

Most stolen cars are recovered. They are abandoned at the end of the "joy ride" or when the gas runs out. Often they are unharmed, and the owners suffer nothing worse than anxiety and inconvenience. But too often they are recovered after damage and bloodshed, resulting from incompetent, reckless or panic driving.

Surveys have shown that car thefts drop by as much as two-thirds after strict enforcement of key-removal laws. In this connection we note that the Ontario Safety League has asked all drivers to help protect the public, as well as their own property, by making their cars as secure as possible when left parked. It's a good practice to follow at all times.

Khushchev Came Through

If even the Devil should get his due, surely Soviet Premier Khushchev is entitled to credit for this act of kindness, reported from Chicago:

Mr. and Mrs. Paulus Leonas, of that city, fled Lithuania about 15 years ago, as World War II ended. They had to leave behind a son and daughter, now 17 and 20 years old, respectively. The children stayed with their grandparents. Since then the Leonases have been asking the Soviet Union, which absorbed Lithuania, to let their children join them. Their pleas were rejected or ignored. They had about given up hope.

But last September the Leonases went to Des Moines in an effort to plead with Khushchev, passing through on his tour of the country. They met him at a time when he seemed happiest with his whole trip. They confronted him in the lobby of his hotel. Mrs. Leonas sobbed out her pleas. And Khushchev patted her on the shoulder, told her not to cry and on the spot ordered Foreign Minister Gromyko to "take care of this matter."

Khushchev has been true to his word. Gromyko has taken care of the matter. The children have been given exit visas and will join their parents.

A little thing? Well, it depends. And who are we to judge the motives that inspired it? Rather we should be inclined to say with Shakespeare: "How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty (Communist) world."

In Other Times

We now take it for granted that New Year's Day should fall on the 1st of January, and the suggestion of any other date would seem ridiculous. But it is all a matter of custom. The ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians and Persians began their year on September 21, but Caesar by the adoption of the Julian calendar postponed it to January 1.

The Jews have always reckoned their civil year from the first day of the month of Tishri (Sept. 6-Oct. 5) but their ecclesiastical year begins at the spring equinox (March 21).

The 25th of March was the usual date among Christian peoples in mediaeval times. At the Norman Conquest, owing, it is believed, to the coincidence of his coronation being arranged for that date, William the Conqueror ordered that the year should start on the 1st of January. But later England began her year with the rest of Christendom on the 25th of March.

The Gregorian calendar (1582), which restored the 1st of January to its position as New Year's Day, was accepted by all Roman Catholic countries at once; by Germany, Denmark and Sweden about 1700; but not until 1751 by England.

Crime Prevention

According to the Journal of American Insurance more than two-thirds of all cars stolen are taken by school-age youngsters. We do not know what the proportion is in Canada, but the moral of the Journal article, that car doors should be locked to prevent youngsters starting on a life of crime, is applicable here as well as in the United States.

There, it is stated, auto thefts have increased more than 70 per cent since 1950. Police records show that some boys begin taking cars for "joy rides" when as young as 10 years, but the real problem begins at 13 or 14 and tapers off sharply after 17. Authorities who deal closely with juvenile auto thefts blame much of it on the casual attitude of the car-owning public. It is almost invariably the unlocked cars that get stolen, many of them with the keys left hanging in the ignition.

Normal parking precautions can offer little effective defense against the determined, professional auto thief. But the large proportion of illegally removed cars are taken by juveniles who delude themselves with the belief that it is not really stealing to drive away in a car that has been left open, whereas they would hesitate to break into a locked car.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A hopeful marketing sign for the new year is the reduced railway rates, effective January 10, on turnips and seed potatoes destined for eastern United States points. Our shippers should note Hon. Mr. Rossiter's warning that now more than ever must strict attention be paid to quality of shipments.

This has been a year of impressive scientific achievements. We were reading about them the other day when, by chance, we came across this excerpt from a letter written by Henry Adams to a friend in the year 1862. For a moment we had the startling feeling that Henry was looking over our shoulder when he wrote: "Man has mounted science and is now run way with it. I firmly believe that before many centuries more, science will be the master of man. The engines he will have invented will be beyond his strength to control. Some day science may have the existence of mankind in its power and the human race may commit suicide by blowing up the world."



