

Disposal Of Surpluses

Trade Minister Howe seems to believe that disposal of Canadian surplus agriculture products by methods similar to those practised in the United States would be impractical and unwise.

In his semi-annual report to Congress, which is required under the Agricultural Development Act, the legislation that provided for the surplus disposal program, the President noted that since the Act became operative in September 1954 \$3 billion worth of surplus commodities had been sent abroad; nearly half of it was contracted for during the first six months of this year.

At present the law provides a ceiling of \$1 1/2 billion for products sold for foreign currencies. The President has asked that this be doubled. He feels that this would be advantageous to those countries which need the products but which cannot find American dollars in which to pay for them and have no great amount of strategic materials to send in exchange.

Farming-In The Future

If all the experiments now being conducted by thousands of agricultural scientists in Canada and the U. S. proved successful, what would farming of tomorrow be like? Looking into a crystal ball, some scientists have come up with the following answers:

First, the average farmer would know far more about his land and its capacity to produce than he knows today. Crop and livestock producers will be able to control both yields and quality in a way now known only in the laboratory.

The future farmer would be able to judge each improved practice in terms of what it would pay him at the end of the year. He would know to the penny the difference in returns from one variety over another, or one level of fertilization over another.

All farming operations, from seed bed preparation through harvest, will be done by machines. But there would probably be less machinery in the fields than today. Seed germination will be vastly improved so that growers could plant to a stand with assurance there will be no need to replant.

with short stalks and uniform ears at uniform height would be easier to harvest and would produce more.

More will be known about how plants grow, the role of light and influence of high and low temperatures on their growth. Plants may then be bred to take full advantage of natural soils and climate. The farmer will have simple, easy-to-use methods of measuring fertilizer and water needs for his crops. This will enable him to predict yields with much greater accuracy and he would be able to adjust the rate of application to a cost that would be profitable under existing farm prices.

Powerful new tools for changing plant characteristics — the production of mutations — have been found. The most recent experiments involve nuclear irradiation. A more efficient use of rainfall will be made. Foreseen are new chemicals which would enable a farmer to spray his fields and seal in the moisture.

There are many other new developments on the books for the farm of tomorrow, says the C. I. L. publication, "Agricultural News". But we must realize that we cannot jump into tomorrow without having tried the proven scientific farming methods of today. The future will then take care of itself by natural progression.

Summerside Carnival

Many gala events are scheduled for the first big four-day Summerside Lobster Carnival which gets under way this afternoon, with the official opening by Mr. J. Watson MacNaught, M.P. this evening.

The Summerside Board of Trade is credited with having originated the carnival idea but all the service clubs, and several other organizations, business firms and individual citizens of the Prince County capital have been co-operating actively. It is a big undertaking, but Summerside is noted for its initiative and it will have the best wishes of all our citizens in making the celebration a success.

