

Great Hopes

Evidently, the scientists have great hopes for the International Geophysical Year which begins this July 1st. According to Dr. Lloyd Viel Berkner, President of the International Council of Scientific Unions, "every tool of modern science in 50 nations will be brought to bear on this extraordinary study of the earth." Some of the proposed activities as described by Dr. Berkner are: studies in the earth's atmosphere, magnetic field, surface and interior; exploration in cosmic ray particles and other forms of matter and energy that bombard the planet from outer space. The earth's heat balance will be measured and thus, for the first time, "will give the variations of the total energy that the earth absorbs from the sun." All this, Dr. Berkner believes, will have "important effects on climate and weather, and from the knowledge obtained man will be in a better position to use and control the phenomena of the earth for his benefit."

It is all very thrilling to the scientists, no doubt; and in course of time it may be of benefit to mankind in general, although it would be easy to argue to the contrary, since, while knowledge is power, it is not always benevolent power. If, in the technical processes of exploration and study something could be learned about how to strengthen man's social and moral sense in the environment with which he is fairly familiar—to say nothing of the further complexities which will result from new knowledge—it would be of much more benefit still. But that, of course, is another problem, a very old one, and one which is outside the scope of the geophysicists.

Alberta Oil For Britain?

Oil shortages caused by the closure of the Suez Canal and the Middle East pipelines have focussed public attention on the problems of oil supply. World demand for oil is expected to increase rapidly and vast capital expenditure in oil transport will be necessary. Such expenditure may include new pipelines and some widening and deepening of the Suez Canal. It will certainly include the building of many new tankers and especially very large tankers or super-tankers, and of port facilities necessary to their operation.

According to the Manchester Guardian, England, British oil interests are looking for Canadian supplies. Alberta oil, it is said, would be readily available via pipeline to the Atlantic and by tanker to Britain. "The total cost incurred in carrying oil from Alberta to Europe would be no more than that of carrying oil from the Persian Gulf via the Cape of Good Hope."

Over the next 20 years the demand for oil is expected at least to double, while the ton mileage of oil carried by sea is likely to grow more rapidly. The largest proven reserves of oil are in the Middle East and it is expected that Middle East oil will have to supply a wider area, and even to fill a growing gap between demand and supply in the Western Hemisphere.

The very large tanker is the cheapest way of carrying oil for long distances, as neither weight of steel, size of crew nor fuel consumption are increased proportionately with size. The costs per ton mile of a tanker that can carry 85,000 tons are likely to be about half those of a 19,000 tonner. Until recently many shipowners did not want to operate tankers too big to pass fully loaded through the Suez Canal, whose use halved the journey from the Middle East to Europe. This set an upper limit of about 35,000 tons capacity. In the past few years, however, orders for much bigger tankers have been placed, including three of over 100,000 tons.

The latest development is based partly on proof of the lower costs of large tankers and partly on the realization that only a fifth of world

oil movements by sea pass through the Canal and that this proportion is likely to decrease as more use is made of pipelines and the demand for oil becomes larger and more widely distributed. Moreover, even from the Persian Gulf to Europe, the economies of super-tankers and the savings of canal dues will go a long way to pay for the longer journey via the Cape. All these considerations are independent of questions of political or strategic advantage of minimizing dependence on the Canal.

A Bold View

There is probably not a government leader or high military official anywhere in the Western world who does not believe that the aim of the Soviet Union is the conquest of the world. That was Lenin's announced objective, and he made no bones about it. It was Stalin's, too. The present chief spokesman of Communism, Nikita Khrushchev, has not been quite as frank as his predecessors; but, by his policies if not by his words, he has left no doubt in anyone's mind that when "co-existence" has served its political purpose, it will be replaced by war at a time of the Soviet Union's own choosing.

But, although this aim of world conquest is well known in the Western world, its implications are kept hidden as much as possible in political and military planning; for the very laudable reason that the aim can be frustrated only by an all-out attack on the Soviet Union, something which, in the opinion of most military authorities, would probably destroy not only the Soviet Union but most of the rest of the world as well. At least one eminent military strategist thinks this policy is wrong and can only result in war later on when the Soviet Union will be in a position to carry out its avowed aim. He is General George C. Kenny, retired, of the United States Air Force, who played a distinguished role in the Pacific in the Second World War. Speaking before the National Military-Industrial Conference a few days ago, Gen. Kenny suggested that the United Nations send an ultimatum to the Soviet Union "demanding immediate demobilization of all military forces and making clear that non-compliance would bring total destruction by combined U.N. forces" which, for all practical purposes of course, would mean the forces of the United States and other Western Powers.

