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Over-Population

By the end of another century—perhaps before—the world will have a population of about 6 billion, according to experts who make a study of such matters—provided, of course, a big nuclear war doesn't put an end to it all.

At least one eminent agriculturist does not agree with this view. Dr. G.V. Jacks, one of Europe's leading soil experts and the director of the Commonwealth Bureau of Soils at Rothamsted Experimental Station, Britain's chief centre for agricultural research, said in a recent speech that the world will be able to support a population of 6 billion within another century "provided most of them live in towns and offer enough money for the production of their food."

Dr. Jacks explains his view this way: "Land fertility increases with the size of towns, not with the number of persons engaged in farming. At first, crop land does little more than supply food for the actual cultivators. Little or nothing is left to put back into the land, out of which something is taken by each successive crop. Exhaustion comes soon, and the people must find new land. Then, a surplus population flocks together to establish towns supported by industries. They require some of the farm products, and this need tends to make agriculture more stationary in the neighborhoods of towns. Actual money flows back to the farmers. They are able to buy fertilizers or apply more effective measures to prevent soil depletion and raise bigger crops. The process is continuous as long as the industrial centres continue to pour more and more back into the land. Towns increase a country's soil fertility by enabling farmers to afford to put more into the soil than they take out of it."

All this is very interesting. But the greatest increase in population is bound to be in those countries which are already over-populated, where famine is an ever-present danger, despite all that is being done to encourage good agricultural practices and all the help that comes from outside. Dr. Jacks did not deal with this problem. Perhaps this belongs to experts in another field.

The Economic War
It seems that American Government officials are trying to make out that the United States and the free world in general have little to fear from the Soviet Union's current economic offensive. Their thesis appears to be that although it is bothersome, it will not seriously endanger the economy of the West. There are increasing indications, however, that American industrialists are becoming alarmed over the situation.

John J. Powers, President of the International Division of Chas. Pfizer and Co. Inc., recently told a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association that the United States is losing the cold war "on the real battleground—the economically underdeveloped, politically neutral countries."

"The enemy," said Mr. Powers, "has devised new techniques and is launching a major economic offensive on a world-wide basis, while we are still in the perilous position of preparing only for a shooting war that may never come. Recent Russian international trade disruption in aluminum, tin and other commodities are as much a sign of war as the maneuvering in Berlin and the Middle East. The Soviet bloc has clearly demonstrated that it will dump, that it will sell under cost for political purposes, that it will use inflation as a political weapon and that it will extend long-term low-interest loans. Further, the Soviet Union will even build entire industries in countries which are its targets—employing techniques with which private industry cannot possibly compete."

In this connection it is worth noting that the Soviet offer to loan

\$100 million to the United Arab Republic to help build the Answam Dam was announced only a few days after President Nasser had bitterly attacked the Communists in the U.A.R. This would seem to indicate that the Russians are more interested in economic penetration of the underdeveloped areas than in their ideological conversion. They are obviously working on the assumption—plausible enough—that, once economic domination is complete, political domination will be easy to achieve.

This loan transaction will also be of considerable propaganda value. One can imagine Premier Khrushchev saying to President Nasser something like this: "See! we are loaning you this big amount of money on easy terms, even though you have said some very unkind things about our Communist brothers in the U.A.R. Surely, this proves our honorable intentions." It is not difficult to visualize the effect that that kind of propaganda will have on the Arabs all over the Middle East, especially when they are reminded that the Americans refused to loan the money for the same purpose because President Nasser was angry with them at the time.

Historic Sites
As most people probably know, the town of Digby, N.S., takes its name from the British Admiral Robert Digby who commanded H.M.S. Atlanta, which brought 1,500 Loyalist refugees from the New England states in 1783.

For several years the Admiral Digby Horticultural Society has been engaged in the beautification of a park site around a well owned and used by Admiral Digby. A new project for the society is the restoring of a cemetery located on the former homestead property of Loyalist Phineas Lovett. A few tombstones recording the death of early settlers still remain in the cemetery.

The Digby Horticultural Society is to be commended for trying to keep in good state memorials of the past. There are several well preserved historic sites in this Province. There are others that have not been given the care they deserve as reminders of pioneer days.

Great Risks
At time of writing there is no word of the long-overdue "Small World," the plastic balloon carrying four persons, that left the Canary Islands some three weeks ago to cross the Atlantic. A report which said that the balloon had come down in the jungles of Venezuela turned out to be a hoax.

It is impossible not to admire the courage of a small group of people who would take such a risk in a search for weather and wind patterns. The three men and one woman who made up the crew of the "Small World" were brave people, of course, and earnestly dedicated to their scientific mission. One wonders, however, whether such voyages are worth the risks involved. Certainly, there is nothing that the crew of the "Small World" might have learned, had they been successful; which could not have been discovered in less risky ways.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An educator says that all children in English-speaking Canada should be taught French at an early age. There are some schools where a little extra teaching in basic English would not be out of order.

