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Marking Time

Canada, and some hundred other governments, has been asked to study a proposal for world calendar reform.

There is a certain urgency about the matter because January 1, 1956 is the next New Year's Day that falls on a Sunday.

The balance and perpetual character of the proposed calendar are achieved by the technique of inserting an extra day, which is not any day of the week, at the end of the year and, in leap years, at the end of the half-year.

A farmer, at his death, left 11 sheep to his three sons, with instructions that the eldest should have one-half the number of sheep, the second son one-quarter and the third son two-thirds of the remainder.

In reverse, calendar reformers have solved their problem by withholding the 365th day, whereby the year has 364 days, a number easily divisible into equal quarter-years of 91 days each and equal half-years of 182 days each.

Early Eskimo Culture

Remains of the largest settlement yet found of the ancient and little known Dorset people of the Canadian Arctic have been uncovered by an archeological expedition to the southeast coast of Southampton Island in Hudson Bay.

A wealth of relics was dug from piles of debris scattered over 20 acres at the Dorset site and from the Sadlermiut house ruins. One tantalizing question remained unanswered: What happened to the Dorset people? No burial grounds and no Dorset bones came to light, although over 30 skulls and a score of complete Sadlermiut skeletons were found.

Artifacts uncovered by the expedition have been shipped to Washington for further study. To get as complete a time span as possible the oldest and latest samples were chosen.

more than 40,000 mammals—seal, walrus, fox, polar bear, caribou and whale—were unearthed. For the first time a complete count of animal bones was made, giving a detailed picture of differences in food habits between the Dorset and Sadlermiut cultures.

Redressing The Balance

The London Conference, because of the United Kingdom's undertaking to maintain troops on the continent and to extend military guarantees to the six European nations with whom its fate is now so closely linked, has been hailed in many quarters as marking a dramatic turning point in British diplomacy.

In proper historical perspective, however, it may be asked whether Foreign Secretary Eden's declaration at the London Conference was in fact anything but a further step forward towards a new concept of foreign relations which has long animated British diplomatic policy.

Even at the turn of the century, before the Entente Cordiale, British statesmen were not reluctant to recognize that the English Channel had become something of a psychological roadblock in the way of more realistic foreign and defence policies.

The apparent vacillations of British foreign policy in the years before the Entente Cordiale with France in 1904, and again in the inter-war years prior to 1939, reflect the decision of successive governments at Whitehall to underwrite a calculated risk, and to align British strength on the side of the second strongest continental nation in order to secure that balance of power without which diplomacy is a futile and ineffective instrument of national policy.

Today the Soviet Union looms far the greatest and most menacing power with high stakes in the affairs of Europe. That a quarter of a million British soldiers will henceforth share garrison duty with the soldiers of West Germany and of France reflects, therefore, no dramatic change in British policy, but rather a recognition in Whitehall that only thus can some shadow of substance be given to the concept of the balance of power in Europe on which British diplomacy rests.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Festival of St. Luke.

Commercial operation of the first submarine telephone cable between North America and Europe will begin in late 1956. The American Institute of Electrical Engineers was told recently.

China once had an Opium War and now the Republic of Korea seems to have found itself in an opium cold war. It is charged that Red agents are using large quantities of drugs both to finance their activities and to undermine the morale of the R.O.K.

The Russian army no longer occupies the Chinese naval base of Port Arthur. In 1952 it had been announced that the Chinese had requested the Russians to remain. It would seem, however, that Russian "protection" is not now considered necessary by the Chinese.

"No taxation without representation," is the plea of the North American Indians Brotherhood. There is much to be said for Indians living on reservations being exempt from taxation but it would probably strike most people as being fairer to give them the vote.

Russian America became Alaska this date 1867. It was discovered in 1741 by Vitus Bering and purchased by the United States from Russia. The boundary had been laid down by treaty in 1825 as being 10 leagues from the coast. In 1903 an international commission interpreted this to give Canada no access to the inlets of the deeply indented coast. The Alaska Highway was opened Oct. 29, 1942.

Canadians have derived a good deal of solid satisfaction from their role in helping the Colombo Plan get under way. Some people in this country, adds the Financial Post, have felt that our contribution of \$25 millions a year was a bit low, in view of the level of our standard of living.



