

Marketing Opportunity

Famine to develop our Charlottetown airport on a large scale was responsible, some years ago, for the removal of the Maritime Central Airways headquarters to Moncton. We have felt this disadvantage ever since, in loss of employment of skilled aircraft men and in other ways. Now, according to a news release from M.C.A. officials, Moncton is to become the purchasing centre for a string of United States air force bases stretching almost a thousand miles down Canada's northeast coast from Frobisher Bay to Goose Bay, Labrador, and Newfoundland. The company schedules are being changed and plans made to base aircraft at Moncton for freight runs to the undisclosed number of bases. Moncton business officials estimate the U.S. government's decision will mean hundreds of thousands of dollars in business locally.

It is to be hoped that Prince Edward Island will at least benefit by this policy in shipment of agricultural supplies to the Moncton centre. This is the logical supply source for such commodities in the Maritimes, and no time should be lost in surveying the situation and making the necessary contacts.

New Vaccine

From the United States National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis comes word of a new vaccine for use against polio. This one, while it is related to the Salk preparation, uses live polio viruses instead of dead ones and it can be taken orally instead of by injection. Moreover, it is more easily prepared than the Salk product and costs considerably less.

The discoverer of this new vaccine is Dr. Albert Sabin, a medical scientist in Cincinnati who reports that it is now ready to be used on humans, having given long term immunization to chimpanzees. The first large scale test will be on prison inmates who have volunteered for the experiment. It may be noted in passing that in many instances prisoners have subjected themselves to certain medical risks as a service to humanity—a very good service it is, too. Some months ago, it will be recalled, a group submitted to experiments in cancer research at undoubted risk to their health.

It will be some time yet before definite proof of effectiveness for the Sabin preparation is established, even if the first tests show promising results. But, evidently, medical authorities are cautiously optimistic concerning it; and in the meantime they stress the importance of the general use for persons of all ages of the Salk vaccine which has proved its effectiveness (though not 100%) beyond question.

Intriguing Suggestion

A letter to the New York Times contains the suggestion that Britain should invite Israel to become a member of the Commonwealth as a means of "redressing the balance of power" in the Middle East. The writer believes that this would save the Jewish state from its foes and at the same time "provide a constructive answer to Nasser's banditry and his dream of pan-Arabism" by giving Britain "a firm and irrevocable foothold in an area where her interests are vital and where she could exercise her influence for peace." He cites India's "acceptance of the Queen as a symbol of the free association of nations without loss of any sovereignty whatsoever" as an example for Israel to emulate if invited to do so.

The possibility of Israel's coming into the Commonwealth has been mentioned off and on for years. It was talked about informally at the time of the last Commonwealth Conference, though not, as far as the records go, in the conference itself.

There may be good reasons for it; but one feels that the arguments advanced by the Times' writer are not too plausible. To begin with, Britain has no right to "invite" any state to join the Commonwealth. This would have to be done by the Commonwealth as a whole, and it is doubtful whether in Israel's case a unanimous agreement could be reached. For one thing, at least two present members, Indian and Ceylon, are pretty friendly with Egypt just now, and they would hardly do anything that might impair that friendship, as closer ties with Israel certainly would. For another, Israel is not exactly the "innocent victim" of Arab aggression she is sometimes made out to be. On balance, perhaps she is less to blame than her neighbours for the long series of warlike incidents; nevertheless, she has been guilty of provocative acts more than once and invoked the old code of revenge, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" a bit too eagerly at times.

As for the suggestion that Commonwealth status for Israel would afford Britain a "firm and irrevocable foothold" in the Middle East, it shows an erroneous view of the whole Commonwealth idea. Imagine what an Indian politician, or a Pakistani, or a South African—or, for that matter, an ultra-nationalistic Canadian—would say about that sort of theorizing!

EDITORIAL NOTES

Today the P. E. Island Hospital League of Mercy observes its 20th anniversary. The League has done excellent work, which it is hoped will be continued during the coming years.

Finance Minister Harris seems to be undecided what to do with this year's big surplus. Any taxpayer could suggest in very few words ways and means of handling it.

The Prime Minister's intimation that federal grants to universities will be doubled in the near future will meet with general approval. It will also encourage the hope that federal assistance will soon be made available for educational purposes on all levels. The action is long overdue.