MOON COMING OVER THE MOUNTAIN?

OTTAWA REPORT
Canada's Opportunity

By Patrick Nicholson

We have arrived at a cross-road offering us a vivid example of the good sense of the saying: "If you cannot beat them, join them."

Can we beat the new mass markets of Europe, and the older mass market of U.S.A.?

The time has come for Canada to explore the possible advantages of a free trade association of the North Atlantic nations, a fulfillment of the economic vision of the "Canadian Clause" of NATO.

"No vision less than this will do," Hon. Lester B. Pearson asserted in 1950. Today that is ten years truer.

Canada might provide the initiative and the amalgam needed to weld into one huge free trade area the four competing trading groups of the western world: two in Europe, and the U.S.A. and Canada. Britain we know is willing to discuss this with us.

This step would mean that all tariffs—with some negotiated exceptions—between all four groups would be progressively eliminated over the next several years. This would open up to our primary products and our manufactured goods a favoured entry into a mass market of over 450 million consumers.

It would also accelerate the change from small sales at a high profit margin to large sales at a small profit margin—which automation is bringing all over the industrialized world, as surely as mechanization brought the change from handicrafting.

The resultant cheaper prices would stretch out the purchasing power of our earnings, just as they would permit all consumers in that huge market to afford many articles now priced beyond their means. This huge demand for the amenities of the age of automation would increase the number of jobs in industry.

Our abundant minerals would be sold at a profit.

The crucial date for Kassem is Jan. 6—the date he promised to restore "normal political activity" in Iraq. It may be that, by provoking an atmosphere of crisis, Kassem hopes to justify retention of real control in his own hands.

The Iraqi premier long ago sacrificed any possibility of better relations with his Arab neighbors—King Hussein's Jordan and President Nasser's United Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria.

The result was that he became the focal point of one of the most vicious propaganda battles ever waged by Arab brother against brother.

More and more Kassem relied on Communists to help underwrite his power. The Communist motive undoubtedly is to keep the premier in power until the time is ripe for them to take over.

If normal political activity is restored next week, the way would be cleared for a "constitutional" takeover by the Reds. Their highly-organized cadres throughout the country could almost certainly be relied on to engineer a Communist victory through the polls.

ARMY DIVIDED

The National Democrats—the strongest opposition to the Communists—are firmly entrenched in Kassem's cabinet but are viewed as extremely weak at the popular level. The army too, is reported to be divided.

Kassem may, at least for a little while, be seeking ways to play one side against the other, until a way can be found out of the impasse.

But some Middle Eastern experts now question whether Kassem is capable of maintaining such delicate manoeuvres. The impression given is that the attempt to shoot him down in the Baghdad streets and his subsequent convalescence seriously shook his self-confidence, nerve and strength of will.

New Trouble In Iraq

By Dave Oancia
 Canadian Press Staff Writer

A growing number of observers has swung over to the belief that the new tension around Iraq is the picture of a desperate dictator promoting an artificial crisis to stave off a real one at home.

Iraq's current conflict with neighboring Iran over an issue that most thought was settled 20 years ago probably will blow over without serious shooting.

But it is the latest in a series of events that can be interpreted as a deliberate attempt by Iraqi Premier Abdel Karim Kassem to lose friends abroad in a bid to influence people at home.

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Diving Among The Galleons

Montreal Gazette

that apparently spots hulks passed over by other divers. His 1955 discovery was hailed as "the most important underwater 'find' of the century in the Western Hemisphere."

Here in North America we are too prone, amid our preoccupations with the present, to forget how relatively close to us lies the popular level. The army too, is reported to be divided.

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WELSH FORTRESS

Conway Castle in north Wales, with its eight great towers, was built by Edward I in the 13th century.

