

THE GUARDIAN

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Our Christmas Number

In a sceptical age, Santa Claus is still going strong. The evidence is all around us as the Christmas festival approaches its meridian. The store windows and shelves present a dazzling array of suitable gifts of all kinds, with prices as varied as the goods on display. Today's Christmas number will, it is hoped, serve as a useful guide to all our readers in their Christmas shopping chores. We trust, also that its other features will be enjoyed by young and old.

Like music, the spirit of Christmas makes the whole world kin—at least the whole Christian world. In this great community of nations the hallowed anniversary is celebrated in different ways, and in today's issue an attempt has been made to present at first hand some of the Christmas customs and traditions of other countries as well as our own. Helpful communications have been received in this connection from the Belgian Ambassador to Canada, the Ministers of Sweden and Switzerland at Ottawa, the Counsellor at the Netherlands Embassy, the French and United Kingdom Information Offices, and the Secretaries of the Legations of Finland and Yugoslavia. In some cases these good neighbour representatives forwarded specially written articles for our purpose, and we are privileged indeed to share these communications with our readers.

An Indian Gift

An Indian gift, so the story goes, is something that you bestow on someone whose favor you seek today, only to take it away from him tomorrow. The old age pension proposals of the Federal Government are a bit like that. Everybody of 70 or over, says the Federal Government, ought to receive a pension of \$40.00 a month without a means test. At the same time, taxes are to be raised to meet mounting defence costs, and an entirely new tax is to be imposed to pay for the pensions.

Nobody questions for a moment the desirability of providing some measure of security for people who find themselves destitute in their old age. Everyone of 70, or, for that matter, of 65 years, who is suffering or in want for the necessities of life, has a deserving claim for consideration.

The trouble is that the pension scheme proposed by Ottawa is designed to convey the impression that everybody, whether he needs it or not, will benefit from the arrangement. No means test means a cheque of \$40.00 for every Canadian of seventy or over whether he has no income or an adequate income. It sounds nice.

The catch, of course, is that the man who does not need the pension will have it collected back from him in the form of taxes, plus two-way administration costs. Those who do need the pension will get it in debased currency, because the distribution of an additional \$250 million in cash is bound to be inflationary, just as the Baby Bonus was inflationary. Lots of men will pay the proposed special pension tax for years, then die before they reach 70, and have nothing to show for their pains. If they were left free to invest in life insurance what they would be compelled to pay by way of pension tax, at least they could leave their savings to their loved ones.

Feed Value Of Potatoes

A survey of experiments made by state agricultural colleges and elsewhere, which was conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, indicates that the feeding of cull or surplus potatoes to livestock can be profitable for both growers and feeders. This is a good thing to remember at a time when potato prices are ruinously low.

In general, from 400 to 450 pounds of fresh potatoes seem to be equal to 100 pounds of an average grain mixture. Potatoes are about equal to good corn silage, and about one-third as valuable as alfalfa hay. Also, potatoes possess twice as much digestible nutrient as beet tops, or beet pulp.

According to the summary of the U. S. survey made by the North Dakota Extension Service, dairy cows may be safely fed up to 35 pounds of potatoes daily, preferably along with a high-protein, legume roughage, to compensate for the low percentage of protein in the potatoes. For beef cattle, potatoes can replace part of the hay and grain and, beginning with three to four pounds daily, the amount may

be increased to 20 pounds per day. For fattening lambs and wintering ewes, fresh potatoes may be used. Some U. S. commercial feeders claim that if fed to ewes, immediately after lambing, potatoes make the ewes milk more abundantly. For hogs, cooked potatoes make excellent feed, but fed raw, are worth only half to two-thirds as much. It is found that cooked potatoes may replace up to half the grain mixture usually fed to hogs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Notwithstanding all the talk, prophecies, etc., to be or not to be is still the question regarding a floor for potatoes. Nothing definite has been divulged.

With the week before Christmas comes a change from mutual congratulation over the mild season to concern at the possibility of a "green Christmas."

St. James Church choir, city, advertise an unusually attractive programme for their concert tonight; it should draw a large discerning audience.