Chain Reaction

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.

POTATO MARKETING BOARD

Sir, While I wish to avoid making myself tiresome to you patient readers, I think the writer signing himself "puzzled" should have his bewilderment clarified. I acknowledge with some envy the writer's ability to criticize without acrimony.

He states: "I have always believed the theory of democracy was based on the right of the majority to decide." It is obvious that he should have stated the decisions involved. Following our anonymous friend's dialectical conclusions, then it would be quite in order that a majority of United Churchmen should decide that Anglicans, Catholics and Baptists, should entertain the beliefs and practices of the United Church and no other.

The advocates of compulsory marketing would have us believe that only their superior knowledge of marketing problems can save us from deficit production. When and where did the members of this board acquire this knowledge? Are we to assume that as a class we farmers are too stupid to conduct our own affairs? In fact we have been informed by some crackpot supporters of the compulsory marketing idea that the farmers are the most ignorant class in our composite society.

This was by private correspondence of course. We hold his letter in our possession for any who might be interested in seeing it. We farmers are not as stupid as is frequently implied. If the coming plebiscite allows the vote to every farmer irrespective of his status, as it will have to, to be a proper indication of the farmers' desire, the result will show that as a class we are not mentally deficient.

In point two of his remarks our anonymous correspondent ignores the fact that it was Premier Jones' representations at that time which laid the groundwork for the recent Federal grant when the need was greatest. We wish to interject here that we believe the need would not have been so great had the board been experienced and efficient.

With regard to point three, we reiterate that this Marketing Board is not our organization. Witness the large Charlottetown meeting. If our friend were there he must have seen the ninety per cent repudiation of compulsory marketing. The legislation implementing this obnoxious law was placed on the statutes by the intrigues of a persistent few, who were not representative of the majority of farmers, but who managed to outsmart an unwary government. Remunerative jobs resulted for many of them.

We wish to reemphasize our opinion that this act is not of the people, by the people, or for the people, that it infringes on personal liberty and prerogatives and punishes and restricts the producer instead of operating to his benefit.

The McCarthy Story

By Heath Macquarrie

According to Vice-President Nixon the McCarthy issue is fading away as far as the American people are concerned. Doubtless the Wisconsin senator is no happier about his declining public importance than General MacArthur was about following the path of old soldiers.

It is only a few months since the great investigator announced that he would be the chief issue in the 1954 campaign, and it was just last February that his party sent him on an extensive speaking tour to celebrate Lincoln Day. It was for this series of vilifying speeches against the Democrats that McCarthy used the text: "Twenty Years of Treason." But now few Republican candidates show any desire to share the platform with Senator McCarthy, although Mr. Meek of Illinois and some of the other right-wingers are reported to be seeking his assistance.

The six-man Senate committee has tabled a report which has hastened the McCarthy decline which had set in even before it began its quiet and dignified hearings. According to this committee of his colleagues the junior senator from Wisconsin is deserving of censure on two important counts: (1) That he showed contempt for the Senate in failing to appear before a committee investigating his finances, and (2) that he abused General Zwicker and violated the rules of his investigating committee in his treatment of the general's evidence.

Although not recommending censure, the Watkins committee found that McCarthy had acted improperly and irresponsibly on two other matters charged against him. These were his use of confidential documents and his attempts to persuade federal employees to divulge confidential information from security files. When the Senate reconvenes on November 8 (after the Congressional elections) Committee chairman Watkins will move for censure of McCarthy on the two counts listed. Then the full Senate will decide whether to show its collective disapproval of the actions of one of its members and to remove him from his committee chairmanship.

With the Democrats, smarting from the charge of treason, ranged solidly against him, and many of them altogether this year as a result of the negative activities of this Board. We must not be excluded from the privilege of registering our wishes in this matter so vital to the prosperity of all farmers. Together with our son we farm over six hundred acres and any election that excludes us from the ballot will substantiate our assertion that the previous plebiscite was the result of smart political finagling. There are quite a number of other farmers of our acquaintance in like circumstance, and we represent them in this demand: If this election or "what have you" is to be conducted democratically or restrictively we would like to be informed now.—C.C.P.)