A Bermudian skin-diving expert who, in 1955, discovered a rich treasure trove of emeralds and gold in the battered hull of Spanish galleon, raised much excitement last summer by locating what local historians believe is the sunken Spanish treasure ship "Vigo."

Buddy Tucker, and his partners Donald and Robert Clanton recovered three cases of gold objects and other artifacts, including such valuables as 50 pieces-of-eight, several gold nuggets and a 40-inch-long gold chain.

Examination of the coins point to the period 1621-44 as that of the sinking, while history relates the loss of the 400-ton "Vigo" in May, 1637, on a voyage between Havana and Cadiz. Also on record is the salvaging of a Spanish treasure, by a Captain Josias Forster, at the same period from an unnamed wreck on Bermuda reefs. It is thought probable that Tucker's discovery is from the same wreckage.

Tucker is credited with an uncanny sense of wreck location, added to a penetrating eyesight

How Beverages Affect System

By Herman N. Bandelen, M. D.

HERE'S your New Year's Eve drinking guide.

Best drink with which to toast in the New Year and bid farewell to the old is a big glass of milk.

However, I'm a practical man. And I know I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of persons over the age of ten who plan to have a glass of milk in their hands at midnight.

FACTS AND FIGURES

So read and heed:

Probably the most potent mixed drink of all is the popular dry martini. It takes less time to create a greater effect than just about any other drink I can think of.

This is because a martini gets a considerable amount of alcohol into your bloodstream in a relatively short time.

FACILITIES DULLED

A few martinis tonight, and your faculties will be dulled, your judgment will be impaired, your tongue will be loosened (figuratively speaking, of course).

Beer, on the other hand, takes a little longer to affect you. Most beers, you see, contain only about four per cent alcohol.

ALCOHOLIC CONTENT

Ale is a little stronger, with a six per cent alcoholic content.

Most fermented wines are about 12 per cent alcohol, although sherry and port usually run about 20 per cent alcohol.

Alcoholic content of 100 proof bourbon is a whopping 50 per cent.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Some persons, of course, can drink considerably more than others without showing any obvious effects. Medically speaking, however, we generally say a person is under the influence of alcohol when the alcoholic content of the blood is .15 per cent.

Alcohol gives you a feeling of well-being and elation because it dilates the blood vessels, thus sending a greater amount of blood throughout your body. Since your brain maintains an enormous circulation of blood, it also is affected.

SOME TIPS

Now, for a couple of tips for tonight:

Take a nap before you go out partying. Alcohol will have less effect upon you if you are calm and rested.

Eat a good meal before you leave home. Alcohol absorption is slowed if there is much food in the stomach.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. J. J.: Must one avoid certain foods after a gall bladder operation?

Answer: Follow your doctor's advice. He may advise reduction in fats and roughage for a while.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
 (Dec. 31, 1934)

At an adjourned meeting of the Summerside Town Council held last night, Mayor Lidstone presiding, the final bills for the year were passed, amounting to \$5,789.78. Unpaid bills amounting to \$7,624.20 were passed on motion of Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Bishop. On motion it was decided that Mr. Gilbert would be hired to look after the horse and fire department at \$12.00 per week.

The Young People of the United Church Eastern Presbyterian Union held a winter school in Trinity United Church, Charlottetown, last week. Two courses were given, one on Worship by Rev. E.H. Ramsay, and Materials and Methods by Rev. Herman Campbell.

TEN YEARS AGO
 (Dec. 31, 1949)

On Wednesday evening the power launch "The Lazy Mariner" which had been moored at the end of the Marine wharf, broke loose during the heavy gale and drifted to the opposite shore where it is now beached on Holman Island. An attempt was made yesterday to free the boat but it was unsuccessful. A further attempt will be made at high tide today.

Six hundred and ninety-five persons are registered as unemployed at the Unemployment Insurance Office at Summerside, which serves all of Prince County. Of this number 550 were males and 145 females. This number is about 200 greater than last year.

COAL SHAFTS

A depth of 4,000 to 5,000 feet is considered the maximum at which coal can be profitably mined in Britain.