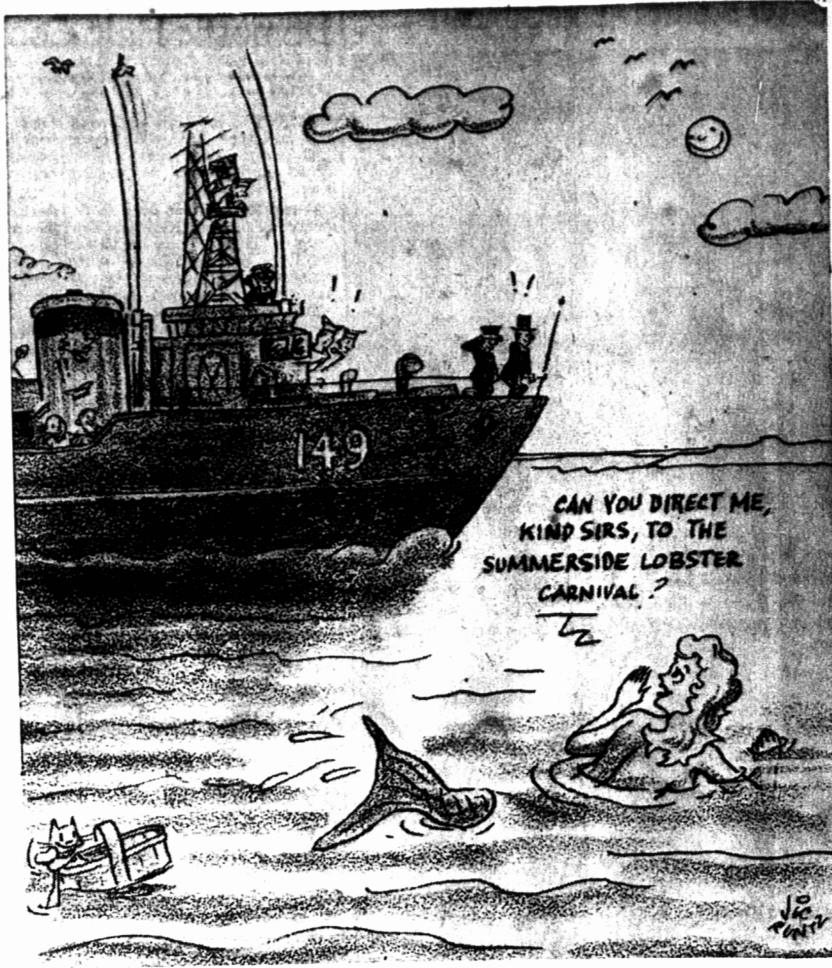
EDITORIAL NOTES

A farmer who tries to collar a runaway pig is only wasting his time—that is, if the animal really means to stay out of reach. This was demonstrated the other day at a Pig Derby at Kemptonville, Ont. The winning runner covered 100 yards in 7.4 seconds, almost 2 seconds faster than the fastest human runner on record.

The House of Bishops of the Methodist Church has come up with a new view on racial discrimination in the United States. The church leaders predict that it will gradually become less in the South and more in the North. Their argument is that discrimination depends largely on the size of the Negro population in any given area. At present it is growing in the Northern states and declining in the South.

A marine buoy which will automatically register and transmit weather reports has been developed by the United States Bureau of Standards. The buoy can be anchored in waters up to 3,600 feet deep, and will operate for six months unattended. Tests already carried out show that the station has a radio-range of more than 800 miles. If moored in certain areas, it might give warning of hurricanes as they form.

Technical schoolteachers in Iceland now receive a year's leave with pay to continue their studies, after a minimum of ten years' service, according to a law passed recently by the Government. This follows the practice already in force for primary and secondary schoolteachers, and instructors in teacher training and domestic science colleges. Candidates must submit an outline of the studies they intend to undertake twelve months in advance, and at the end of the sabbatical year they must present a detailed report on their work.



ALMOST EVERYONE IS GOING

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

STACKING HAY

Sir.—Hay time has rolled around again. Time flies when we look back. I wonder if all the expensive hay equipment that is being demonstrated is justified. Is it going to give us a much better quality hay? I am very doubtful for I have failed to see it.

I have been stacking a good part of my hay crop with a gin pole (which I have described in detail in previous years) and find I get a better quality hay than what I put in the barn. (I guess I am a little scared of fire in the barn.) And by putting 2 rows of fence posts 3 or 4 on each side about 2 yards apart in the centre of the stack it will keep the stack from tipping, so you can let your cattle help themselves. There is very little waste—only a fraction of what it will cost to bale it—for the cattle eat from the ground as the stack settles between the posts.

I don't tie up my young stock at all. It saves a lot of work when you don't have to climb up a left and feed by hand; just turn them out and let them go to the stack. I get nearly all of the manure around the stack and in the shelter which I have for the young stock. I find it easier to stack than to put it in the barn.

Don't be afraid to do things the easier way.

I am, Sir, etc., ELDON DRUMMOND, Freetown, P.E.I.