His attacks on the Democrat administration reached vicious extremes as the 1954 election approached, nor did he hesitate to denounce key members of the Eisenhower regime, after they had taken over from the "traitorous" Democrats. General Marshall, close friend of the Republican President, became the target of McCarthy's most bitter attack. On the Senate floor he charged Marshall, with involvement in a conspiracy to weaken the United States for conquest by Russia. In McCarthy's words the famous general and diplomat was involved in "a conspiracy so immense, an infamy so black, as to dwarf any in the previous history of man."

But many others were to feel the sting of the senator's terrible tongue. Army Secretary Stevens capitulated weakly, and the Senate Committee probing the McCarthy-Army dispute was dominated by the man from Wisconsin. The power and prestige of this one man seemed boundless, few dared oppose him and even the President seemed inclined towards indirect discourse and vague generalities when discussing the McCarthy issue.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

We like Mr. Bell's telephone company, but why, oh why, does it persist in using those movable, poles that crash and wreck innocent cars.—Chatham News.

Miss Jennifer Bennett, of Cleethorpes, England, has created a stir by winning a beauty contest although she wore no powder, lipstick or rouge. If a girl showed up like that for a beauty contest on this side, she's have to bring along her birth certificate to prove she was a girl.—Winnipeg Tribune.

The Irish are a people of sweet tongues. They make with soft, sugary words which, however, sometimes swiftly turn into acid tones. This sweet talk probably results from their climate and environment. For one thing, Eire is a great country for sugar beets, having produced a record yield of 306,000 tons in 1953. This enables the Irish to get sugar cheaply, the price of sugar per pound there being only seven pence, cheaper than in almost any Occidental country excepting Norway.—Windsor Star.

The statement has been made at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in this city that alcoholism "continues to be the most baffling and complicated of all diseases." While there may still be a few who insist that alcoholism is not a disease, the majority opinion against them, and even the modern dictionaries describe alcoholism as "a diseased condition caused by excessive use of alcohol; liquor" and dipsomania as "a morbid and uncontrollable craving for alcohol."—Halifax Herald.

The Federation of Catholic School Commissions of the Province of Quebec has gone on record as favouring the raising of the compulsory school attendance age from 14 to 16 years. There is much to be said in favor of such a change, the principal argument being that the eight or nine years of schooling possible by the time a youngster reaches the age of 14 is hardly sufficient to qualify him for any position of responsibility in our modern world of business.—Quebec Chronicle-Herald.

The latest incentive to reducing is the conclusion of an American surgeon that thin or underfed persons will have a better chance of surviving radiation injuries of an atom bomb attack. Starved animals, he found, outlived well nourished companions when exposed to lethal X-ray doses.—Ottawa Journal.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. BUMPER POTATO CROP "Little Prince Edward Island will, this year, produce at least three million bushels of potatoes, most of which are yet in the bosom of mother earth. Not less than two million bushels will be fine, merchantable potatoes, which must find a market off the Island. Not since 1876—when the largest and best crop of potatoes the Island ever produced was harvested—has such a potato yield as that of this season been vouchsafed to our farmers. The yield will be largely in excess of that of 1876, and as many superior kinds of potatoes have been introduced of late years, the crop will be much more suitable for the American market than any we have heretofore produced.

The old fashioned Blues, Turnbulls, etc., composed the principal part of the potato crops for years and it was only at exceptional times that our potatoes were in demand in the United States. It was found that our potatoes would not sell in England at any price. Farmers, therefore, planted large quantities of varieties always in demand in the American markets; and while the old and hardy, and really excellent varieties, have been grown to a great extent, the Early Rose, Prolific, Surprise, etc., form a large bulk of the present crop. "Just now, buyers are paying 25 cents per bushel for shipment. This price, taking into consideration the present prices of potatoes in the United States generally, is a very fair one. In Boston prices range from 71 to 85 cents a bushel, and at these prices large lots of Western potatoes are reaching that market."—The Examiner, Oct. 7, 1952

The Age Old Story The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

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SAMPLE TABLE with columns: CASH YOU RECEIVE, MONTHLY PAYMENTS, NUMBER OF MONTHS. Rows: \$108.75 (12 months), \$208.38 (24 months), \$310.68 (36 months), \$756.56 (48 months).

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