Farm woodlots need no recommendation so far as benefit to the soil is concerned, and the Rustico demonstration station shows that they also have cash value that is not to be despised.

Foreign Secretary Bevin indicated what may well be the Achilles heel of Soviet solidarity when he pointed out that, "Without using a single fighting man, they are using Chinese manpower to get the United States involved."

If the late arrival of winter can be taken as part of a continuing trend, Island farmers may before long be raising two or more crops per year, with an accompanying jump in land values.

The solid vote of the Soviet bloc against the U. N. Assembly motion to set up a committee to seek cease-fire in Korea shows that, while China is doing the fighting on the spot, the other Soviet satellites are fighting the same battle at Lake Success.

An Australian couple are making a Canadian tour in search of modelling subjects and to "pick up Canadian culture." If they had delayed their project until Parliament sits they would have had it handed to them within the covers of the Royal Commission report.

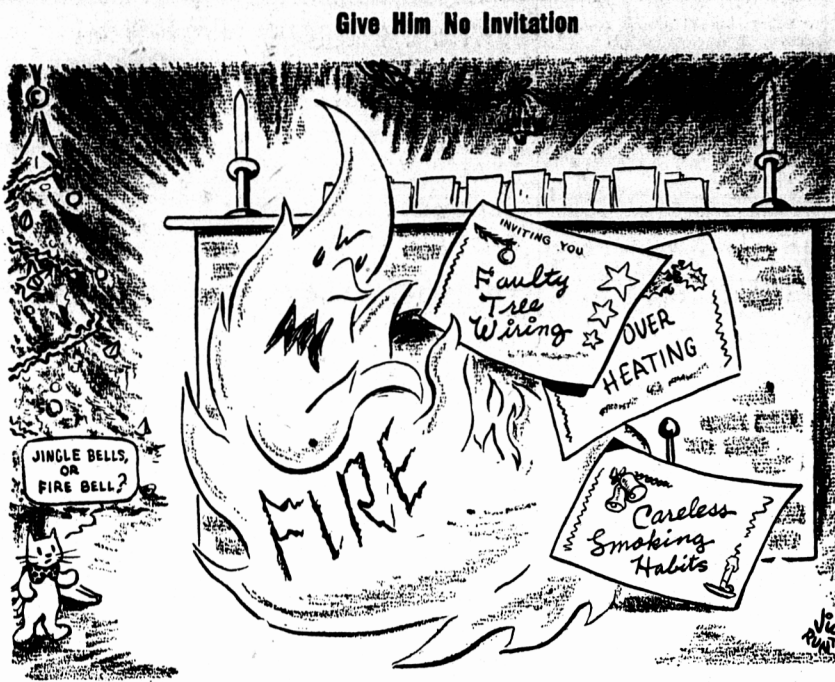
"Get rich quick" exploiters have got short shrift in Bloemfontein, the former capital of the Orange Free State. It took three years, and an expense of a million dollars to secure their punishment but at last three are now in durance vile, with fines in addition, which will go a long way to defray the cost of their prosecution—a case where the punishment fits the crime.

Canada is drinking itself out of debt at the rate of some one million six hundred thousand dollars a day. Fifty per cent of that revenue is returnable to the Federal and Provincial Governments in duties, taxes, licences and other revenue duty. In other words, on every pint of beer, wine or hard liquor the consumer pays half the price to the governments. Here we paid \$560,722 for what we drank, \$280,361 of which went into government exchequers.

It now seems that it is people who think too much who are behind many traffic accidents. An exchange notes that professors "are the worst offenders when it comes to having something on their mind besides, their driving." There may be something to a recently expressed view that high grade morons make the best drivers because they do not get bored at the wheel and start thinking about something worlds away.

It is long ago since G. B. Shaw wrote to the Times, London, that not Germany, not Japan, but Russia and its Communism would be the problem Europe would have ultimately to face. This, too, he wrote before World War II. Russia's economic policy was not Fabianism, which he himself favoured, but a crude system of administration guided by self-interest regardless of the consequences on those governed. This is now being realized as fact.