General Kenny thinks that this could be done now without risking universal catastrophe but that, if it is put off, this will not be possible. He thinks, too, that the Soviets would give in to the demand, once they knew that the West meant business, rather than risk "total destruction." It is a bold view certainly; and it is just as certain that the plan will never be put into effect. The fact, however, that it is held by such a distinguished and responsible soldier is of some significance, since it is unlikely that he is alone in thinking that way.

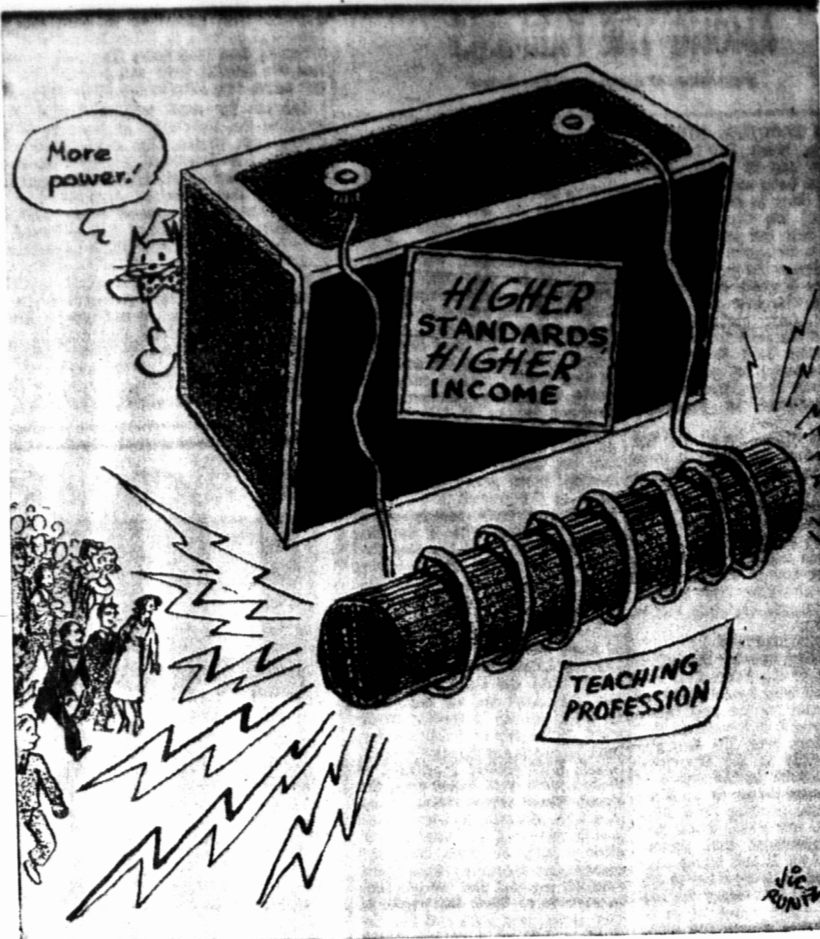
EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada has at least one distinction to its account. It is the only country in the world where fiscal surpluses are a source of embarrassment to Government officials.

The originator of the phrase "bringing down the Budget" must have been either a man with a fine sense of humour or a cantankerous old boy who delighted in raising false hopes in the breasts of taxpayers.

By learning Braille, blind people can read; but if more people who can see knew Braille they could correspond directly with sightless friends. With this aim in view, an Israeli teacher of the blind has published a manual in Hebrew for teaching Braille to the sighted.

It is worth noting that one of the first public statements of the Prime Minister of Ghana was a tribute to the former Imperial Power. Said Mr. Nkrumah: "Instead of that feeling of bitterness which is often born of colonial struggle, we enter on independence in association with Great Britain and with good relations unimpaired." Coming from a man who spent some time in prison as a political agitator, these words show a magnanimity which is bound to contribute to the strength of the new nation.



