.  
 Good reading habits have their foundation in the home, and the process of development begins even before a child has learned to read. It is, therefore, obvious that much depends on the parents in this regard, and what they may do to nourish an interest in reading during the child's pre-school days is likely to be of lasting benefit. Teaching children to read is at school, the wise parent will keep an eye on his progress, both by setting an example in the field of reading and by taking an active part in the development of good taste in books. —Edmonton Journal.  
 A California woman only had time to grab the important things before running from her burning house the other day. At any rate, what she saved was what she considered most important. What she rescued were her four-year-old son, and 260 Christmas cards she was addressing. "Of course I saved the cards," she said. "I didn't want to write them all over again." Any-one confronted with the annual writing and addressing of Christmas cards these days, will understand exactly how she felt about it. Whatever else may have gone up in smoke she does have her Christmas cards. Household articles may be replaced, but it isn't likely that anyone, after addressing 260 Christmas cards, would be in a mood to buy the same number of cards again and repeat the job of addressing, in the ruins of her home. —Sydney Po Record.  
**NEARS CENTENARY**  
 VICTORIA (CP) — First Roman Catholic church on Vancouver Island, St. Andrew's Cathedral here celebrated its 96th anniversary this month. Three bishops have been consecrated in the church.

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