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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1955

Our New Senator

Congratulations are due to Mrs. G. S. Inman, of Montague, on her appointment to the Senate of Canada. The seat, made vacant by the death of the Hon. J. Walter Jones, has remained unfilled for a long time.

Parliament Prorogues

Parliament's longest session in recent years has come to an end, and the members who have worked conscientiously through the heat and tedium of the sittings can feel fairly satisfied that they have earned their indemnities.

Perhaps the most important event of the session was the Conservative filibuster against the Government's bill to extend indefinitely the extraordinary powers of Defense Production Minister Mowat. A month of speech-making succeeded in effecting a compromise arrangement, imposing a three-year limit on the legislation.

Earliest Air Mail

The current issue of the Canadian Geographical Journal, which features an excellent article by Dr. Frank MacKinnon on Charlottetown's Centennial, also carries an interesting story by Frank H. Ellis on early air mail delivery in Canada, from 1918 to the outbreak of World War II.

"On September 24, 1919, an interesting air mail flight took place in the Maritimes. Pilots Laurie Stevens and L. L. Barnhill hopped off from Truro, N.S., and flew across the wide stretch of Northumberland Strait to Charlottetown, P.E.I. In their jointly owned Curtiss

biplane, which was wheel-equipped, it was a dangerous undertaking. Two hundred letters were carried, marked 'Via Aeroplane' or 'Via Aerial Post'. On the 29th the men returned, bringing only 30 letters with them.

The most valuable airmail envelopes listed in the article are those comprised in the first load of air mail sent across the Atlantic from Newfoundland on May 18, 1919. The pilot Harry Hawker and his navigator attempted to fly non-stop across the ocean, but their endeavor ended half way across—and in it. They were rescued by the crew of a Danish ship.

The date that stands out most prominently in Canadian airmail history is June 24, 1918, when mail was carried for the first time in the Dominion from Montreal to Toronto in a Royal Air Force Curtiss biplane by Captain Brian A. Peck. When Peck left Montreal's Bois Franc Polo Grounds, his passenger was a Corporal Mathers, who held the mail sack containing 120 letters on his lap, while sitting on a case of whiskey which a friend had asked Peck to carry back for use at a wedding.

Dental Schools Inadequate

A strong case for federal aid to dental schools was made in the House of Commons recently by Mr. George Hees, Progressive Conservative member for Broadview. Quoting Dean Roy G. Ellis of the dental faculty at the University of Toronto, Mr. Hees stated that in 1947 the ratio of dentists to population in Canada was 1 to 2,510. At the beginning of 1954, it was 1 to 2,790, while in the United States it was 1 to 1,700.

A proposed new dental school at the University of Toronto will cost \$4,000,000, of which Ontario is providing \$1,000,000. Some time ago Premier Frost promised to match any federal grant dollar for dollar. The national interest is especially great in this project, for a third or more of the students at the new college can be expected to come from other provinces, as they do now in Toronto. The college will increase by 30 per cent the number of dentists being graduated annually, and by 500 per cent the number of dental hygienists, personnel who can relieve dentists of much routine work.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A number of United States Railway systems are going in the credit business. Passengers will be able to charge everything from rail tickets to alcoholic beverages. Bills will be rendered monthly, and no cash deposit or balance will be required.

If good wishes can do it, Senator Lyndon Johnson, Democratic leader in the United States Senate, who is now in hospital, ought to be up and around soon. During the first week of his illness he received more than 4000 messages. His wife—whose Christian names, incidentally, are Lady Birt—is answering them all personally.

Something unique in the way of postage stamps is to be issued by the Post Office Department at Ottawa next month. The new design 5 cent stamp will commemorate the 8th World Boy Scout Jamboree that will be held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, and will be printed in two colours, green and gold, "as a tribute to the International Boy Scout movement which is making a splendid contribution to world understanding." The design is an attractive one, and the stamp should meet with general approval.



