

Back To Blunderland

Orbited into the realm of Alice in Wonderland is the "next phase" of our causeway project as it gets casually kicked around at the Mad Hatter's party at Ottawa. It couldn't get under way this winter because—as the Mock Turtle was at pains to point out—it's the kind of job that must be tackled in the spring. The soil, you know; Island clay. It freezes in the winter and that's not good. But in the spring, 'tra! la! there'll be a burgeoning of all kinds of things, and our sods will just yearn to be lifted.

Comes the spring; but with it the dispiriting news from the White Rabbit that winter is when this work should really be done. Winter's over now and there'll have to be "a readjustment of the timetable." It would never do to start in the spring, or the summer either for that matter! That would be disastrous because there's an employment boom somewhere and if it hits us down here we could all go bust. Next winter, perhaps...

"Have some wine," said the March Hare in an encouraging tone to Alice as she sat agnash at this news. Alice looked around the table, but there was nothing on it but tea. "I don't see any wine," she remarked. "There isn't," said the March Hare primly.

Then Tweedledee butted in to explain why there was really nothing to worry about. It might look that way, but, then again it might not. "Contrariwise, if it was so, it might be; and if it were so, it would be; but as it is, it ain't."

Still Alice couldn't understand, and the Queen came to her assistance. "Around here, you see," she explained, "it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast."

"Curiouser and curiouser!" thought Alice. She wondered whether they were trying to fool her or whether they were all as cracked as they sounded.

"The rule," said the Queen in a last effort to clear up the matter—"the rule is, jam tomorrow and jam yesterday, but never jam today." When Alice objected that it must come sometimes to "jam today" there was a chorus of protestations. "No, no," was the shocked reply. "It can't! It's jam every OTHER day. Today isn't any other day, you know."

At this stage the Dormouse, who had taken no part in the discussion and seemed to be falling asleep, gave a snort and cried out: "Oh my fur and whiskers!" That broke up the party, leaving Alice as mystified as ever and wondering—and hoping—if it hadn't all been a bad dream.

Disturbing Difference

Prime Minister Pearson, suggests a Toronto exchange, was less frank and straightforward than his fellow Liberals from Quebec when he spoke at the recent founding convention of the federal Liberal wing in Quebec. He ambled through some, fine phrases that defined little. Where the convention was able to find that the major control of the economy should rest with the central government and that consultation with the provinces should proceed only to enable them to bring their policies into harmony. Mr. Pearson borrowed from Premier Lesage and promised not to opt into any more provincial programs. Which would seem to suggest that the federal area of influence is, or is about to be, shrunk.

It is against this danger that one would expect the Prime Minister of Canada to be sounding his most forceful warnings. His vague phrases hinted, instead, at new limits on federal activity. As noted, however, this was not the tone of the convention. Nor was it in line with the sentiments expressed, the other day, by Premier Robarts of Ontario, who questioned—and questioned vigorously—how

much more the power of the provinces could expand without destroying control of the national economy which he, with the Quebec Liberals, contends should rest with the federal government.

Ontario, said Mr. Robarts, would favor a system of block grants, under which Ottawa would give lump sums to the provinces to cover specific areas, such as health, while retaining the taxing power which is a tool for controlling the economy. He was opposed to provinces opting out on the ground that if a province opts out of enough national programs it becomes, no matter what it calls itself, an associate state.

It is disconcerting, in this case, that the leader responsible for wielding federal powers should speak more loosely and with less concern for a strong federal government than spokesmen for the provinces.

Sets Good Example

In a brief released this week, the Newfoundland Dental Society has recommended that the City of St. John's implement a system of fluoridation of its water supply. More than that, it has offered to assist the city and public by providing information on fluoridation, about which it says many persons are misinformed. The society believes that fluoridated water has proven advantages which should not be denied city residents, and that its duty is to give leadership in the matter.