SPEAKING OF HAWKS

Sir.—It is no great comfort to a visitor to learn that in this most hospitable island as well as in the native State of New York, hawks are considered vermin. In your paper this Monday morning was a photograph of a dead buteo, one of the vanishing race of soaring hawks which seldom raid the farmer's chicken yard. It is interesting to learn whether the farmer had seen this particular bird grab one of his chickens. I doubt it. It is much more likely that, if a chicken is missing, another member of the hawk family or a goshawk, these three being the speedy accipiters with short swift wings. Usually these marauders escape while the larger, lower buteo becomes the farmer's target.

Perhaps the time will come when gunners will learn the difference between friend and foe in the dwindling hawk world. A study of Dr. May's "Hawks of North America" might be useful for in this book are the results of scientific study which prove that most hawks are decidedly helpful. For instance, many analyses of the crops of all species of hawks, almost no buteo contained remains of chickens or other birds. Most of them did contain moles, field mice, other rodents, and grasshoppers. Surely the farmer will not object to this diet.

As for the accipiters, no bird student will deny that they will catch chickens. They also kill other birds. Here we find reason for the farmer's hatred of hawks. We might suggest that he fence in his chickens, but if he must shoot, let him kill the culprit, not the red-tail or the red-shoulder he sees circling in the sky.

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Gold In The Dead Sea Scrolls

G. S. R. in the Winnipeg Free Press

A man need not have a particularly well developed bump of curiosity to be fascinated by a document, any document, that is sealed in a bottle and washed up at his feet upon the beach. And this, essentially, is what the scrolls that the wandering Bedouins discovered in the caves beside the Dead Sea are: mysterious manuscripts that have survived the turbulence of two millenniums to be cast up at last on time's receding shore.

That the secrets now being wrested from the ancient earth-ens jars are capable of firing the imagination is evident enough; witness the fact that Mr. Edmund Wilson's "Scrolls from the Dead Sea" has held its place on the best-seller lists for more than 30 weeks.

The discussion no doubt is important. And certainly it is pleasant to watch, in the mind's eye, the lucubrations of those learned men who, in the vaulted chambers of museums or in the awesome silences of national libraries, peer through enormous magnifying glasses at the enigmatic symbols on those venerable scrolls.

Or to join them—as, later in the day, over a cup of coffee or a glass of port in a colleague's book-lined study, they thrash out some nice points in exegesis, some difference of opinion about a questionable Aramaic ablative, or some refined interpretation of the ancient text that, if correct, could shake the battlements of Christendom.

HIGH DRAMA

This is high drama, full of emotional and intellectual dynamite, but it rather esoteric; rather, if one may so express it, egg-head. It seems unlikely that the scrolls are, up till now, disturbed a single layman's sleep or upset a lay digestion.

All this has now been changed. Under the penetrating scrutiny of scholars in Manchester University the Dead Sea scrolls have yielded up clues pointing to vast stores of gold and silver; 200 tons of precious metal, enough to make the caves of Monte Cristo seem a piggy bank by contrast.

Treasure trove! That tantalizing phrase! That subject on which all of us are specialists! "In a cistern which is below the ramparts of the east side, in a place hollowed out by the rock, 600 bars of silver... That does it nicely. Across the centuries we hear the echo of the chill, prophetic wind that warned the Esene scribe of his approaching doom. We watch his nervous stylus as he labors on the gleaming copper scroll... below the remnant of..."

... must make haste to hide the clues within the earthen jar and launch them on the tide of history, safe from the envious and avaricious eyes of the approaching foe. And so he died. And so he left his legacy to who can find it.

CRYPTIC CLUES

Granted, the clues are cryptic and obscure; they will hardly daunt the millions of us who have stood at Sherlock Holmes's elbow and watched him break the cypher of the Dancing Men, and who, thanks to Dr. Watson, know his methods. The Musgrove Ritual was obscure, but, with the as-

The Age Old Story

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee."

her so. If farmers must wipe the hawk species off the earth, as they and others are doing, will they not at least destroy the accipiters first? As the best book obtainable for recognizing hawks and other birds in the field, I would recommend Roger Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" published by Houghton Mifflin.

