

Wisdom Prevails

The railway contract dispute is not settled but the means of settling it have been agreed upon. The representatives of 145,000 non-operating employees and the railway heads are, perhaps, almost as far apart as ever on what they would consider a just settlement on the question of fringe benefits but they have agreed to submit their differences to government arbitration.

The decision will be greeted with relief from coast to coast and not least by the railwaymen themselves. Nobody gains by a strike, except perhaps business rivals, and the fruits of wise labour diplomacy are sweeter than those of industrial strife which bears much the same relation to labour relations as war does to diplomacy.

Prime Minister St. Laurent is to be commended on his successful intervention in the dispute. A less vigorous Prime Minister might well have permitted the situation to drift into deadlock from which a strike might seem to be the only escape. The labour leaders also might easily have lost their heads and forgotten their objective of bettering the lot of the members of the brotherhoods in their enthusiasm for the fray.

Protecting The Lobster

The way of lobster poachers and those taking short lobsters is going to be harder, according to a recent announcement from the Department of Fisheries. The Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, 1953, is to be implemented immediately. Penalties are provided for the master of a fishing vessel entering territorial waters illegally; failing to heed the signal "K" (heave to) from craft wearing the Canadian Blue Ensign; jettisoning or destroying anything after such a signal; or refusing to reply to or obey a Protection Officer.

Fishermen who see a patrol vessel approaching and either flying the square flag with yellow to the hoist and blue to the fly or emitting long-short-long signals will be wise to "come quietly."

Those who have nothing to conceal will be helping to add to their own incomes by saving the time of the patrol by thus permitting a better job of protecting the industry to be done. Wrongdoers will find themselves open to a fine of as much as \$10,000 and one year's imprisonment, a sufficiently drastic maximum to make it desirable not to multiply offences.

Dream World In The Northwest

Until quite recently Nahanni Valley (better known as Headless Valley) in the Northwest Territories was wrapped in mystery. Great have been the tales told about it—of hot springs with tropical growth, of weird rites performed by Indian tribes, of unexplained and sudden death to white intruders. Now, most of the mystery has been unveiled by a party of geologists, surveyors, sociologists, and other specialists, from Edmonton. They report that, although the tales have been much exaggerated, there is a great deal of wonder to be observed in Headless Valley. Said one of the group: "It's a dream world, majestic and entrancing." The valley, 200 miles long, is extremely fertile. Potatoes, planted in the fall, come to bloom with the first sign of spring; vegetables of every description grow rapidly and to enormous size; there is plenty of game, and fishing is good the year round. The scenery is magnificent. At Virginia Falls on the Nahanni River there is a drop of 316 feet; the river itself flows through two canyons, one of which is 3000 feet deep. As for the Indian legends, there is very little to them. It is true that three persons over a period of fifty years met violent death at the hands of outlaws, but most of the deaths which were supposed to have occurred under mysterious circumstances were due to hunting accidents or other easily explained

causes. Gustave Kraus, who came to the valley from Chicago in 1934, is monarch of all he surveys in the sense that he is the only white man in the region. He gets along well with the Indians, he says, and what's more, he's never coming out. Not much longer, however, will Mr. Kraus be the only representative of white civilization in Headless Valley. Now that the clouds of fear which have hung over its reputation for so many years have been removed, tourists will flock in to the area from all sides. And some enterprising fellow—perhaps Mr. Kraus himself—will be able to do a good business selling souvenirs of its mythically mysterious past.

A Teacher Speaks

Toronto is a long way from Hong Kong, the home of Prof. K. E. Priestly, and it is understandable that the professor might unburden himself more candidly than perhaps is his wont. At any rate he must have caused some eyebrow raising even at an international congress of mental health when he suggested that parents might do better to play with their children in their back yards than attend lectures and interfere with the work of the schools.

We are accustomed to admire the community spirit and energy of the people who take an interest in education as exemplified in the local school. It is frequently possible merely by looking at it from the outside to gauge the extent of the interest shown by parents. Teachers welcome the opportunity of getting to know the parents of their charges at Home and School and other meetings. The exchange of views and information is apparently useful and welcome on both sides.