As the Cape Breton Post remarks in a comment on this announcement, the society must know that any movement anywhere towards fluoridation of a municipal water supply has a result similar to an attempt to knock down a wasps' nest. Attempts at fluoridation fail when the vehemence of those who oppose it far exceeds its emotional content the resolution of those who advocate it on the basis of its long-since demonstrated benefit in reducing the incidence of tooth decay in the juvenile population.

People who like to argue issues on a plane of cool reasoning are baffled when those who oppose them cite so-called authorities few have heard of before and certainly not recognized by the firmly-established health organizations. It is also true, however, that in many a locality where the advocates of fluoridation have failed more than once, they have tried and tied again and finally been victorious. The number of cities with fluoridated water supplies grows steadily year by year.

Evident in this case is the Newfoundland Dental Society's sense of responsibility to the St. John's public. The society is not looking for trouble but quite evidently is willing to face it for the sake of the city's children.

Encouraging Report

From the annual report tabled in the House of Commons by Transport Minister Pickersgill, it is evident that Air Canada has had a highly successful year. It recorded a profit of nearly four million dollars in 1965, as it greatly increased capacity and services on domestic and international routes. The profit, almost three times that recorded in 1964, was the twelfth in the past 15 years for the airline.

Scheduled trans-Atlantic passenger traffic showed a 33 per cent increase over the previous year when the increase was 23 per cent, due mainly to low fares introduced in April of that year. On southern service routes to Florida, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Caribbean islands, passengers flown exceeded 307 million, an increase of 36 per cent over 1964. Total commodity traffic showed a marked expansion as well, with air freight, up 36 per cent to 56 million ton miles, surpassing mail as a source of revenue for the first time. Air express rose 27 per cent to 5 1/2 million ton miles.

Further expansion also took place on the competitive international routes where increases in mail volume and revenue were achieved. The reciprocal air mail agreements with foreign airlines, which Air Canada pioneered, have now been extended to include six foreign countries. Equally reassuring are the prospects for 1966, which is being looked forward to as a year of continuing development, with the introduction of new jet aircraft, greater frequencies on existing routes and the acquisition of new market areas and destinations.

EDITORIAL NOTE

In Paris, the world's great seat of fashion, the humble rabbit is coming into his own. French furriers no longer scoff when "lapin" is mentioned, nor do they underestimate his value, usefulness and beauty. Bleached and dyed in all the shades of the rainbow, his fur is said to be giving mink a run for its money.



MAKING THE DIRT FLY

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Good Example Of Departmental Vigilance

Dr. P. B. Ryndard, dropped a bombshell in the House of Commons, which surely sent patients scrambling to check with their pharmacists and pharmacists to check with their suppliers in Vancouver. The alert doctor, MP for Orillia, congratulated Health Minister Allan MacEachern on his Department's alertness in picking up in Vancouver 1,000 capsules of a drug imported from Hong Kong which were incorrectly labelled and misleadingly coloured to represent a widely-used antibiotic. But Dr. Ryndard hinted at inadequate machinery for checking imported drugs, and implied the question: "a fraction of this dangerously mislabelled shipment has been picked up: what about the as yet undiscovered greater bulk of that shipment?"

WISDOM BEFORE WIT The Squire of the Kootenays is known as the way of the House of Commons; but he is no unthinking fool. His immense volume of work is always constructive, even if sometimes packaged in merriment. Now non-lawyer Bert Herridge has prepared a bombshell for some lawyer - MPs. Bert and several other non-lawyer MPs who always have their quota of appeals from constituents for help in immigration problems, always do it they can, very often successfully, to untangle the red tape blocking our immigration channels.

GOOD PEN NAME Letters from readers of "Ottawa Report" are invariably interesting and always welcome. I have received one from a reader in Port Arthur who surely enjoys the ideal name for writing letters to newspapers on public affairs. This is Miss R. Penwarden, of 23 Sheppard Street, who wrote to welcome "Ottawa Report's" account of the sharp eye with which Canada's Auditor-General Max Henderson, keeps tally on government waste and inefficiency in spending Canadians' hard-earned tax payments.