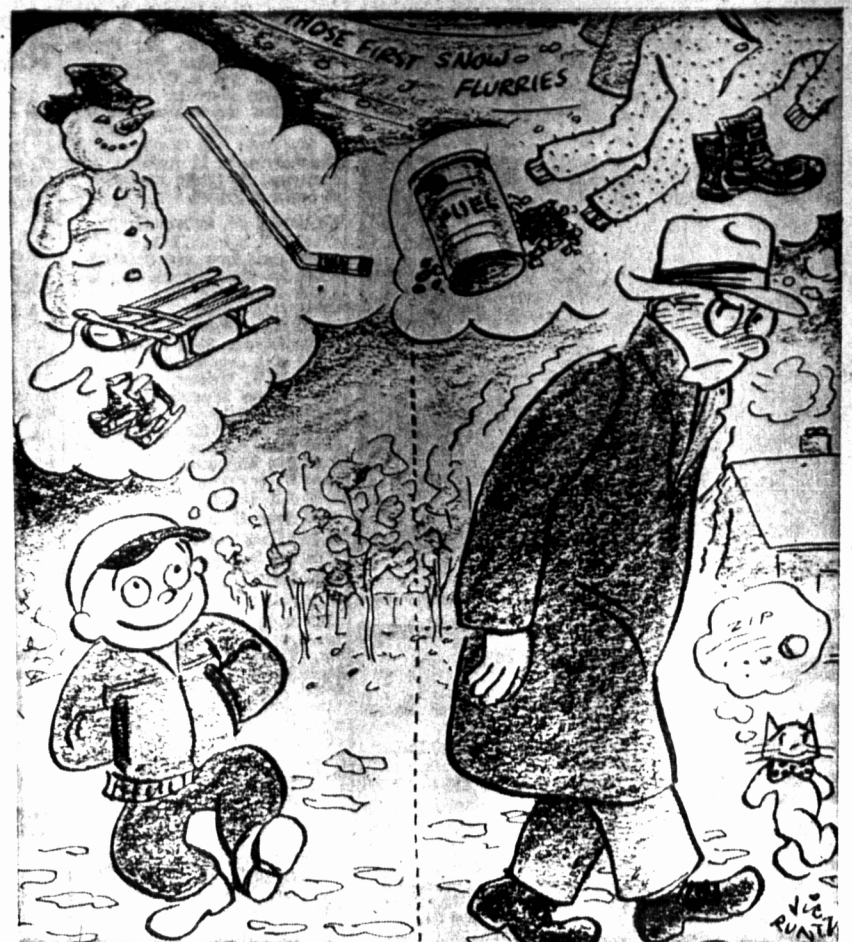
Whatever may be the reason or reasons behind the clemency shown by Polish courts to the ringleaders of last June's riots, the fact that the defendants were even allowed to argue their cases is a welcome departure from the mock trials of other years.

It was a magnificent performance which the Beaux Arts Trio gave in the first of this season's Community Concert Association series at the Prince of Wales College hall last evening. It is to be hoped that another opportunity will be giving of hearing this gifted ensemble in the near future.

A report says that British registered ships using the Suez Canal still outnumber those of any other country. Norway, Liberia and Italy are also big users, while ships of American registry are close to the bottom of the list. However, most of the ships under Liberian registry are American owned.

Trade Minister Howe says he is confident that the United States will modify its wheat selling policy whereby countries which need it can pay for it in their own non-dollar currencies. Doubtless, Mr. Howe has his own reasons for taking this view, but whatever they are they do not tally with reports from Washington that the program will be stepped up in the coming months.

Dr. Haryey in his address before the P. E. Island Historical Society emphasized the need of a Provincial Museum, and the advantages accruing therefrom. He has even offered to present a collection of historical documents to the museum "if and when it is established." This seems now to be the opportune time. It has been suggested on several occasions that the old Post Office building, now vacant, be acquired for this purpose. In any case, the Society's efforts to obtain suitable museum quarters are deserving of every support.



POINT OF VIEW

The Conquest of Muskeg

Christopher Young in the Ottawa Citizen

Between the northern tundra and the productive strip of settled Canada lies a vast no-man's-land of lakes and swamp—the muskeg country. It is dangerous and inaccessible, little known and little valued.

Now suddenly, thanks to a 14-year research study by a Hamilton scientist and the invention of a Scottish engineer, the muskeg is to be laid open. It will be travelled, charted and perhaps reclaimed for useful work.

The scientist is Dr. Norman W. Radforth, professor of botany at McMaster University. His studies correlated with government aerial surveys, have shown what muskeg is and how it can be charted from the air.

The engineer is James Cuthbertson, of Biggar, Lanarkshire. His invention, a tension caterpillar tractor, girded with giant buoyancy tanks, can hitch itself across open water and squelch its way through bogs that have been known to swallow railway engines.

The result, Dr. Radforth says, is that "the whole question of the future of the north can now be considered in a different light."

Muskeg is a deep layer of dead vegetation suspended in water below a thin layer of living plants. It covers about 600,000 square miles of Canada—an area half again as big as Ontario, which is itself about half muskeg. Big chunks of every province except Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are covered with it.

The aerial work continued for several years and is still continuing. As of this year the experts working at McMaster can "read" photos taken at 30,000 feet.

By looking at the photos they can tell not only what the surface is like—what trees and plants grow there and where open water lies—but what is underground. Here the sub-surface is ridged with gravel; there the bog is too deep for effective drainage; in another place there is timber handy and the ground will support a corduroy road; and so on.

McMaster's maproom laboratory is the only place where such information is available about the Canadian north. Its practical value to government and private business will be enormous.

Such are the wonders now blazing a trail into the Canadian wilderness: a subterranean X-ray from 30,000 feet and a buoyant 10-ton cat.