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The Age Old Story

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, will thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

NOTES BY THE WAY

"What will become of the younger generation?" Our forecast is that it will grow up.—Brandon Sun

"A man who has the habit of talking back to television characters isn't necessarily insane," says a psychiatrist. No, but it's a dangerous habit. He might forget and talk back to his wife.—Sarnia Observer

"Some church members have a hard time remembering accurately how little they've put in the plate through the year by the time they get income tax forms."—St. John's Daily News

A news report reveals that playing cards are among the oldest printed matter in the world. From the way things have been going in the world it might be time for a new deal.—Sherbrooke Record

A lot of highly optimistic predictions are being made about space travel, but it will probably be a century or two before people are living on the moon and commuting to earth to hold jobs here.—Sarnia Observer

Workers putting the new clock into tower of the church at L'Anse-au-Loup were surprised to discover an unexploded bomb there. The sexton affirmed that the bizarre object had been there since 1944, but he had never seen any reason to report it.—Le Provencal, Marseilles

To dispel any doubts on the question, a horse can't be high-way traffic. This may be no surprise to the legal profession, but we think many laymen must have tossed restlessly in their beds, wondering, in fact, a Palmerston man was fined in a Guelph court the other day for being drunk in charge of a horse, fined \$50 with the option of spending 15 days in jail.—Hamilton Spectator

Professor Wilfred Eggleston of Carleton University says there is small chance of an author making his living in Canada from writing of books alone. Happily, however, there seem to be lots of youngmen and women ready and eager to try.—Ottawa Journal

Some harsh things have been said and written of General Franco and his regime. A new facet of El Caudillo is presented by the Atlantic Salmon Journal which reveals him as the man who by conservation measures restored Atlantic salmon to Spanish rivers, and as one of the finest anglers in Spain.—Ottawa Journal

A sign at the city limits of Sharon, in Tennessee, warns on-rushing motorists to slow down to 30 miles an hour. Such signs are encountered at the entrances of most towns. Sharon has done something extra. A few blocks beyond the first sign, another sign says: "Slow Down—we've Warned You Once." The Sharon police say it's very effective. The second sign seems worth emulating in other communities.—Cape Breton Post

Astonishing if true is a report that almost half the physicians and surgeons in British Columbia did not make enough money last year to pay income tax. Perhaps, this has to do with faulty distribution of doctors in Canada. There has been no assertion from any source that the supply of physicians and surgeons exceeds the demand in this country.—Cape Breton Post.

MAXIMS

There is only one way to get ready for immortality, and that is to love this life, and live it as bravely and cheerfully and faithfully as we can.

The Language Of Flags

Manchester Guardian

Many national flags consist of two or three strips of color, variously arranged. How many people appreciate that, in many cases, the colors themselves are supposed to bear symbolic meanings, distinct from the national significance of their pattern or combination?

GHANA'S FLAG

Ghana's flag has stripes of red, yellow and green; as it is one of the most recently devised, many people may recall that the red is intended to commemorate those who worked for the country's independence, yellow for its wealth, and green for its farms and forests.

This is perhaps the most logical arrangement, except Bolivia's red, yellow, and green (not recorded here), which stands for her animal, mineral, and vegetable resources respectively. In Italy, green, white, and red are taken to represent, faith, hope, and charity.

Liberia's red, white and blue are for valor, purity, and fidelity. India's saffron, white, and green have been defined by Sir S. Radhakrishnan as pointing respectively to renunciation or disinterestedness, light and the path of truth, and man's relation to plant life.

BLUE AND WHITE

In Greece, blue stands for the sea and sky, white for the purity of the national character; in Finland, blue is for the country's lakes, white for its snows; in the Sudan, blue is for the Nile; yellow for the desert, and green for the cultivated land.

Pakistan's flag is three-quarters green, one-quarter white, symbolizing the Moslem majority and the non-Moslem minorities. Mr. Davies's researches may add fresh interest to the display of national flags on ceremonial occasions. But the significance of colors varies so much that it would be rash to speculate on the intention of unfamiliar combinations.

A BRIGHT NEW YEAR

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