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of general interest. The University of Toronto endorses the opinion of correspondents.

RURAL SCHOOL DILEMMA

Sir,—Much has been said and written in recent days relative to the educational problems and "crisis" in this Province. Various aspects of our educational system have been discussed and opinions given. The Select Standing Committee on Education is reported to be visiting schools in the urban areas, investigating their problems, facilities, staff, etc. To date, there has been relatively little reference to the rural school and its problems, facilities, and staff, other than it has been repeatedly stated that Grades IX and X should be taken from the rural schools, especially the one-room schools which are predominant in the province—and enrolled in our more modern, centrally located high schools.

Are the rural areas, of primary importance to the economy of our Province and the character and quality of its citizens, again to receive secondary consideration in this "crisis"?

That the transfer of Grades IX and X to high school would be a long step in the right direction is generally conceded. But how is this transfer to be accomplished with our present state of highway facilities? As a member of our Government is reported to have stated in the House recently "it was an impossibility for the Department of Highways to keep the roads open at all times." He was speaking at the time of the subject of Education, and his statement may be considered as factual. Yet one may well contend that much could be done to alleviate this vexing situation, whereas little or nothing has been or is being done in this direction.

Does our Department of Highways consider that it has any responsibility or obligation in this problem? Does it cooperate and coordinate with our Department of Education as fully and completely as it might? Should not the Department of Highways work in close liaison with the Department of Education in establishing its policy and plans for highway projects and road-surfacing programs, so that routes will follow, in so far as it is feasible and otherwise practical, a course which will accommodate as many of our rural schools as possible? Could not a similar policy be applied with equally beneficial effect in regard to winter maintenance?

Impractical someone may say. Greater mileage might be involved; cost of construction and maintenance would be increased; it would be economically unsound! Really, now, let us reconsider our sense of values. As one recent correspondent in your valued columns has stated in reference to education, "Let us put first things first." On the basis of a proper re-assessment, it will be recognized that such a policy is not only well justified, but is an essential component to the overall effort presently being put forth to improve our system of education.

I am, Sir, etc.,
 Kensington, R.R. "AB EXTRA"

LIQUOR SALES CONDEMNED

Sir,—It appears lamentable to me that in order to court the friendship and woo the dollars of friends and neighbors from away, Prince Edward Island must resort to the sales of alcoholic beverages. I am sure that I have read also the several letters which have appeared in the Public Forum supporting the recommendation of Mr. MacIsaac, and I feel Sir, that these too are weak and lamentable. Probably Ministers of the Gospel are in a better position to judge in regard to a move of this nature, in that usually the salvaging of the large congregation of human derelicts falls ultimately into their hands, that is, before they reach the places where only mental institutions, hospitals, prisons, or other forms of asylums become their residence. It has been suggested that through the provision of liquors in the summer hotels that embarrassing situations for the tourists

OTTAWA REPORT

Geared To Purchasing Power

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: There was one bold provision in Mr. Walter Harris' 1957 budget which may have far-reaching effects on our future economic background.

This is the provision to enable members of the professions and other self-employed persons to set up retirement pensions for themselves, and to enjoy the same tax benefits thereon as can contributors to approved pensions plans. As a result of this step, retirement pensions may in large measure be linked to the purchasing power of the dollar, rather than be based contractually on that unit of currency.

Fluctuating but continuous inflation has reduced the purchasing power of the 1939 dollar to a mere 53 cents today. The rate of inflation has been even worse over the shorter period of the post-war years. From 1945 to 1951, prices rose at an average compound rate of seven and one half per cent per year.

If this rate of inflation were to be continued, it would entirely destroy the old age security plans of every Canadian who is saving today. A continuation of that inflation would boost prices that when today's 25 year old retiree, he will find that a loaf of bread will cost him \$2.75, a pack of cigarettes \$7.25, a pound of coffee \$18, a low room bungalow \$275,000.

HITS LIFE INSURANCE

This trend has made many Canadians acutely conscious of the disadvantage of providing for themselves. Interestingly enough, it appears to me that people who have become addicted to alcohol to the extent where they must have it, despite the where-to-find-it, and the how-with-all-to-get-it, have already lost much of the timidity which marked their earlier stage of the drinking habit. Where there is no conscience there is no embarrassment; and where there is a conscience an aid such as inaccessibility proves a blessing rather than a blight.