News Item: LIGHTS ARE BEING INSTALLED ALONG THE DRIVEWAY TO MAKE VICTORIA PARK ATTRACTIVE BY NIGHT AS WELL AS BY DAY.

Gilding The Lily

Bernard Shaw Centenary

One hundred years ago, on 26 July 1853, in the early promise of the Victorian Age, George Bernard Shaw was born in Ireland. His centenary has come at an unfortunate hour for his reputation. The inevitable reaction which greets any writer who received excessive acclaim in his life has now set in, and the delayed venom of the critics has begun its insidious work of re-assessment.

They can carry it forward without being disturbed by the restless and versatile genius of Shaw who, during the crowded decades of his strenuous career, delighted in nothing so much as in disturbing the sanctified judgments of entrenched mediocrity. An eclipse has fallen not only on Shaw but on the group of writers who sustained the English prose tradition at the turn of the century. H. G. Wells has dwindled into a querulous prophet whose wisdom has been derided by events.

Arnold Bennett survives as the author of "The Old Wives Tale" and a few stray stories, with a thin trail of anecdotal smudging that heroic figure. G. K. Chesterton, the prince of paradox, has been humiliated by the paradox of finding his most indignant convictions and stubborn judgments treated as no more than the routine gleams of iridescent wit.

Bellec, sonorous master of all the rhythms of English prose, has a secure claim on immortality in his poems; but that vast, reverberating, incomparable legacy of his prose works is either forgotten or else is reserved for the final indignity of being treated as a bugle call to religious controversy instead of being a brave man's confessional under the whips and scorns of time.

James Barrie has vanished into an oblivion so deep and impenetrable that even his consummate gifts of style may never avail to give him a second spring. Kipling has become the hero of a few; Hardy is a neglected classic; Meredith wears the shroud of greatness rather than his living emblem; and John Morley, tragic waste, moulders on the top shelf while busy vulgarity spreads an all encompassing wind. "Far off and faint like echoes in a dream. The songs of boyhood seem."

Of all these stars, once so luminous, only two have lost none of their lustre. One is Max Beerbohm, who never coveted popularity and yet has become a classic in his own time. The other is Somerset Maugham who has been elevated by the dignity of age and the art of story-telling to a distinction in English letters once reserved for greater writers.

In such a slack season, it is hard to recapture the audacious advent of Shaw or the long-continued echoes of his imperious logic. Yet it is the very definition of ingratitude to forget his noble and most enduring achievement: he transformed and enabled the English stage. He found it a paradise of trivia; he left it the home of ideas.

As a critic, his was the most energetic and unsparring influence against a tradition which had corrupted the text of Shakespeare's plays, which allowed the actor to become the trumphy truant of the stage, and which resisted with petulant fury the cleansing challenge of Ibsen and the new dramatists. As a playwright, Shaw proved that ideas could be interesting and that the stage could be peopled with the social problems of an age.

Shaw said he wanted the theatre to be a factory of thought, a prompter of conscience, an elucidator of social conduct, an armour against despair and dullness, and a temple of the Ascent of Man. Everyone who respects the theatre as something more than an idle amusement for a careless hour has a debt to Shaw that he should be swift to acknowledge.

Easier On Farmers

There is to be a special census of Canada next year, and Mr. Howe mentions it as something greatly to somebody's credit that farmers will be asked only 75 questions about their business instead of the 200 questions which tried their souls (and their memories) in the census of 1951.

Modern trends in government, in taxes and welfare services and the broad pursuit of miscellaneous information, authorizes (and almost compels) officialdom to snoop and pry and enquire into what used to be considered strictly the affair of the citizen. The business man spends time and money with returns and questionnaires under the threat of jails and penalties for a false answer. The income tax officers instruct us to reveal the last secret of what we earned and what became of it—is Aunt Martha a dependent, an how much did we give (with a receipt as proof) to the society for the Restoration of Elegance and Decorum to Social Life. And as if the curiosity of governments were not enough we have unofficial snoopers wanting to know if we are listening to the radio and if so why, or for a so-called public opinion poll, are we for or against Mr. Einstein's famous theory?