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko has warned that war over West Berlin would "inevitably" spread to the American continent. That is by no means an original thought. But surely Mr. Gromyko is not simple enough to believe that somehow his homeland would escape the destruction. Yet, in his speech he made no reference to this aspect of the problem.

President Eisenhower is expected to present a budget of \$77 million to the Congress this month. The Soviet Union, meanwhile, is budgeting for the equivalent of \$180 million, according to a Moscow report. Population figures are about the same in the two countries. Assuming that the report from Moscow is correct, the disparity means either that the Soviet Union has more money than the United States or its taxes are much higher. There is, of course, the possibility that the Russians are exaggerating the figures in order to have people believe that they are already ahead of the Americans in national wealth.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

OTTAWA REPORT

Simultaneous Translation

By Patrick Nicholson
Whether any speech can be literally translated word-for-word will depend upon the rate at which words tumble out of the mouth of the orator. At up to 90 words per minute, the translators will be able to deliver such a word-for-word translation. But some speakers pour forth a torrent at 175 or even 200 words per minute, and at such high speeds the translators will be able to do no more than give a condensation implying the sense of what is being said.

Mr. J. H. Mayer, head of the Debates Division in the Bureau of Translations, State Department, tells me that he has recruited—and trained a staff to handle this new job. If the equipment is in working order by the time Parliament opens, on Thursday of next week, Mr. Mayer will have his translators ready to sit, two at a time in each of the two booths built inside the Chamber, to translate French speeches into English and English speeches into French.

ITS A HARD TASK
If any M.P. wishes to listen directly to the member speaking, he will still be able to do that, just as in previous sessions of Parliament. But if he cannot understand the language being used by the speaker, he will in future be able to pick up an earplug wired at his desk, and listen to the voice of a translator giving the speech in the other of our two official languages.

MAKE BILINGUALISM WORK
One of the men was born in France, another was born in Eng-

Invitation To Talk

Christian Science Monitor
The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things. But everyone who knows the Lewis Carroll story also knows that no matter how much the oysters talked they would never get an answer on the subject that interested them most vitally—namely, who was to be eaten up as soon as the talk stopped.

The Foreign Minister's statement adds little that is new to another trial balloon sent up by the Soviets on Dec. 23 in the form of a long statement by the official Tass news agency on the recent NATO Paris conference. Tass said, in effect, that the Communist bloc is ready to talk with the NATO powers on general security problems in Europe, including a nonaggression pact.

This is supposed to be a move toward relaxing European tensions. But one thing first Tass and now Mr. Gromyko stress is that Moscow would not consent to talk about the real cause of the tension, which is the German problem. Here, apparently, we have just one more Soviet effort to isolate the question of Berlin's future from that of the future of Germany as a whole.

'Colonial' Status

Kingston Whig-Standard
How many thoughtful Canadians must be wishing fervently that people would stop talking about such silly things as 'colonial' status of this country. This applies, our contemporary comments, 'either with reference to some imagined hold Britain has over us, or by a not very logical extension of the idea of colonialism, with reference to the economic control of Canada by the United States.'

It is not very flattering to our national intelligence to have the rest of the world looking on while we wonder publicly and volubly whether we are free or not. Everybody knows anything about our constitutional history knows that we are quite free and independent. And, if nothing else could convince us that Britain is not holding us in any kind of thrall, surely the almost perfect indifference with which the British listen our anti-British fulminations should shame us into silence.

BY PROBLEMS
The point is that this world is faced with problems which make questions of nationalism look trivial. The West, of which we pride ourselves on being a vital part, is faced with a population growth in the Asiatic countries alone which threatens the future of the world. The political problems which this fact conjures up

Treatment Of Cold Blisters

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.
THIS is the time of year when colds and cold sores are most prevalent. Actually we can develop cold sores or fever blisters just about any time, since the virus causing this nuisance is always present on our skin.

Fortunately, however, our body is able to stave off most cold attacks unless something happens to lower our natural resistance.

COLDS LOWER RESISTANCE
Colds, naturally, knock our resistance off balance and fever and cold sores are apt to follow. Other factors which might help to start a siege of cold sores include upsets of the gastrointestinal tract and exposure to wind and the sun.

Quite Painful
Right from the beginning they are annoying. They usually itch and burn. Eventually they may become tender and quite painful. Usually they occur on the lips and in other spots where the skin meets the mucous membrane.

Ordinarily, if the cold sores aren't too troublesome, you can just leave them alone and they will dry up by themselves. They probably will leave small crusts, but these, too, will disappear within a week or two without leaving any trace of a scar.