The Versatile Atom

The versatile atom is scheduled to propel space explorers beyond the moon to Mars and Venus. Nuclear energy has no serious competition for the interplanetary flights planned after the United States puts a man on the moon.

In space, the nuclear engine's higher thrust will carry more payload at less cost. Initial weight in earth orbit could be reduced as much as 15 billion pounds for estimated savings of \$1 billion or more on every flight.

HEAT FROM REACTOR The interplanetary rocket would use a nuclear reactor to heat liquid hydrogen propellant to a gaseous state. When the hot gas escapes through a nozzle, it produces thrust. The raging hot propellant reaches temperatures of 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

SPACE-AGE GIANT Mounted atop an advanced Saturn rocket the first nuclear space vehicle would stand 340 feet high, dwarfing the Statue of Liberty.

Eventually the atom may be teamed up with electrical propulsion. Advanced ion-engine systems now under study would receive energy from a nuclear reactor. Nuclear energy would produce the electricity that provides the accelerating force for the electric rocket engine.

Our Yesterdays (From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 1, 1941) A secret bomb of devastating explosive powers was disclosed in London as a new British weapon in the air-offensive against Germany. The bomb was described by one returning pilot as powerful enough to make "houses take to the air," and was used in Monday's overnight raids on Emden, German industrial centre and port.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 1, 1956) Mr. Neil A. Macdonald, MP, who had taken ill in Ottawa before the Easter recess returned here, a slightly improved but required several weeks of complete rest.

DIES AT 106 KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) Albert R. Alexander, 106-year-old Plattsburg, Mo., lawyer, died in hospital Wednesday. He entered hospital March 23, suffering from a fractured right hip, received in a fall.

SOLVES LENS COMFORT WINNIPEG (CP) - Dr. H. D. Gesser, associate professor of chemistry at the University of Manitoba, says he may have solved the problem of cloudy and uncomfortable contact lenses. Many wearers' problems end when the molecular structure of the lens's surface is changed, he says.

Winnipeg Tribune Plans are far advanced for the establishment of the first space meteorological network to supply weather stations all round the world with accurate information about cloud formations. As a result, weather forecasting will be more accurate, there will be earlier warning of the approach of severe storms, and aircraft and ships at sea will be able to select the safest routes for travel.

The new satellite, preceded by one named Eos 1 which was launched on February 3, will be called Eos 11, if it goes successfully. It orbits 865 miles high. Eos 1 carries two cameras

Replanting Severed Limb

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen More than 35 attempts have been made to replace an extremity that was amputated in an accident. Approximately 12 to 15 of these persons have reasons to be pleased with the outcome. The procedure is more involved than merely reattaching - the loose ends of the severed parts.

Accidents in which a part of the arm or leg is lost are serious and the victim is lucky to survive. The life of the individual comes first and it will not be jeopardized by subjecting the man to a tedious operation that may not produce desired results. There also are certain locations on the arm and leg where an artificial extremity works well and there is no reason to take a chance on replanting the severed part. It might "take," but if the nerves do not regenerate the individual has a useless extremity. A prosthesis works better in these circumstances.

It is important that the limb be brought in to the hospital within six hours and refrigerated immediately. Those on the scene should stop the bleeding with a tourniquet; call an ambulance, and put the amputated part on ice, if possible.

Limb replantation requires teamwork and is a procedure too new to expect every hospital to have the necessary facilities. Let us assume that the patient has been resuscitated and surgery is to be done. The amputated part is removed from the pail of iced saline and a tube is inserted into the severed end of the artery to flush out the entire arterial and venous passageways. The ends of the bones are attached with wires. As a rule, the bones are shortened to eliminate stress on the soft structures.

The veins and then the arteries are connected. In the upper arm one artery and one vein will do; whereas two arteries and at least three veins are needed to reattach the hand. The wound is then cleaned thoroughly to remove dead tissue and finally the soft tissues are closed. The nerves may be repaired later depending upon the condition of the victim.

INSIGHT NEEDED R. T. writes: Can a person overcome a guilt complex without the aid of a psychiatrist?