We are doing our tourist friends no kindness by making liquor more available to them than what it already is. We are doing our Island Province no kindness by adopting Mr. MacIsaac's request for this extra act of so-called "brotherliness." Recently I wrote an article for the Forum in respect to a recent book published, written by Mr. Upton Sinclair. I challenged and invited my friends to read this extremely fine piece of work. Mr. Sinclair, in it, tells the story of despair brought upon drinking people with whom he had been acquainted, two score of whom have now gone to their doom, eleven as suicide victims.

My own files might prove an interesting study to proponents of the new doctrine of "Make it easy for the drinker", for I am sure that I could produce for you information at least 60 pledges written for, and signed by victims of this extremely fine piece of work. I am sure that you are aware of the story of despair brought upon drinking people with whom he had been acquainted, two score of whom have now gone to their doom, eleven as suicide victims. My own files might prove an interesting study to proponents of the new doctrine of "Make it easy for the drinker", for I am sure that I could produce for you information at least 60 pledges written for, and signed by victims of this extremely fine piece of work. I am sure that you are aware of the story of despair brought upon drinking people with whom he had been acquainted, two score of whom have now gone to their doom, eleven as suicide victims.

Then please Sir, let me change my argument if I may, to this matter of our tourist neighbors again. In the Scriptures of God, Habakkuk 2:15 "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth his bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on his nakedness." From this I would gather that a very loud and extended cup of Fury itself. The verse itself is prefaced by a "WOE." I am so coward, but I assure you that I should not wish to be in the shoes of those who are urging this innovation, at the Last Day. A further interesting verse of

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT FEES

Let's talk about money. You'd think just about every body would be happy to discuss a subject such as this. But you'd be surprised at how many people actually fear to bring up the matter with their doctors.

No matter what you think, the simple fact is that doctors' fees haven't gone up as far, or as fast, as your other family expenses.

Medical costs. You spend about the same proportion of your budget on medical costs as your parents did 20 years ago. That's about four cents out of every dollar.

Since wages have gone up at a much faster clip than medical costs, it means you have to put in less work to pay for the same amount of medical care.

Today, more than ever before, the bill your doctor sends you represents one of the really big bargains of your life. And you are entitled to know just about how much that bill will be when you seek medical help.

While your doctor can't always tell you in advance precisely how much a course of treatment or an operation is going to cost, he often can give you a pretty good idea.

Yet most patients become tongue-tied when it comes to asking their doctor about how much treatment will cost and how the payment is to be made. They are able to talk freely about some of their most intimate problems, but not about money.

RESPECT FOR DOCTOR Many undoubtedly refrain from bringing up the subject of money out of respect for their doctor. I guess they think it might be unbecoming for him to talk about money. But this isn't so believe me.

In fact, thousands of doctors have a plaque in their offices which reads:

"To all my patients—I invite you to discuss frankly with me any questions regarding my services or fees. The best medical service is based on friendly mutual understanding between doctor and patient."

They really mean it, too.

QUESTION AND ANSWER B. D.: My 4-year-old son's teeth have become partly covered by his gums. This condition is a recent development. What is the cause?

Answer: The condition which you describe is not an unusual one. It may be due to overstimulation of the gums from some source. Immediate examination by the dentist is advisable.

The Age Old Story

He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.



SIGHT ON A GOLDEN BIRD

And yet look up for any moment now.

The golden bird, soft breast against the sky, Completes his circle in the upper sphere. And having missed the first swift arcs, the eye Trails like a weight across white cloud and space. Its boxed-in categories, measures scales

That this quick soundless flight shall get a place Among the known before the flight is done.

That wordy recognition shall be won.

Single and whole as a feather is the bird, Soft breast, curved beak and talon once defined, Untangled in the webs of choice and gone.

Having no wordy lengths with which to bind, Having no rule with which to measure by, The eye blinks once, feels loss, for all it sees.

And denies the golden bird out of the sky. —Marion M. Madesen, in the New York Herald-Tribune.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(March 22, 1932)

The Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation opened their annual convention yesterday morning, with the President, Mr. Russell Leard in the chair. The activities of the year were reviewed by the President and the address which the Federation had made during the year.