I am, Sir, etc., MARIE L. WELDON, 123 Water Street, Charlottetown.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

MOM DESIGNS A DEVICE TO AID THE BED-WETTER

Bed-wetting by school age youngsters is an embarrassing problem for the parents as well as the children themselves. Various remedies have been tried with varying results. A Chicago mother recently designed a simple owl-shaped plastic handpiece which reportedly combines the natural desire of the youngster for a dry bed with his natural reflexes to wake him in time to prevent bed-wetting.

SOUND SLEEPERS

The theory behind the "Wake-up Owl" is that bed-wetting youngsters are sound sleepers and remain asleep despite the pressure of a full bladder. Such pressure normally would wake other children.

PLASTIC DEVICE

By holding the fingers in a semi-rigid position, the plastic device interferes with this natural reflexless movement. The youngster is given the unusual feeling as a signal to rise quickly to answer nature's call.

HELPS HIM WAKE

This phosphorescence has a purpose, too. A child watching it glow on his hand as he drops off to sleep will concentrate on the idea that it is there to help him wake. Of course, any strenuous play or excitement during the evening should be avoided. Also, the child should not drink excessive liquids before bedtime.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (July 18, 1931)

There is a very heavy motor traffic now being handled between Cape Tormentine and Prince Edward Island, especially for the past few days. About forty flat cars, each holding 3 motor cars, are being carried on each trip both ways.

RESTRICT SHOOTING

TORONTO (CP)—Police in Metropolitan Toronto are soon to be ordered to use their guns only when human life is being endangered, it was announced Tuesday. The action followed an incident Monday in which a policeman chased a 15-year-old boy in connection with a car theft. Two shots fired in the chase slammed into an empty car parked at the side of a road, only minutes after its two occupants had left.

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The Poets Corner

WHERE THE LILIES FLOAT Where the lilies float on the lake flowering the reflections white clouds make, white on fairest white, hard it is to say if clouds be not lilies gone astray.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Farm boys of fifty years ago who wore blue jeans never thought they were modelling city styles half-century ahead of times.—Toronto Telegram

After seven years the Trans-Canada Highway is one-seventh paved. Back in the slow old 'eighties, of course, we built our first trans-continental railway in eleven years.—Peterborough Examiner

Statistics disclose that in the United States 1,000 tin cans are opened every second. This, of course, is the average. The figure zooms much higher than that at dinner time or days when the bridge club meets.—Detroit Free Press

By one our most cherished beliefs are toppling. Only the other day two scientists "proved" that the lost continent of Atlantis never existed. Many of us may have had an occasional doubt about Atlantis, its loss had not been felt too keenly.—Victoria Times

At Kaminitikwia, Ontario, a beaver colony has felled eighty trees in an attempt to dam the swift Kam River. Professional engineers say it is an impossible task, but the beavers have built 25 feet so far, and are still going. They will have to invent methods unknown to beavers in the past to be successful, however, because the Kam is 180 feet wide and 41 feet deep.—The Heartland

The British habit of understatement appears to be spreading to other nations. A short time ago a meter reader in Cleveland stabbed a housewife whose meter he was reading, and was dismissed by the city for "discourtesy to the public." Now we learn that in far-off Viet Nam, a notorious bandit leader, who once commanded an "army" of 10,000 outlaws, has at last been overthrown. The charge "associating with evil doers."—Edmonton Journal

Think of the strange mentality of the London chap who got himself a wheel chair, misrepresented himself as a Victoria Cross winner and in that capacity was greeted by the Queen at an official reception for these valiant men! Human nature is a curious compound of the great and the incredibly petty.—Ottawa Journal

Human nature is indeed unpredictable. Take the case of the fellow who has pulled from the harbor at Goderich and was saved from being drowned or crushed to death between a boat and the pier. He went away mad because the rescuer tore his shirt. It reminds us of Sandy MacFavish, whose son Jock was saved from drowning by a kind and courageous stranger. Sandy sought out the hero and said, "are ye the man who pulled my la- from the river?" The stranger modestly admitted that he was. "Weel," Sandy demanded, "then whur's his cap?"—London Free Press

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