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Mr. MacLean's Assurance

It is reassuring to learn, on the authority of Hon. J. Angus MacLean, that the Federal Government is not definitely committed to the plan of remodelling the old Scotia II for service on the Borden-Tormentine route...

Mr. MacLean has also given assurance that the Provincial Government's proposal for berthing the "Vacationland" without interfering with the present ferry schedules would be carefully studied.

We have urged upon the Minister the desirability of releasing full information as to the steps being taken in this inquiry, both in the Federal Government's interests and in ours.

Knowing Mr. MacLean as we do, we think that these statements should carry weight. We have spoken strongly in the past of the apparent indifference to our transportation needs at Ottawa, under both party administrations, and we may have occasion to do so again.

The Panama Problem

When Colonel Nasser arbitrarily took over the Suez Canal in violation of a written agreement with the United Kingdom, British interests were seriously threatened.

Recent developments in Panama are told in the current issue of Foreign Affairs by Martin Travis and James Watkins. An agreement extending United States occupancy of certain defense bases was rejected by Panama in 1947.

To avoid trouble, it is urged in the Foreign Affairs article that the U.S. should be working toward a new status for the Canal Zone, which, after all, has lost much of its commercial and strategic importance.

air networks. It is recalled that in 1945 President Truman proposed that the Panama canal and other waterways vital to maritime commerce be placed under the United Nations.

Toward Independence

A new nation may be in the making on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. The Arab rulers of three sultanates, two emirates, and a sheikdom in Britain's Aden Protectorate have approved a constitution setting up a Federation of the Arab Emirates of the South.

Aden's inhabitants are bare-chested tribesmen who wear knee-length blue cotton kilts. They rub vegetable oil and blue dye on their lean chests and arms as a protection against the sun in summer and the cold in winter.

Thus reports the National Geographic Society, which notes that the Aden Protectorate sprawls over 112,000 square miles—an area the size of Arizona. It surrounds the 80-square-mile colony, with its capital of Aden, and stretches to the huge Arabian desert known as Rub' al Khali or the "Empty Quarter."

The modern history of the Aden Protectorate began in the 16th century when parts of the western region fell under Turkish domination. After the British occupied the peninsula and town of Aden in 1839, some neighboring chiefs entered into a protective treaty with the British Government.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Ontario Liberal Party has announced its election platform. It consists of revised liquor laws, a voluntary retirement scheme and aid to small businesses.

Now that a new Chief Justice has been named for Newfoundland the Provincial Government can be expected to proclaim the Act that provides for a fourth judge.

Hundreds of international conferences, some of them dealing with bitter disputes, have been held in Geneva over the years. In only one instance, notes the New York Times, has a dispute flared into physical violence.

The way in which wage negotiations are conducted nowadays, says the London Spectator, is rather like Touchstone's description of a quarrel. The parties proceed in a series of well-defined and predictable stages from the Retort Courteous, through the Quip Modest, the Reply Churlish, the Reproof Valiant, the Countercheck Quarrelsome and the Lie with Circumstance.



THE WHITE KNIGHT

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.

INFORMATION SOUGHT

Sir,—Can any of your readers tell me anything about the woodsman-poet, Joe Scott, who lived and worked here in Maine during the early years of this century? I am writing a book about him, and since so many islands came to Maine to work in the woods at this time I feel certain there must be some who remember Scott or his songs.

I am, Sir, etc., EDWARD D. IVES, 220 Stevens Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine, U.S.A.

WEST POINT FERRY SERVICE

Sir,—On Wednesday, May 13th a front page article entitled "New Use Suggested for Michigan Ferry" mentioned the fact that the Summerside Town Council has endorsed a proposal that the Federal Government purchase the ferry Vacationland for operation between Summerside and Point du Chene, N.B.

One would think that such an austere body as the Summerside Town Council would know that the ferry Vacationland, being built outside Canada, cannot be purchased and licensed by the Federal Government.

For the information of the Summerside Town Council and the general public, it should be known that we in West Prince have a duly incorporated company known as the West Point Ferries Limited. This company is still active and keenly interested in helping to solve the transportation problem between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.

Hon. Mr. Ralston was needed as Minister of National Defense, he came to Prince County, and especially West Prince, to make sure he got in.

