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While Millions Starve

We were struck by a statement attributed the other day to Agriculture Minister Harkness at Ottawa. This was that the world is facing prospects of large surpluses in grain and dairy products, and that Canada cannot give away certain items, such as dry skim milk, let alone sell them.

We thought of Mr. Harkness' words in the light of a statement made last week in Paris by Director General B.R. Sen of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Half the world's inhabitants, said Mr. Sen, are today not sure of getting enough to eat.

To say that out of the abundance which Providence has blessed us we "cannot" give away food to these starving millions of human beings, is, on the face of it, a monstrous lie. We know the economists' answer—it would disrupt our economic system and that of other nations with bulging granaries and warehouses, all of whom are trying to dispose profitably of their food surpluses.

Surely we have higher obligations to those in need than to our own mandated laws of economy! The responsibility lies heavy upon us of changing our system in this case, before it rots us morally and spiritually. If we cannot give of our abundance because of the cost to ourselves and our overfed neighbors—if that is to be our final answer, the best that we and our elected leaders can do in this age of progress and enlightenment—then let us confess our enslavement to an inhuman creed, and stop mouthing the Beatitudes in our pharisaical prayers.

"Good Old Days"

The year 1872 definitely belongs to the "good old days". Whether clerks and other "white collar" workers of the time thought that they were living in the best of days is, of course, another matter. Following is a list of regulations enforced by a carriage manufacturer in New York and reprinted a short time ago by the Esso Manhattan, a trade periodical:

- (1) Office employees each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks; (2) Each clerk will bring in a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's business; (3) Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to your individual taste; (4) Men employees will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly; (5) After 13 hours of labour in the office, the employees should spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books; (6) Every employee should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum for his benefit during his declining years, so that he will not become a burden on society; (7) Any employee who smokes Spanish cigars, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or pub-

lic halls, or gets snared in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty; (8) The employee who performs his labours faithfully and without fault for 5 years will be given an increase of 5 cents a day in his pay, providing profits from the business permit.

We thought perhaps that office workers who complain about having 'so much to do and about the strictness of "the boss" might find in those regulations of 86 years ago a reminder that their lot could at least be worse.

A Fine Centre

Ontario certainly looks after injured and disabled workmen. A 65-acre rehabilitation centre just outside Toronto holds 500 patients. With a staff of 300 it allows 400 square feet a person. It is the biggest of its kind on the North American Continent.

The Centre was built by the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board. Workmen continue to receive 75 per cent of their former wages while they receive free treatment. In 8 of 10 cases patients are returned to gainful employment. The Centre costs \$175,000 a month to operate. It includes 6 occupational therapy rooms, an orthopedic swimming pool, 175-bed hospital, nurses' residence, 60 treatment tables for physical therapists, gymnasiums, clinical dormitories holding 325 beds and an exercise room.

There are 11 doctors, 25 nurses, 32 occupational therapists, 11 remedial gymnasts and 21 therapists. "In some cases," says Administrator William Kerr, "a man leaves here to make more money than before he came, but we still pay his pension."

1,700,000 workers are covered by the Provincial plan of assessing employers for disability pensions and accident benefits.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A public health note says that "one way to get a small child to wash his face and hands is to provide a small washcloth for the purpose." Yes, that seems reasonable. Another way, not infrequently, is to tell him not to do it.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has developed an electronic computer with a vocabulary of 60,000 words. This is supposed to be an improvement on Sir Winston Churchill's vocabulary by as many as 10,000 words. We still prefer Sir Winston's eloquence to that of the computer, however.

A manufacturing concern in San Gabriel, Calif. employs only men past 40 years old. The head of the firm says that such men are "more inclined to become permanent employees, require less supervision and have lived long enough to know that everyone must work hard to make a living."

A Belgian Dominican priest, the Rev. Dominique Georges Pire, has won this year's Nobel Peace Prize. The award was given for his work with refugees. He calls his organization "Europe of the Heart". Perhaps the solution to refugee problems lies in such a humanitarian program rather than in political formulas.

There is to be no federal aid for small businesses, according to James A. Roberts, Associate Deputy Trade Minister. We may be mistaken in this; but we seem to recall that aid for small businesses was suggested, if not actually promised, by Conservative spokesmen in the last two election campaigns.

The Federal Government is to be commended for insisting that Canada be given a share in production related to new joint air defence installations in the north. Equipment that can be made in this country should not be ordered from American firms, especially that part of it that is paid for by the Canadian Government.

Nova Scotia Health Minister Donahoe says that the Hospital Insurance Plan which will go into effect in his Province early next year is not an "ivory tower" operation. Our understanding is that it is a well considered and well devised program. The sales tax, which will go a long way towards paying for it, appears reasonable. Most essential items are exempt from the tax; and, certainly, no one will object to a tax on luxuries to help finance such a valuable program.