Yet, here is a teacher who, when on the opposite side of the world to his students and their parents, sounds off to the effect that too much adult activity in the educational field can prejudice the work of the schools. How long has he been harbouring these thoughts? Did he secretly think as the new library of classical phonographic records was presented that it would be better if the parents paid more attention to their children's musical experience at home? There are many possibilities, and they open up the question of what our own teachers would say about parents' participation were they voicing their views in Hong Kong.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The first really kind thing said about the present summer is that the weather has not encouraged swimming accidents.

Canada's record grain carryover has its disadvantages and presents serious problems, but they are of a different order from those of the years when the West raised dust storms rather than crops.

Congress has approved the sharing of certain atomic work and information with private industry and with allies of the United States. There can be no doubt that the official American projects will benefit from the relaxation as well as those to whom information may now be divulged.

Trout and other game fish may have cause to be grateful to a Massachusetts engineer who has devised a substitute for the "fish ladder". Designed very much like a hose with very small nozzle, the water descends in it relatively slowly except at the lower entrance. There the rapidly escaping water very effectively attracts the fish. Its special merit is that it wastes much less water than conventional arrangements.

Jan De Witt, Dutch statesman, died this date 1672. He opposed, unsuccessfully, war with England and was elected grand pensioner when the war proved unsuccessful. Despite his best efforts war broke out again and he conducted it with vigor and skill, even personally taking command of the fleet. He was the organizer of the triple alliance of Holland, England and Sweden against France. Charles II was bribed to desert the alliance, however, and a sudden attack by Louis XIV could not be resisted. The two brothers De Witt were murdered by a mob.

The average Canadian hen laid 168 eggs in May to produce a total of 36.2 million dozen, or 5 million dozen more than the year before. Heaviest producing hens were those in the Maritime Provinces where Prince Edward Island, with only 504,000 layers averaged 1,964 eggs per hundred hens, exceeding Nova Scotia by only six eggs and New Brunswick by 84 eggs. Ontario with the most layers (9,614,000 out of 25,253,000) was fifth in number of eggs per hundred hens. Ninth and last on the list was Alberta with 1,572 eggs per hundred and next to the last, Manitoba with 1,575. Saskatchewan, with 1,667 eggs per hundred hens, was slightly below the national average of 1,675.



Blight Precaution

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. SUBMERGED FOREST

"At the extremity of Gallows Point, which is a small peninsula between Pownall Bay and Orwell Bay, and opposite a low tract of peaty ground, there is a submerged forest. Upwards of three acres are occupied by stumps and roots of the spruce, fir, and hemlock, which are covered by every tide, being from four to eight feet below high water mark. It is certain that these trees grew upon the spot where they are now seen, as their roots and the soil that nourished them are all present; their trunks have been broken down by the ice, and at low water the tract resembles the clearing of the new settler."

"In this instance the barrier of a peat swamp might have been broken by the ocean—the soil more compact so as to fall beneath the common sea level, or there might have been a land slip, by which the trees growing upon the bog were moved with the general mass into and beneath the water. But from a variety of facts, it is more probable that there has been a submergence of the land itself of which there are proofs in different parts of the Island."—Charlottetown Herald, Oct. 19, 1864.

The Poet's Corner

A PORTRAIT I am a kind of farthing dip, Unfriendly to the nose and eyes; A blue-behinded ape, I skip Upon the trees of Paradise. At mankind's feast, I take my place In solemn, sanctimonious state, And whom the air of saying grace While I defile the dinner plate. I am 'tho smiler with the knife,' The battener upon garbage, I—Dear Heaven, with such a rancid life, Were it not better far to die? Yet still, about the human pale, I love to swing my love to race, To swing by my irreverent tail All over the most holy place; And when at length, some golden day, The unliking specter, aiming at 'Shall hea, m'—all the world will say: "Thar! God, and there's an end of that!" —R. L. Stevenson.

The Age Old Story

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord.