Charles Wesley, English religious leader, brother of John Wesley, most prolific of English songsters, writing over 6,000 hymns, including "Jesus Lover of My Soul", and "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Educated at Oxford where he was a member of a society derisively called the Holy Club, or Methodists, as all their plans, practices and behaviour were the outcome of previous arrangement and strictly adhered to, he became the poet of the evangelical revival created by John and his society.



PUBLIC FORUM This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

CALENDAR REFORM

Sir, — Christmas, on a Monday this year, will always come on a Monday when the perpetual World Calendar of 12 months and equal quarters is in use.

Harassed storekeepers, tired salespeople, overworked postmen and the people generally can finish work, shopping and gift-buying Saturday evening to enjoy a restful Sunday on which to prepare and give thanks for the Monday observance of the Christmas spirit — Glory to God in the highest and good will toward men.

Christmas has a depth and poignancy of feeling this year, heightened by the realization that there is little peace on earth. Hence we are living in a state of uncertainty, confusion and unrest. We are apprehensive. We have missed the way of peace and harmony.

The Honorable Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his address on October 24th said: "We must not forget that the United Nations Charter sets forth the principles of a new world order. This new world order must, on the other hand, increase the opportunities for peaceful change and progress in all parts of the world."

To this new world order belongs a new time order. The World Calendar, in which all the different time-units in their various functions coordinate and agree perfectly at the end of every quarter seasonal year. Order and harmony prevail in the arrangement of this new time-measure. A change being brought about through peaceful means.

With the United Nations striving for world order in every possible way, we should also work for the adoption of the World Calendar — a new world order of harmony and stability in our instrument of time that will contribute to greater understanding, cooperation and unity.

Perpetual Christmas Mondays may be a beginning, a welcome, long-desired harbinger of more peaceful days ahead and the angel's song of "peace on earth" come nearer to reality.

Wishing you a holiday season of spiritual blessings, and that with the spirit of God in our hearts all will be well.

I am, Sir, etc., ELIZABETH ACHELLES The World Calendar Association, Inc. New York City.

The Poet's Corner

THE HOUSE OF CHRISTMAS The Child in a foul stable. Where the beasts feed and foam. Only where He was homeless Are you and I at home; We have hands that fashion and heads that know, But our hearts we lost—how long ago!— In a place no chart nor ship can show Under the sky's dome. This world is wild as an old wives' tale, And strange the plain things are. The earth is enough and the air is enough For our wonder and our war; But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings And our peace is put in impossible things. Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings Round an incredible star. To an open house in the evening Home shall men come. To an older place than Eden And a taller town than Rome. To the end of the way of the wandering star. To the things that cannot be but that are, To the place where God was homeless And all men are at home. —G. K. Chesterton.

ROSHAM, Wiltshire, England — (GP) — Police Inspector Stanley Jones is proud of his collection of 300 distinctive police badges, garnered in a long anti-crime career.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) GOVERNOR'S LEEVE "On Friday last, His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell held his first levee at Government House, which was more numerous attended than on any former occasion we ever recollect to have witnessed. His Excellency was dressed in his official costume as Lieutenant Governor, and appeared in perfect good health.

"The following were admitted to the privilege of the entree: Hon. E. J. Jarvis, Chief Justice; Hon. R. Hodgson, P. C. L.; Lt. Colonel Lane; Hon. T. H. Haviland, C. S.; G. R. Goodman, C. H. M. C.; Hon. J. S. MacDonald; Hon. Charles Hensley; Hon. George Coles, Hon. J. M. Holl; Members of the Executive Council; Hon. Joseph Pope, Speaker of the House of Assembly; Capt. Bayfield, R. N.; Rev. L. C. Jenkins, D. C. L.