OTTAWA REPORT

Rifts Within The Lute

By Patrick Nicholson

The next session of Parliament is likely to open in mid-January. Approximately about one month later, an unexpected Valentine may be presented to an astonished Cabinet by a large group of infuriated back-bench Conservative M.P.s. By then, the convalescing Members will have given their determination to blow their patient topsy — of course in party secrecy behind the closed doors of caucus.

Through the combination of its inexperience, honesty and unquestioning gullibility, the Cabinet has been backed to the edge of a precipice.

During and ever since the two elections, Conservative good intentions have been outlined from the hustings, and Conservative good promises have been made in committee rooms. But in spite of its record Parliamentary majority, the new Government has so far been unable either to translate those good intentions into action, or to take the political plums away from their Liberal foes and give them to their own hungry supporters.

Messrs. Delay, Linger and Wait can be seen across the land more often even than the Honourables Diefenbaker, Hees and Fairclough — and that is saying plenty. But even more than in the broad national field, an intangible obstructionism is evident at the constituency level, where it adversely affects the welfare of the voters and the weal of the party faithful.

"It's better to be a Grit around Ottawa than a Government supporter," protested one M.P. who was getting the usual Tory run-around from civil servants here last week.

"Liberals are still getting all the appointments and all the contracts in my constituency," complained another M.P. "Pickensill seems to be the most powerful person with the civil servants," chimed in a third.

"All the appointments in my area are still influenced by the defeated Liberal Cabinet Minister," asserted a fourth visiting M.P., from a province without a single Liberal in the House of Commons.

Ottawa of course is the last Liberal stronghold on Canada's electoral map, and the significance of this may have been overlooked by Conservatives. Three constituencies in Ottawa, and two more in French-Canadian Hull just across the Ottawa River, contain the homes of nearly all this Capital's civil servants; they all sent Liberals to Parliament, and have for 30 years past or more.

Perhaps 90 per cent of our civil servants here were recruited during the Liberal 22 years. Many entrants at higher levels were hand-picked by the Liberals and cultivated to be friendly to that party. At lower echelons, appointments were often made on the understanding that a job costs a vote.

Yet in spite of this, the new Conservative Government has always taken the high moral stand of "no firing on political grounds" and "no contracts without tenders." Ottawa Run-Around Cabinet, all notices to the Council Chamber, is being bamboozled by some powerful "you-can't-do-that" civil servants. The many case histories reported here from all across the country add up to deliberate sabotage of Conservative policies and deliberate obstructionism to Conservative intentions by some senior civil servants; these feel protected by the "no firing" policy no matter what they do or don't do, and they are wholeheartedly working for the Government's defeat at the polls as soon as possible.

Argentine's Bitter Harvest

By David Rowntree Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Argentine government is reaping a bitter harvest from the 10-year dictatorship of Juan Peron. One of the things Peron tried to do between 1946 and 1955 was to convert Argentina from a predominantly agricultural country to one less dependent on the outside world for industrial goods. He didn't worry if some commodities could be better and more cheaply obtained abroad.

Following the war and during the Korean struggle, nations that depend for their economic livelihood on exporting basic commodities to the countries with big industries and populations enjoyed prosperity. Prices were high for Argentina's principal exports—meat, wheat and other cereals, wool and forest products. But in the last five years or so, prices of these goods have been falling.

In his heyday, Peron could continue his schemes for industrialization without entirely wrecking the economy. By the time he was unseated in the 1955 revolution, overseas debts and inflation were soaring; the great meat industry, which he had nationalized, was in trouble; and some industrial schemes had become expensive white elephants.

The men who took over the government also found that Peron had siphoned off a fortune for himself in living the high life of a dictator and in putting millions into bank accounts overseas. The action was approved by the

the workings of this situation much more clearly than the Cabinet Ministers in its tools here. They will stir up the ruckus when they come back to Ottawa, hoping that, before it is too late, a few of the Liberal trouble-makers on the public payroll will be packed off to appropriate jobs in faraway Outer Mongolia. Such exemplary discipline of the ringleaders should make rebels in the rank and file work as they ought—as servants of the government elected to power, not as lackies of the political party which Canadian voters rejected in our history's most decisive defeat.

Check Socks As Well As Shoes

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. WHAT is the only article of clothing that cannot be laundered and cleaned? Your shoes, of course. This very fact should make it obvious that shoes, and with them socks, play an all-important role in keeping your feet healthy.

Many foot troubles, in fact, aren't caused by shoes, but by poorly fitting and improper socks. Parents generally insist that their children must fit properly. But they aren't nearly so concerned about the fit of the socks which actually encase the feet they want to protect.

To eliminate pressure on children's toes caused by tight socks, make sure that those you buy for your youngster are one-half inch longer than his longest toe.