Cancellation of the winter air mail service between the mainland and Prince Edward Island which has been in operation for the last three months, is scheduled for March 31, according to an announcement made yesterday by Mr. H. B. Peck, Superintendent, St. John Postal District.

TEN YEARS AGO

(March 22, 1947)

Terms of the new Tax Agreement negotiated between P.E.I. and the Dominion Government, provide for a guaranteed minimum of \$2,000,000 annually with the understanding that this amount was to be geared to the gross national production. The estimated overall amount for the coming year will be \$2,285,000.

Messrs. E. Richardson and R. B. McKibbin, secretary and deputy chief respectively of the security department, Bank of Canada, Ottawa, were in the city yesterday. The purpose of their visit was to study the security and bond situation in Charlottetown with reference to the business of the local branch of the Bank of Canada.

NOTES BY THE WAY

City commissioners are now pondering a plan to sell 10,000 birch trees at cost to residents in a very commendable effort to turn Calgary's treeless and pole-ridden districts into areas which could become shady, cool and inviting. —Calgary Herald

A Montana senate bill to make ponderosa pine the state's official tree was killed the other day when somebody happened to remember that the ponderosa pine had been the state's official tree since 1948. But before you crack a superior smile at the Montanans, please name the official flower of Nova Scotia. —Cape Breton Post

Last news out of the legislature last week was that MLAs were going to vote themselves a pay increase — from \$3,600 to \$5,000. First news out of the legislature this week was that the private bills committee was supposed to open its first sitting at 10 a.m. Monday but had to adjourn for lack of a quorum. —Vancouver Province

Some towns and cities in the United States are buying old steam locomotives as museum pieces. So that younger generation can see the engines that pulled the trains until recent years. Locomotives sell for around \$6,000. When new they cost the railroads around \$175,000. Of course the cost has been amortized. It's a toss up whether to sell the old engines for scrap or for show. —Windsor Star

Recently a dozen students at the University of Wisconsin worked in shifts and relays to play every one of Haydn's 33 string quartets without a break. They finished their self-assigned task in 43 hours and seemed well pleased with themselves. One wonders why. Works of art deserve some thing better than a breakneck tour. Neither a knowledge nor a love of Shakespeare would be cultivated by all the plays, poems and sonnets in a sitting, with a stop watch in hand. —Baltimore Sun

If at first you don't succeed, you have plenty of company. —Mississippi Spectator.

Small dogs, according to a Dallas postal supervisor, have the worst bite. So do small men, regardless of their size! —Cleveland Plain Dealer

Odd, isn't it, that the man who can't fix a new washer on a tap thinks he has the technical ability to drive a car at 80 mph? —Hamilton Spectator

Used to be in the old days that the men "wore the pants." But since the emancipation of woman he's lucky to have a pair. She puts 'em on to go curling. —Ottawa Citizen

The idea of Quebec province being visible from Cape Breton Island seems fantastic until one is told that in clear weather the Magdalen Islands have been seen from high points of the Cabot Trail overlooking the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Magdalen Islands belong to Quebec. —Cape Breton Post

Canada postmen are not expected to use the tactics of the postmen in Mainz, Japan, in warding off the attentions of vicious dogs. Seems that these Japanese postmen carry packages of dried fish as well as mail bags. The fish is tossed over fences to bribe the dogs. The Japs say it works. It also would work if the disagreeable owners of vicious dogs would chain the beasts to their kennels. —Cape Breton Post

A witty if rueful comment on the cost of honors was made by a former marquis of Northampton when he was made a knight of the garter. On being told by the garter king at arms that he would have to pay a fee of £400, he said in his letter, enclosing a check for this amount, that at first he feared there had been some mistake and that he had been appointed in error to the order of the golden fleece. —Manchester Guardian

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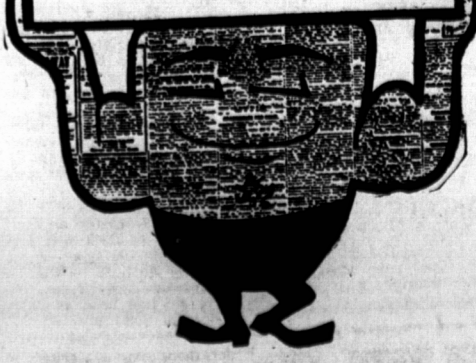


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