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Baseless Assumption

Air Vice-Marshal Guthrie, President of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, is reported to have told an audience in Sherbrooke, Que., that "a war starting today would be over in seven hours."

With a few unimportant changes brought about by the development of atomic power, this is the same thesis that was employed when both World Wars broke out, and, probably, prior to every war in history.

All this aside, how does the Vice-Marshal or anyone else know for a certainty that any future war will be fought with atomic and hydrogen weapons?

It is generally understood in the Western world—Mr. Dulles' occasional enigmatic statements, notwithstanding—that no Western nation will be the first to use a hydrogen bomb.

Notable Anniversary

Like the Confederation Fathers, the founders of the Young Men's Christian Association in Charlottetown builded better than they knew when they held their first organization meeting here a century ago.

Y.M.C.A. buildings on the continent, served its purpose for three-quarters of a century until the commodious premises on Prince Street were erected, the corner stone being laid by Lord Alexander, Governor General of Canada, on August 19, 1949.

For the Century Banquet on Tuesday evening next, during National Y.M.C.A. Week, the local organization has obtained an outstanding speaker in the person of Dr. H. L. Keenleyside, Director General of Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations.

Dr. Keenleyside's subject on Tuesday evening will be "The Crisis We Face", and it should be one of great interest and importance.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Following Secretary of State Dulles' "necessary art" speech the Manchester Guardian observed: "Mr. Dulles is no historian and not much of a diplomat."

Russians and Australians have not been on speaking terms since early last Spring when the Australian Government granted political asylum to the Russian Embassy Secretary, Vladimir Petrov, who had exposed a Soviet spy ring.

A report from New Delhi says that an abominable snowman is thought to have been killed near the Assam-China border, and scientists are on the way to make an investigation.

Usually, hiding money underground is not considered a good economic practice. There are times, though, when it has its advantages; witness the case of the Edmonton policeman who, back in 1917, buried \$21,000 because he was afraid the Government might confiscate it if it were left out in the open.



EARLY MORNING APPEAL

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of general interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

FARMERS' PREDICAMENT

Sir,—Ever since the crippling silver freeze I have noticed in your paper many statements and comments regarding the great inconvenience and loss to the people.

I live in a town but I travel from farm to farm and sleep in a different bed every night of the week. Much has been said about the loss and hardship caused the town people, and it is all too true, but as I see it there is no other class of people who have lost so heavily and suffered more inconvenience than the farmers.

I have been at farms where they have suffered thousands of dollars loss in the woodlot alone. I find they are losing in many ways: milk production going down and loss of butterfat by not being able to use a milking machine that the cows have become accustomed to.

The situation in the country is still very serious; no lights, power, telephone or laundry facilities, and roads that cannot be travelled by car. What a predicament when some member of the family gets seriously ill! I have had occasion to try to help save a valuable sick cow, when her owner could not even contact a vet. let alone get him to the farm in time.

Now I am writing this just to draw attention to the farmers' predicament and if any assistance is forthcoming by way of Government aid surely the farmers should receive a generous share.

I am, Sir, etc. W. H. BROWN R.O.P. Inspector. Kensington.

Square Dancing Is Contagious

(National Geographic Bulletin) "Vinegar Meg and Cotton Eyed Joe sure makes a mess of the de-sold."

Some modern square dancers may in truth "put their hands where their feet should go." But all have their hearts in their fun.

So contagious is their enthusiasm, that square dancing has spread to nearly every corner of the nation and abroad to United States government posts as far away as Singapore.

Wherever there's a cellar, a boiler, and an open space, there'll be a whir of girls and dudes as gay as any frontier crowd that ever raided a barn early to practice in Chicago, a club of blind dancers swing their partners once a fortnight. Elsewhere American square dance on horseback, on skates, in the water and in wheel-chairs.

As many as 15,000 people have danced in one jamboree in California. Nearly 8,000 self-named "pilgrims" promenade to the "North nation square dance convention in Oklahoma City earlier this year.

There they learned new steps and polished up old ones. Although the basic dance hasn't changed, new music and patter have enriched it. Cowboy calls such as "Rope you steer, brand your calf," have been modernized by ones such as "allemande left and right to your lass, the light is green so step on the gas."