The socks should be capable of keeping the feet dry under conditions of cold, heat, dampness and perspiration induced by the extreme activity of children.

Check three points: They should be made of a yarn that has the three-fold capacity of high absorbency, adequate porosity to permit air to circulate around the feet for evaporation of perspiration, and a wicking ability to conduct perspiration to other portions of the sock. This latter point will aid evaporation by a more even distribution of moisture.

Bulky socks generally absorb moisture pretty well, but they tend to slow evaporation to a considerable extent. Besides, bulky socks are apt to produce irritations, especially when tight-fitting shoes are worn. And these irritations frequently result in corns, calluses, or blisters.

Shoes and socks of growing children should be examined frequently to make sure that the youngsters haven't outgrown them.

Even around the house I advise against permitting children to go barefoot. Feet aren't fully developed until the age of 18. All during the time they are growing and developing they need the support that shoes—properly fitted shoes—provide. And they need the protection against bacteria, fungus and perspiration that socks can provide.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS A.S.: Does aspirin lose any of its value after a long period of time when it is not kept airtight? Answer: As a rule, aspirin will not lose any of its value if it is kept tightly stoppered.

MAXIMS

Whether a man lives or dies in vain can be measured only by the way he faces his own problems, by the success or failure of the inner conflict within his own soul. And of this no one may 'know save God.

Chamber of Deputies and, informed sources in Buenos Aires say, the armed forces. These sources say a condition of the military leaders' support is that the president make some cabinet changes, begin a strict economy drive to hold down living costs, and curb the power of the unions, many of them still controlled by men friendly to Peron.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Some birds are useful—like the dove which brings peace and the stork which provides tax deductions.—Charlton News

You should jot down the things which make an indelible mark on your mind, so you won't forget them.—Brandon Sun

A temperature of 135.4 degrees below zero Fahrenheit has been recorded at a height of 13 miles above the South Pole. This is believed to be a world record. The information will be bound to hurt the local pride of such famed communities as White River, Ont., and Snag, Yukon, which are hardly come within halfway of that mark.—Ottawa Citizen

Californians have the luck to inhabit the best of all possible states. They came here by the millions and created, hardly knowing what they were doing, a living design that is unequalled except in the paper utopias. The door do not suffer the traditional miseries and the rich dare not be arrogant. Between them are the vast middle classes who work for the means to do as they please. Nowhere in the world can so many people pursue happiness without getting in each other's way.—Los Angeles Times

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Nov. 14, 1933)

Pilot H.O. Madden, of the Royal Canadian Air Force Reserve at New Glasgow, N.S., accompanied by Reg MacDonald, pupil, brought his aeroplane to Montague on Remembrance Day. Many passengers were taken up and were delighted with the view of Montague under a covering of snow. Pilot Madden and Mr. MacDonald left for New Glasgow on Monday evening.

Kenneth Clements, three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. P.K. Clements, Montague, escaped serious injury Saturday afternoon when he tumbled out of his father's car while it was proceeding in the paved street at Montague. He had managed to open the door while his father was driving and fell to the pavement, escaping with bruises about the face and neck.

TEN YEARS AGO (Nov. 14, 1948)

The Canadian Red Cross free blood transfusion service will be started in Prince Edward Island as soon as the hospital contracts are completed within a week or so, stated Dr. W.S. Stanbury, assistant commissioner of the Red Cross in an interview yesterday. The main depot in Halifax will serve all three depots in the Maritimes, he said.

Plans have been finally approved by the Federal Public Works Department for the erection of a \$1,000,000 federal building in Charlottetown. The site for the building is 315 feet long and 175 feet wide and will occupy the block bounded by Queen, Richmond, Pownall and Sydney streets.

Some parents are glad when college students run short of money.—London Free Press

The chief of Denmark's traffic police division has been arrested for speeding. He complained the arresting officers on their efficiency.—Edmonton Journal

Germans drink the most beer! They believed they did but West Germany is dismayed to find Belgians lead with 35.6 gallons a year each British, Danes and Americans are tied at 20 gallons, while Germans consume only 15.6.—Toronto Telegram

Children, Dr. Brock Chisholm is quoted as saying, should be taught their parents are not always good and right. So out the window with Santa Claus goes that commandment about bringing one's father and mother.—Windsor Star

The Poet's Corner

LEVELS

A thunder rocket bursts from bounds Of rounded earth, Soars up sheer walls of space, Pinpricks the unknown, unscanned, unseeable, And crumbles back again.

A submarine challenges the cold and ancient Night of depth, Sinking through a thousand wells Of water to a silence ever more intense, A timeless sea of stillness, it hovers, Then, turntail, "lunges shallow-ward again.

Magnitudes of height and depth Are thought's dimension, Thus it blazons forth its own immensity, The scaling of the sky.

Isabel Ferguson In The Christian Science Monitor The sounding of the sea.

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