Prairie Lobsters

Edmonton Journal The officials who run the Federal Government's enthusiastic and costly information services seem to be curiously ignorant of Canadian geography, and particularly of the distance of certain localities from the briny deep. This is the only explanation we can offer why the Journal—in common, presumably, with all other Prairie newspapers—has just received a bulletin from the Department of Fisheries, setting out detailed new regulations for lobster fishing. If any of our readers are engaged in catching lobsters in the North Saskatchewan, we must warn them that the department will be very, very irked if they use traps "which do not have a continuous and unobstructed space measuring at least one and five-eighths inches between the two undermost laths on each side of the trap." Canadian taxpayers, too, may be a little irked at the idea of sending such material, not merely to the fishing areas in the Maritimes but all over the country—at public expense.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Growing trees is a cinch for anybody with the patience to wait 40 years." — St. Catharines Standard.

Soviet scientists declare they will build a space ship to carry people to Mars. How welcome it would be if they carried all the Russians up there. —Times Gazette.

The office cynic declares that if comic books are controlled there will be nothing left on which to blame juvenile delinquency.—Times Gazette.

Russian students visiting Britain say they wouldn't like to live there. Their reason is a sound one—"the weather is so bad."—Brantford Express.

Tests show that the average life of an automobile tire today is about five times longer than it was twenty years ago. But the same can't be said for drivers.—Toronto Star.

There is still the strap or the paddle. And from what we hear from penologists the toughs and zoot-suiters don't like either. It hurts not only their bottoms but their vanity. They don't feel so tough when their pants are properly warmed. — Vancouver Province.

Golf is what letter-carrying, ditch-digging and carpet-beating would be if those three tasks had to be performed on the same afternoon in short pants and colored socks by gouty-looking gentlemen who require a different implement for every mood. — Aylmer Express.

The really daring part of that colonel's order to American army wives in Frankfurt was his insistence that blue jeans must not be worn by "mature women." What armed guard under pressure or which are the "mature" women? And who will notify his next of kin?—Boston Post.

As therapy for convalescing housewives, the municipal hospital at Durham, England has built a modern kitchen, specially fitted to accommodate the crippled patients. Hospital authorities have found that working in the kitchen keeps a woman's mind off her illness and helps get long-idle muscles back in shape. —Time Magazine.

Speaking of spelling, you are good if you can do this one without a bobble: "Beside a cemetery near the seminary sat an embarrassed cobbler, gnawing on a desiccated potato and gazing at the symmetry of a lady's ankle with unparalleled ecstasy." When a college professor dictated that to 208 students, not a one scored perfectly. The average was five errors.—Atlantic Constitution.

Recently the typhoid fever of Chester, Cheddar and Ryeport sat down to lunch with the chief magistrate of the Netherlands town of Alkmaar, cheese-making center which is celebrating its 700th anniversary. The mayors of Parma, Gorgonzola, Edam and Gouda were absent in the flesh, but present in spirit. For among cheese fanciers there is an affinity of souls of a kind to which only skiers and chess players may aspire. — Ottawa Citizen.

None too soon comes a report on two years of research, showing penicillin to be "no better than an aspirin compound" in thwarting the common cold. Some of us had suspected as much, but lacked the scientific evidence for the belief now supported by experiments completed at Syracuse University in New York. Penicillin has been misused and over-rated as a cure for almost every sort of ailment. It's high time that it is regarded in proper proportion. The research indicated that it is powerless against the cold virus and will not ward off sore throat or other "non-specific upper respiratory infections." — Sydney Post-Record.

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THE AVERAGE WESTERNER FAILS TO REALIZE THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THOUGHT HAVE LITTLE MEANING FOR A STARVING PEASANT NOT GUARANTEED FREEDOM FROM WANT . . .

Since the economy of Canada is closely linked to that of the United States, it is good to learn that there has been no increase in unemployment in the United States for the last three months. The figures issued for July show that unemployment had even with the month of June. This is important because the month of July usually shows an increase in the number of jobless. Actually the total number of employed in July increased by 50,000 over June, an indication of the increasing size of the working force in the United States. — Montreal Gazette.