I, personally, sat in on conversations between my father, A. J. Matheson who was then President of the West Prince Liberal Association, and other members of the Executive when father was very outspoken in favour of Ralston. A. J. Matheson was the prime mover in having Ralston elected in Prince County.

Therefore, in justice to Prince County, and especially West Prince, I think our justifiable demands should be considered, and a strong resolution be forwarded to the Federal Government that, if they will provide the necessary docking facilities between West Point and Buctouche, N.B., we will provide a ferry.

The 1 1/2 million dollars' proposed expenditure on a condemned scow which is not seaworthy even on a pond in a heavy blow, will go a long way to providing the necessary facilities at West Point and Buctouche.

The Geneva Package

Christian Service Monitor

In an obviously sincere effort to make East-West negotiations over Berlin fruitful, Britain's famous warrior, Lord Montgomery, has followed in Prime Minister Macmillan's footsteps to Moscow and talked with Premier Khrushchev.

"It would be a mistake to try to solve all the problems in one package deal; it is doubtful if there would ever be agreement by all concerned on the package. Surely we should start slowly, take one point at a time and gradually remove suspicion and mistrust as we go along."

The Western package is an effort to prevent the Soviets from imposing their choice of a sequence. It is indeed an effort to prevent Moscow from isolating the Berlin question, as Mr. Khrushchev made clear last fall that he intended to do, from other German problems with which it is inevitably intertwined.

Belgium's King Baudouin

National Geographic Society

The official visit of Belgium's young King Baudouin to the United States underscores the friendly ties long maintained between the United States and the small western European nation.

In two world wars America's sympathy went out to German-occupied, devastated Belgium. The Allied fighting that raged there added such place names as Flanders and Ardennes to the American language.

In return, World War II gave Belgium a terse Yankee word "Nuts"—the famous reply made by Major General Anthony C. McAuliffe to a German demand for the surrender of surrounded, hard-pressed Bastogne.

After the war, rebuilt Bastogne named the market square Place McAuliffe. Beside it stands the Nuts Museum which houses relics of the stubborn resistance that held the city until relief troops came.

Present-day travelers find Belgium a fascinating mixture of ultramodern enterprise and medieval pageantry and architecture, says the National Geographic Society.

Belgium is about the size of Maryland. Motorists can drive in a few hours from the museum city of Brussels, with its 700-year-old bell tower, to the busy port of Antwerp, which handles some 40 million tons of cargo a year.

They can lose themselves in abbeys, castles, and cobbled streets of Ghent, or visit the roaring steel mills, glass works, and gun factories of Liege, the Pittsburgh of Belgium.

The new state became a "constitutional, representative, and hereditary monarchy." Its first king—elected by the National Congress in 1831—was Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, uncle of Queen Victoria.

To Cope With Cockroaches

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. AS WARMER weather approaches each of you homemakers had better strengthen your defenses against cockroaches.

Now I realize that none of you would like to find one of these little creatures in your kitchen or pantry. You would be embarrassed to think that it could happen in your home.

Well, it can happen, and very easily, too. Moreover, cockroaches can be more than embarrassing; they can be sickening.

POTENTIAL DANGERS In the first report of its kind I have ever seen on the subject, the Smithsonian Institution issued a warning a while back on the potential dangers of these pests.

A study by two doctors showed that cockroaches may well spread disease organisms to humans and domestic animals by crawling over food and plates.

But these doctors, sticklers for facts, point out that natural transmission "has not been incontrovertibly proved."

Well, if they think it is even possible, that's enough for me—and you.

WAGE WAR So let's map our battle strategy. Best way of protecting your food and family from these pests is not to let cockroaches get into your home.

Shop only in roach-free stores. While you can't always tell, of course, you can readily spot a store which isn't kept as tidy and as clean as it should be.

As an added precaution, check all incoming soda and other cartons carefully. Inspect any wooden cases or cardboard containers that are brought into your home.

Clean up immediately after you have finished eating. Don't leave any crumbs on the floor or table. Be sure to remove any food scraps from the drains, too.

COVER GARBAGE Keep garbage in a covered container. Remove all garbage from your home at least once a day. The best idea is not to leave anything in the household garbage can overnight.