"After which the doors of the Anti-Chamber were thrown open and Major J. Spencer Smith, Aide-de-Camp, announced individually the following gentlemen: "Hon. G. Dalrymple, Hon. J. H. Peters, S. G.; Hon. Charles Young, Q. C.; Hon. Stephen Rice, Hon. William Swaby, Hon. George Birnie, Capt. Bayfield, R. N.; Dr. Kelby, R. N.; Mr. Forbes, R. N.; Mr. Desbrisay, E. N.; Capt. Evans, Lieut. Campbell, R. W. F.; Mr. Nash, D. O. S.; Mr. Lane, D. A. C. G.; Major Peter MacGowan, S. A.; Rev. David Fitzgerald, Rev. Mr. Rhoad, Edward Palmer, M. P. P.; J. H. Conroy, M. P. P.; J. H. Longworth, M. P. P.; T. H. Haviland, M. P. P.; Mr. Sheriff Stewart; Daniel Hodgson, C. C.; George Wright, S. G.; Thomas Owen, D. P. M. G.; William Cundall, J. P.; J. D. Haszard, Q. P.; J. P. Daniel Erenan, J. P.; T. B. Tremaine, J. P.; Theo. Desbrisay, J. P.; John Morris, J. P.; Dennis Reddin, J. P.; J. D. MacDonnell, C. E.; William Forgan, B. L.; Henry Palmer, B. L.; Major Robinson, Major Rankin, Capt. Mabey, Lieut. Gates, Lt. Col. Stewart, Major Beete, Capt. Burns, Dr. Mackieson, Dr. Hobkirk, Dr. Tremain, Messrs. Samuel Nealon, Cavie Richardson, J. S. Dealy, C. Dempsey, David Wilson, John Boyver, William Stewart, Joseph MacDonald, H. D. Mopeth, Thomas Pethick, Robert Hutchinson, L. W. Gall, W. G. T. Jarvis, J. Arbutuckle, R. A. Fellowes, W. C. Hodgson,

"The Minister's ideas about the insignia of social distinction are somewhat naive. Some of the "chaps with caps" that I have run across have turned out to be belted eazels, millionaires, or Cabinet Ministers, and the "fellows with the rolled-up umbrellas" are going to live next door to "the chaps with the caps."

However, if Mr. Bevan wants to see the whole gamut of society in one place of flats or in one colony of "prefabs," we must give him the credit of being inspired by the highest ideals of brotherhood. There's no reason why the baronet and the bootmaker shouldn't be perfectly good neighbours. For that matter, would it not be a good thing if our politicians got to know each other better by sharing the same roof-tree? Just imagine, for instance, if Mr. Bevan and Mr. Churchill were neighbours... Yes, just imagine!

Far from being down and out, Britain is on the up-and-up. Every day sees an increase in the price of something or other.

The price of petrol goes up, so Israel Fellowes, W. H. Pope, C. W. Deblols, R. B. Stewart, James Coles, Henry Haszard, Benj. E. Wright, George T. Haszard, James Desbrisay, W. H. Lobban, James Pope, Robert Haviland, C. H. Smith, George Owen, John Davis, Jr., W. S. Longworth, W. K. Watson, James Moore."

—The Islander, Dec. 24, 1947.

Advertisement for Stetson hats. Includes text: 'How to give HIM a STETSON FOR CHRISTMAS', 'It's as simple as A B C', and 'HENDERSON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE'. Features an illustration of a man in a suit and a Stetson hat.

I Was Just Thinking

(Sandy Todd in Weekly Scotsman) A speech he made at Shoreditch the other day gives us a new insight into the character of Mr. Aneurin Bevan. It seems that the Minister of Health is what is popularly known as a "good mixer," and he wants to see the population more thoroughly mixed than it is just now. No more West Ends and East Ends for Mr. Bevan.

"In making our new housing estates," he said, "we must try to mix up the population as much as possible, because it is undesirable that people of different income groups should be living in different localities. They get wrong ideas about each other."

Once Mr. Bevan has got the population thoroughly "mixed up" — that phrase, by the way, may act as a sort of political boomerang—the "fellows with the rolled-up umbrellas" are going to live next door to "the chaps with the caps."

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Notes By The Way. Massachusetts is embarking on a new experiment in social legislation by forbidding discrimination against workers in the 45 to 65 age group. While the policy of refusing to hire workers solely because of their age is socially wasteful and should be discouraged, we doubt the efficacy of attempts at legislative enforcement of this sort of nondiscriminatory policy. For if employers do not choose to hire older workers, they can usually find reason other than age for their rejection. — Washington Post.

The Age-Old Story. Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, and yourselves likewise with the same mind; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he had no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

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