The governments of Denmark, Norway and Sweden have concluded agreements with the United States for the operation of trans-polar air services. Similar agreements must be obtained with Canada, then flight certification obtained in both countries. After that, Scandinavian Airlines System will begin regular commercial flights over the route it has already pioneered in two years of experimental flights. The proposed service will offer flights from Los Angeles to Copenhagen, via Canada and Greenland, at a saving of six to seven hours flying time. The shorter route is of particular interest to Canada, for it will establish Edmonton, more than ever, as an important international air terminal. For polar flying in either direction, to Asia via Alaska and the Aleutians, or to Europe via Greenland, Edmonton is the logical take-off point. — Montreal Gazette.

Years after typhoid fever has been all stamped out in the more advanced parts of the world, Michigan scientists have discovered what is claimed to be a cure for the disease. If the new antibiotic justifies the claims which are made for it, it will be a boon to those large areas of the world where typhoid fever is still a real threat to human life. If it can be produced cheaply and in large quantities, the new cure could provide another healthful link between the scientific advance of the West and the backward nations of the East. In the first quarter of this century, typhoid fever epidemics scourged Canadian cities from time to time. Sanitation, the chlorination of water and pasteurization of milk, combined with the development of inoculations against typhoid, have removed this threat. The newest development may write the end to deaths from typhoid fever on this continent. — Windsor Star.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer EDITORIAL ADVICE, 1855 (Continued)

It was the period of the whale-bone bustle in women's skirts and at least one editorial writer was very unhappy about the whole situation; in fact, judging from the tone of his writing, one might go so far as to say he was furious about it. "This evil, together with other physiological errors," he wrote, "is doing much to shorten the lives of our women and to compromise the health and life of the whole race. To avert these sad results it is proposed that the following style of dress be adopted. The waist should be several inches longer than the body, a little shorter than the present fashion, and full in front. The bands of the skirt should be much larger than the body, buttons to be placed on the bands of the inside skirt, just as they are on a man's pants for suspenders, and the same elastic suspenders worn, crossing behind. Make button holes in the bands of the other skirts to correspond with the buttons on the inside skirt and button on; thus one pair of suspenders will carry three or more skirts. This style of dress is attended by no discomfort and at the same time is sufficiently fashionable to escape observation. Of course corsets should never be worn; and whalebones, especially, have no place in a woman's dress."

It must have taken courage, and plenty of it, to put the like of that in an editorial column, and even more for the following which appeared on the same page: "Girls are early taught deceit and they never forget the lesson. Boys are more outspoken. This is because boys are instructed that to speak frank and open is to be manly and generous, while their sisters are admonished that 'this is not pretty' or 'that is not becoming' until they have learned the art of deceitfulness. The result is that, while men retain much of their natural disposition, women are made-up characters." It must be that women were not expected to subscribe to newspapers and magazines in those days. "Why are colds and other respiratory troubles so frequent?" asks another writer. He then proceeds to answer his own question as follows: "Because of the fashion to wear cotton garments. The very best thing to wear next the skin in summer as well as in winter is common wool flannel. One colour has no advantage over another, except that white looks better. Recent experiments, carefully concluded, prove the truth of this assertion. The reason is that wool absorbs more moisture from the body than any other material and, by so doing, keeps the body drier. Hence, less colds and similar diseases." It sounds simple enough; nevertheless, 100 years later, scientists are still looking for a way to prevent the common cold.

Under the caption "Miracles never cease" there is this treatment of the wonders of science: "When we come to look back at it through the vista of history we find that the century which has passed (1754-1854) has been allotted to more important events and discoveries than any other which has elapsed since the creation. Take steam ploughing, for instance. What a magnificent idea is that of yoking

TILLSONBURG, Ont. (OP) — What does a man do when he wakes up to find his bed on fire? Firemen who had trouble raising a guest at an auto court before extinguishing the small fire have the answer. The man found another bed right away and went back to sleep.

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