REPLY If the origin of the guilt complex is known, relief often follows confession and forgiveness. In some instances this situation is handled successfully by the family physician or spiritual adviser. A psychiatrist is needed when the cause is not known or has been forgotten.

DENTURE AGE D. F. T. writes: What is the usual age at which dentures are needed?

REPLY I have no statistics on this subject. A dentist friend of mine made a full set of dentures for a 16-year-old girl, but the majority of candidates are much older. There is a good possibility that the decade between 50 and 60 is the denture age.

CLOTHES ARE SAFE L. D. writes: My cousin died of cancer and her folks want to give me her beautiful clothes. I can use them but wonder if it is advisable to wear them.

REPLY Don't worry; cancer is not contagious.

INFLAMED NERVE AND HEART F. R. writes: Could neuritis lead to heart disease?

REPLY No; but both neuritis and heart involvement could follow the same cause. An example of this type would be beriberi.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT - Teach children to respect the law.

NOTE: All correspondence addressed to: Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.

India's Claim For Help

By Arsh MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP) - The exceptionally warm welcome given here by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi seems to have launched an era of better relations between India and the United States.

President Johnson broke protocol once to overstay his formal visit by three hours and dine, and Mrs. Gandhi said the president "has a right to the point without a lot of chitchat, and I like that."

Mrs. Gandhi went farther than any other Indian leader in expressing sympathy for the American position in Viet Nam. DROPPED IN BUCKET Yet, with India's 485,000,000 people facing their gravest economic crisis since independence 18 years ago, the aid just announced or planned in the near future from various sources appears to be only one drop in a big bucket over the next 10 years.

It will involve farming, industry, birth control and technical education. In food grains alone, Johnson has asked congressional approval for another 3,500,000 tons this calendar year, or a total of 8,500,000 tons.

India likely needs 12,000,000 tons, he said, calling on other nations to provide the remaining 3,500,000. He said he was "delighted to be informed Canada is prepared to provide 1,000,000 tons of wheat and flour to India."

A Lesson For Canada

Edmonton Journal

The case of the missing H-bomb carries a grim reminder for Canada. It happened in Spain. But with Strategic Air Command H-bombers shuttling back and forth across Canada, it could happen here.

And the consequences are anything but pleasant, as the little Spanish town of Palomares has learned. It has almost been put out of business—both socially and economically.

At the heart of the matter is the strange behavior of the U.S. state department and the Pentagon. "What bomb?" they kept asking for more than six weeks, while the world watched their frenzied activity to find it.

"What radiation hazard?" they kept asking as squads of U.S. Army and Air Force men, in protective gear, combed the area and bulldozers were used in crating up tons of "hot" topsoil.

'Every Living Thing'

New York Times

The American bald eagle is the nation's proud symbol. But its home is in the wild, lonely places, and the relentless outward push of civilization erodes its habitat. At the rate at which this great bird is disappearing, the eagle may soon become a blither symbol of man's carelessness toward his fellow creatures on this planet.

What has happened to the eagle is not unique. More than 200 distinct species of animals that existed at the beginning of the Christian era have disappeared. As many more are in danger of extinction today.

Consumers in the United States and other wealthy countries have selfishly contributed to the destruction by their fads for leopard-skin coats, polar bear rugs, and other exotic articles. Representative Henry S. Reuss of Wisconsin at a United Nations conference to develop regulations controlling the international trade in wildlife and its products, and he deserves support in this effort.

The newly independent countries of Asia and Africa are not able on their own to cope effectively with the perils to wildlife. Their people are hurrying desperately to make the transition from a pastoral economy to a modern agriculture and industry. Their impulse is often to get rid of wild game just as the

ENVOY MEETS DE GAULLE PARIS (Reuters) - Canadian Ambassador Jules Leger called on President de Gaulle at the Elysee Palace Thursday and, informed sources said, gave him a personal message from Prime Minister Pearson. Canada along with the United States, has NATO military bases in France which the French want removed.

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Weather Station In Orbit Winnipeg Tribune

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