Songs and dance titles blend both old and new: "Flip-Eared Mule," "Eve Turn," "Angletworm Wiggle," "Dip and Dive," "Lonesome Pine Mixer," "Powder Your Face With Sunshine," "Somebody Goffed." The most popular dance at the last convention was "Run Outta Names." Square dancing in the Chickasha, Oklahoma Star once editorialized: "may be better than socialized medicine for what ails us." It has mended broken marriages, cured alcoholism, relieved mental patients and thus given rise to a new bromide: "Don't take a partner."

OTTAWA REPORT

The Way The Money Goes

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa. That's the way the money goes, as the old nursery rhyme says. But for our money today, we get much more than the rhyme's "half a pound of tuppenny rice and half a pound of treacle."

Full details of our national food bill, as just released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show that catering to our inner man has become one of our largest industries. Processed foods and beverages accounted for exactly one-fifth by value of the output of all our factories.

In the latest year to be reviewed in statistical detail - 1953 - this business was carried on in 8,129 plants, employing 176,640 persons, with an output worth three and one-half billion dollars. Nearly twelve per cent of this output was exported.

Naturally enough, food was the largest single purchase by the average Canadian, in 1953 as in every other year. That statistical creation, the average Canadian, spent almost exactly \$250 on food during that year - some of it unprocessed, such as raw eggs bought in the shell; some of it processed, such as canned tomato juice; some of it ready cooked and served, such as a hot dog or a full course meal.

This expenditure was approximately double the sum he or she or I spent on transportation during the year. Transportation in turn almost exactly matched the amount, say \$125, which the average Canadian spent on clothes and personal furnishings. This last phase, in the gobbledegook of statisticians, does not mean that the average Canadian wears a chestnut field in 1953. It covers personal items other than clothes, such as a hairbrush.

HEAT AND DRINK TOO

By - statistical accident not repeated in other recent years, that average Canadian in 1953 also spent approximately \$125 on housing, and \$125 on household operation. He could have afforded better housing if he had been able to resist the temptations of the demon rum.

As a nation, we spent half as much on alcoholic beverages as we spent on renting or owning our homes. Of some 350 individual categories of processed foods and beverages, the most costly was bottled and canned beer, totalling \$267,000,000. Then came, in this order by dollar value, fresh beef, butter, bread,

fresh pork, fresh milk, rye whiskey, cane sugar, pines, and roast coffee. Among our exports of these categories, the best dollar earner was wheat flour. Second was fresh and dried fish, largely cod. Breathing drierly down Newfoundland's neck came rye whiskey, a close third, then came British Columbia's canned salmon. After that world-famous Sockeye came the whole range of other exports without any one standing forth significantly.

Beverages soft and hard likewise figured prominently among our imports of food. Green coffee, sugar, tea and Scotch whiskey - in that order - led the parade. A survey of the industry of processing foods and beverages shows that not only is it our fifth largest in value of production; it is also a fast-growing business. It has an even larger future ahead of it, for Canada is one of the world's greatest producers of high quality new foods.

The food-processing industry today gives probably nearly 250,000 well-paid jobs. It utilizes 140,000 turbines, engines and other power units, which together have a rated capacity of over one million horse power. Thus each human worker employed in this industry has forty robot workers behind him. While the workers in the big plants average better than \$3,000 per year in wages, the robots cost a mere nine cents per week.

While excelling in quantitative achievement, the industry still has a long way to go qualitatively, which statistics cannot measure - except in terms of our declining tourists' trade. For Canada is becoming known as the nation with the best beef cattle, yet the toughest steaks; with the best bread grain, yet the most rubbery bread; with an unsalable surplus of cow's cream, yet a universally used stomach-turning substitute made of imported vegetable and fish oils.

Speaking of odd food facts brings to mind these two real Ripleys: in the official list of manufactured foods and beverages, 56 in number, sixty-second place by value of production is held by glycol-type Anti-freeze. Also gleaned from this statistical review is the eye-opener that Canadians spent on liquor in one year sufficient dollars to finance our famous Baby Bonus for twenty-eight months.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

STRIKES OVER-40 GROUP

Glaucoma, a most dangerous eye disease, usually can be halted by early treatment. There are about 320,000 blind persons in this country. Of this number, one out of every eight is a victim of glaucoma. And one light is destroyed by glaucoma, it is gone for good.