In these circumstances perhaps Mr. Howe has some justification for patting himself on the back over the moderation of this farm census—only 75 questions in the place of 200 a few years back! Seventy-five questions the modern farmer can take in his stride.

The Poet's Corner

TO A CHILD'S FOOTPRINT The brook came down in silver stairs Ad caught us walking unawares, Saying the things that people say When one is nine and one is gray.

It sliced the hillside like a knife, This obstacle of roistering life; That we encountered, undimmed; Only you jumped it, and I stayed.

Though stars and sun cannot atone For the lost spark that fires the bone Time's reason in intaglio Briefly is set here, heel to top.

And who would think that ground could hold So firm, so delicate a mold? Your single footprint, fleet and free, In dubious immortality.

—Sarah Lilsey in the New York Times.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. Many a vacation gets off to a bad start when one of the vacationers falls victim to motion sickness.

This illness, which might be merely an uncomfortable feeling or complete nausea and vomiting, isn't confined to those who travel by boat or plane, however. Many of you probably suffer from motion sickness in autos, even though you may be unaware of it.

LOSE INTEREST

Continued motion, however, probably will lead to even less interest in your surroundings and frequent yawning. You will begin to perspire, salivation will increase and you will become pale, dizzy and weak.

You are more likely to be bothered by motion sickness if you have migraine headaches or duodenal ulcers. Constipation may produce the condition in some cases. And women are more susceptible during menstruation.

EAT LIGHTLY

Besides taking drugs, there are other things you can do to combat motion sickness. If you have reason to believe you may be susceptible to this ailment, eat only small amounts of food before starting.

TRY TO RELAX

Don't read when you are being jostled about. Instead, keep looking off into the distance. Dark

NOTES BY THE WAY

Next time your wife tells you about some gal's husband who has made a fortune by clever investment, just remind her about that Akron housewife who came up to Canada and found uranium.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in the United States has made a new grant of more than \$1,500,000 for polio research and the support of respiratory centres. The latest grant underscores the fact that polio while the Salk vaccine has cut its dangers, is still not conquered.

Ships entering or leaving the mouth of the Ems river on Germany's north-west coast will in future be greeted by a loudspeaker message from Borkum, the westernmost of the East-Frisian islands. Welcome and farewell will be called in the language of the ship's home country and will be followed by the respective national anthem. The broadcasting station for this purpose is to be erected on the south shore of Borkum, alongside a casino called "Secret Love." —Bonn Bulletin.

More people to the little town of Whitby! The town held its centennial parade and selected, as queen of the centennial, a woman of 92. She rode, crowned, in an open car at the head of a big parade. Her two attendants were aged 91 and 90. Far be it from us to avert our eyes from a beauty contest or a beauty queen, but this thing seems to be getting overdone. Whitby, celebrating 100 years of life, broke away from modern custom which demands that a young, pretty, curvaceous and (not too necessary) talented girl be named queen. The town chose one of its elder citizens for this honor, and relegated the teenage queen to a float farther back in the parade.

glasses are sometimes effective. Maybe it will help to close your eyes. In general, try to maintain a relaxed mental attitude. You'll probably feel a lot better if you do.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. B. B.: Would diet bring relief to arthritis? Answer: No diet except the usual well-balanced one is suggested in treating arthritis.

Most patients are benefited by rest, both physical and mental, and also by various heat-producing methods such as hot baths and diathermy. The use of such drugs as cortisone, hydrocortisone and other pain-relieving preparations may be of value. The treatment should be carried out under the direction of your physician.

3 simple SAFETY RULES

GOING ON A HOLIDAY OR BUSINESS TRIP? USE TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES. Don't risk loss of money by carrying cash when travelling. Travellers' cheques are negotiable anywhere and offer maximum protection. The cost is negligible. You can get them at any branch of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

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