Once roaches do get into your home, you are going to have trouble getting them out, but these tips might help:

Spray all exposed areas and potential breeding grounds with a good non-toxic bug repellent. Use plaster or plastic putty to fill all cracks behind baseboards and door frames.

QUESTION AND ANSWER Mrs. E. C. Lavatave has become a habit with me and I would like to know if there is a diet that would help correct constipation?

Answer: A diet containing roughage, such as raw fruits and vegetables, bran and prune juice might also be helpful.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 18, 1934)

There was a large representation of prominent farmers from the surrounding district of Summerside at a dinner given by the Summerside Board of Trade last night at the Queen Hotel.

Brussels, the capital, is a metropolis of nearly a million people. As host for the World's Fair last year, it offered all modern conveniences, including helicopter transport, to the millions of visitors.

Yet there, too, huge glass-and-steel office buildings look down on old, sharp-gabled Flemish dwellings. In the city's broad Grand'Place, shiny new cars park against a backdrop of ornately gilded and statue-crowned structures whose designs date from the 14th to 17th centuries.

Despite the evidence of an ancient past, Belgium is actually younger as an independent nation than the United States. Its sovereignty was won from the Netherlands in 1830 by a secessionist revolt that united the French-speaking people of the south with the Flemish-speaking inhabitants in the north.

The new state became a "constitutional, representative, and hereditary monarchy." Its first king—elected by the National Congress in 1831—was Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, uncle of Queen Victoria.

Under the vigorous rule of Leopold II (1835-1909), Belgium acquired vast, fabulously rich Congo holdings in Africa. With small-arms, mandated Ruanda-Urundi, the Belgian Congo is nearly 80 times the size of the European country.

Leopold III was severely criticized by many of his people for having surrendered to the German's overwhelming force in World War II. He abdicated in 1951 in favor of his son, Baudouin.

NOTES BY THE WAY

One of our friends reports that he is planning to give up gardening this year. It seems that he is having trouble persuading his wife to spade up the little plot of ground they usually plant—Tri-County Record, Kentucky

Snake meat and poison! That was the "take" in the annual rattlesnake hunt to exterminate the varmints at Okenee in northwest Oklahoma. About 1,000 hunters participated in the event this year.

The regrettable mixture of working mothers and left-alone children is one of the social disasters of this time. If we permit it to continue we shall have more young law-breakers. Wives work in order to increase the family income and are not likely to be persuaded to stay at home.

Just as at sunrise I could never see the instant that the day began to be, So though I watch I never glimpse the hour when the increasing bud becomes the flower.

—Audrey Alexandra Brown in the Montreal Star-Herald

Omdurman And A Comet

Montreal Gazette

When Sir Winston Churchill was born, in 1874, the world's navies were powered by sail, the world's armies were powered by horses, the first practical automobile was a generation away and a trans-Atlantic visit, for the few who could afford it, was an event requiring two or three months to complete.

On Monday, Sir Winston left London Airport in the morning to attend a quiet family dinner with President Eisenhower and Mrs. Eisenhower in Washington in the evening. He flew by Comet jet airliner.

Sir Winston has been properly called the "man of the century," the most outstanding figure of the past 60 years. In his pre-eminence as a maker—and as a historian—of world affairs, he is unique.

He is unique, too, in the manner in which his life has included all of the vast changes which have taken place during that long and varied life. In 1898, at Omdurman, he was a cavalryman, wielding sabre and pistol in the battle for the Sudan.

Before that war ended, he had successfully championed the development of the tank, which broke the deadlock of trench warfare. Then he lifted his gifted vision to the skies; in the years immediately following the First World War, he gave Churchillian approval to the new domain of the air by taking flying lessons

and becoming a pilot. Sir Winston's flight this week is striking, enough as a demonstration of the amazingly swift technical progress that has occurred during one lifetime. It is also a signal lesson in living.

Churchill is renowned for his remarkable vigor and alertness. He is remarkably interesting, because he has always remained remarkably interested.

The average man would be content to retire with any one of his laurels, from Omdurman to the defeat of Hitler.

Sir Winston is now checking the advantages of jet flight.

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