With glaucoma, increased fluid pressure building up inside the eye slowly damages the nerves. Side vision usually goes first since the pressure strikes the fibers in the retina before damaging the central vision. Primarily, glaucoma is a disease of the middle-aged and the elderly. It is most apt to strike you if you are over 40.

DOG ABOUT TOWN

He wandered in one January night. A sorry-looking dog, forlorn and cold. He must have trav'led far, his feet were sore. And snowflakes glistened from his shaggy coat.

But in he came, and finding each in turn. He thrust a chilly nose inside our hands. And, in that simple gesture, won our hearts. While he remains, for we'll remember long. How he would welcome us, and bring a shiver to our bones.

To show his joyfulness on our return. But we were not the first, nor will we be. The last to claim his favor, for one day Spring fever fired his blood and he was off. To new adventures into that somewhere, where. The same somewhere from which he came.

—Helen Hill Young, in the Toronto Daily Star.

The Age Old Story

The Lord, He it is that doth go before thee: He will be with thee. He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee; fear not, neither be dismayed.

The United States birth rate of about 25 babies for every 1,000 people compares with 15.6 in the United Kingdom.

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Notes By The Way. About the only way you can get anything for a song these days is to write one. —London Free Press.

The curious hypothesis discussed by Charles Dickens in "Pickwick Papers" and by others that two people can live as cheaply as one meets with no encouragement from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its latest bulletin on family food costs.

Annual Meeting Of Shareholders The Royal Bank of Canada. Total Deposits have now passed \$3 billion mark.

Canada can ill afford luxury of group or sectional parochialism. Diverse climates, cultures and economic interests present opportunities as well as problems in achieving national unity.

Some of the more pressing problems confronting Canada in 1956 are being discussed by the Chairman and President of The Royal Bank of Canada, in his annual report to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on Jan. 12 at Head Office.

NEW "BUILT-IN STABILIZER" FOR FUTURE BUDGETS. "In all the excitement over the switch to deficit financing, said Mr. Muir, "one extremely important decision in the realm of fiscal policy went almost unnoticed by the general public."

Mr. Sedgewick noted that NHA Mortgage Loans, made by the Royal Bank, now total \$10,855,965 as compared with \$2,872,000 the year before. "Other current loans also have shown expansion in line with the higher general business activity and the total at \$1,168,559,855 shows an increase of more than \$127,000,000 in the twelve-month period under review.

Mr. Sedgewick also discussed the bank's extensive building and renovation programme. In addition to alterations and improvements to existing premises, 39 new branches were opened in Canada in 1955 and 23 new buildings, for opening this year or later, are under construction.

ROYAL BANK ABROAD. The bank will also occupy new and more commodious premises in the Caribbean area. Since the bank began operations abroad nearly 60 years ago, said Mr. Sedgewick, the local staff had been encouraged to aspire to senior positions and this, he felt, had been a major factor in the success of the bank's foreign operations.

varieties of credit over-expansion might soon become less serious due to natural causes and to the effect of policies now in force. Home building and construction in general would be effected by seasonal factors: term loans by banks and the purchase of corporate securities were no longer practicable under present monetary policy; and "control of consumer credit does not lie primarily in the field of banking. War and post-war expansion have shown that this can be most effectively handled by regulation at the retail level, with good will and co-operation between those who extend the credit and the central authorities. There should be nothing, therefore, in these three varieties of credit over extension that a little common-sense, restraint, and co-operation cannot quickly cure."

CANADIAN UNITY. While sound economic policy was a factor in achieving national unity and well being, said Mr. Muir, the development of a broad national outlook and the avoidance of regional and cultural parochialism were also important. "The very diversity of regional, cultural, and occupational interests in Canada that creates and aggravates our problem makes unity an even richer prize than would otherwise be the case," he concluded. "Ours will be a unity in diversity, with the attendant opportunity to take fullest advantage of the division of labour, itself a product of diversity in culture, in individual talent and skill, in group interest and activity. I firmly believe that this difficult task can be accomplished."

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