EASING PAIN
If the pain is too annoying, you probably can relieve it by applying a little menthol, camphor ice or spirits of camphor. Some unfortunate persons are repeatedly bothered by numerous cold sores. If you are one of them, you should see your doctor. There is a lot he can do to help you.

For one thing, he may advise a series of smallpox vaccinations. Yes, that's right, smallpox vaccinations.

In addition to giving protection against smallpox, these inoculations also prevent the cold sore virus from gaining a foothold.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
H.I.G.: Should a patient in whom an ulcer is presumably healed have repeated X-ray study?
Answer: Yes, it is important that such patients be periodically surveyed by X-ray studies.

MAXIMS

Don't play for safety. It's the most dangerous thing in the world.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Jan. 5, 1934)

At a meeting of the Summer-side Board of Trade last evening, Mr. A.R. Brennan, who has just returned from Ottawa, reported that in an interview with the Department of Labour he was informed that the Government would do all they could to assist Summerside in establishing an airport, and would co-operate with the Town and Province in anything they would arrange.

The annual Regimental dinner of the P.E. Island Highlanders (Black Watch) took place last evening at the Drill Shed. Lieut. Col. E. H. Strong, Officer Commanding, presided. Included among the guests were Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, Lt. Col. U.G. Dawson, Lt. Col. P.W. McNeven, Lt. Col. G.E. Full, and Lt. Col. F. Andrew.

TEN YEARS AGO (Jan. 5, 1949)

The R.C.A.F. Station at Summerside got its wings back yesterday in a ceremony in one of the hangars before the officers of the station and invited guests. The first aircraft to be attached to the only air navigation school in Canada was officially christened "the Zenith" by Air Commodore F. C. Wait of Halifax.

Three Dominion Government offices will have to vacate a and find other locations after having received notices to vacate their offices. The offices affected are those of Mr. F.M. Nash, H. W. Clay, and Dr. E.S. Notting, Solicitor for the building, Mr. C.R. McQuaid, said he could not say what plans the owner had in mind for the building.

The Age Old Story

Lay not up for yourselves treasure on earth; but lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven.

OPERA FOR POPE

VATICAN CITY (AP)—A special performance of Debrale Pizetti's opera Murder... in the Cathedral has been arranged for Pope John today. The Rome Opera's management, after hearing the pontiff is a music lover, arranged the performance for the just outside Vatican City.

TIBET HAS STEAMBOAT

TOKYO (AP)—The first steam tug-boat in far-off Tibet is running on the rivers of that mountainous land. The New China news agency reported today. The agency said it can tow 50 tons of freight going up stream. Tibetans normally ferry their goods downstream in small boats made of animal hides, which are portaged back over land.

will make us look silly. The choice is ours; and while our prestige is still high we had better grow up and be as big as we think we are.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In Memphis, Tennessee, Cleborne Harold Hitt was fined \$21 for disorderly conduct the other day for stirring his coffee in a restaurant with the barrel of a pistol. The charge may have read disorderly conduct, but Hitt was guilty of gross impoliteness, too. If he'd been watching his manners, he would have used his finger.—Ottawa Journal

In London, examinations for stenographers have been toughened up. Instead of making their peepholes from straight clear language, they must now operate under "typical office conditions" and make sense from dictation interspersed with ohs and ahs, mumbblings, corrections and gibberish.—Ottawa Journal

We have come a long way since the days of our grandparents when to be in debt was a social disgrace and a reflection on a person's stability of character. By a change of labels this generation has transformed debt into credit and made it thoroughly respectable. Society has sanctioned the change and the material rewards appear to have confirmed it.—Hamilton Spectator

To the blond dancer who had just finished her act in the floor show, the rich young man said deplorably: "Tell me, why do you, a beautiful, talented and apparently well educated girl, dance in a sordid joint like this?" "I don't know," she answered, "unless it is that I meet a great many more prominent young men here than I did when I worked in the public library."—Wall Street Journal

In the nostalgic literature of America, much is written about the good old country doctor, but you hardly hear about him any more. For this is the age of the specialist. There seems to be an expert for every part of the body from head to toe, and it's often hard to know where their spheres of influence end. A patient could easily go to an upper colon man, for instance, when it's really his lower colon that's awry.—New York Herald-Tribune

Do you remember how in that dim wood The slow grave flakes came sifting, sifting down, Flake after flake of an incessant brood Faltering to the silence they had strewn? All sound was muted in the mazy fall; Only the whisper of the flake-drift there To waiting trees; no other sound at all, No other motion in the milk-white air. Save snow flakes slanting, hour by deepening hour, Across pale trunks whose earth-en feet were lost In tenderness more tender than a flower; They fell unnumbered through the windless frost Gathering earthward, white and still of wing, With ever a soft and myriad whispering.

—T. Morris Longstreth in the New York Times.

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