A certain proportion of the cost might well continue to be underwritten by advertisers, and there is a case for limited subsidies as being in the national interest; but in any case the owners of television receiving sets would, under the user principle, be called on to make a greater contribution than would happen under the C.L.C.'s plan of loading most of the bill on the general taxpayer.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN... HOW TO BRUSH TEETH

Brushing the teeth regularly and properly is one of the most important methods of maintaining good, strong teeth. There's a lot you can teach your youngster about brushing his teeth. You may even pick up a few tips for yourself from the following:

Give your tot his own toothbrush and fold-up menthol tube of toothpaste or tooth powder. These provide him with a pleasant sense of ownership.

It's a good idea for your youngster to have two such brushes. In fact, you should have two yourself, in this way you can be sure of always having a brush with dry and firm bristles ready for use.

Brushes should be dried in the air. Place them so they will not come in contact with other brushes.

Incidentally, there's a toothbrush available now with an antibacterial impregnated in the bristles and plastic head.

As for the actual brushing, the brush in the upper arch should be guided from the gum tissue downwards to the biting surfaces of the teeth. In the lower arch, it is guided from the gum tissue upwards.

Brushing not only helps keep your teeth clean, it also helps promote circulation of the blood in the tissue around the teeth.

You can get a free chart and free pamphlet illustrating the proper technique for brushing teeth by writing the American Dental Association, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois.

AFTER EVERY MEAL

Most of you know, I'm sure, that you should brush your teeth after every meal. Let me explain why this is so important.

Bacteria begins acting on sugars within a few minutes after the sugars are eaten to form acids capable of dissolving tooth enamel.

So you see it's essential that fermentable food particle be removed as quickly as possible.

Usually, there are red blood cells in the urine as well as albumin, and the body becomes swollen.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (October 12, 1931)

The S. S. Hochelaga made one of the stormiest crossings in its history on a trip from Pictou to this City. The high wind splintered the bridge, cutting the captain somewhat, it is reported.

The Charlottetown Rotary Club sponsored five classes and a pony race at the Charlottetown Driving Park arranged and directed by the Victoria Driving Club. The proceeds went to the Crippled Children's Aid and other charities.

TEN YEARS AGO (October 12, 1946) After two years of postponements and discouragements caused in part by war conditions and in part by strikes in American industrial plants, the new boiler of the Maritime Electric plant is under test operations and is expected to be carrying the major portion of Charlottetown's electric load within a week or ten days.

The third serious fire in Charlottetown within fifteen days practically destroyed the Enterprise Bakery, on Malpeque Road.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The city slicker travels miles to work, while the farmer gets up and finds himself in the middle of it.—Galt Reporter

The fact that young people who have only been in Canada a few years could score heavily at the difficult Grade 13 exams is an indication that they are bright and industrious. Canada is the gainer by their coming to this country. It is also a challenge to young people born here who may be too much accustomed to taking too much for granted.—London Free Press

The curse of the Commons is the uproar created by the deskstop lids members can hang. A member whose angry voice is no more formidable than that of a courting dove can make himself a veritable North Star with four motors all out when he slams his desk lid. Often it appears the most inarticulate members are the best bangers.—Ottawa Journal

A magistrate at Brampton suggests that pedestrians should carry lanterns when walking on highways at night. Certainly some light clothing or reflecting device would be of great help. A dark slicker makes a pedestrian almost invisible on a wet, dark night. Even having white markings on the slicker would help. This seems saving lives, but it is surprising how many pedestrians neglect it, and also how many fail to walk into traffic, which is another simple press.

If it's of any interest, Reuters says that beer drinkers throughout the world consumed 6,520,000,000 gallons last year, an increase of 179,000,000 gallons over the 1954 total. We aren't putting the finger on beer, particularly, for it is a temperate drink if used in moderation, but it is a fact that traffic deaths also show an increase over last year. And this is as good a time as any to repeat the injunction: If you drink, don't drive.—Cleveland Plain Dealer

A teacher, noticing that one little boy always used a black crayon for his drawings of horses, cows, barns and whatever else, became very disturbed about the state of the boy's mind and called a meeting with the child's parents, the school principal, and a psychiatrist. They finally got to the root of the trouble. They found it was his only crayon.—Galt Reporter

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The Poet's Corner

AUTUMN AIR

Today the autumn air was honed and thin. The ivy vine was scarlet overlaid with patterned gold. I brought the peppers in. Globes of polished ruby, tinged with jade. Then at dusk, I heard the wild geese pass. Though the sky was far too dark to see. This morning frost lay white upon the grass. And there was gold-leaf on the maple tree. By these signs we put the long years by. When thoughts are gentle sheep within the fold. With unseen music haunts the darkened sky. And quiet days are fallen leaves of gold.—Alma Robinson Higbee, in the Christian Science Monitor.

MAXIMS

We can only pay our debt in the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves.

SOCCER TEAM AMBUSHED

RANGOON, Burma (Reuters)—Communist rebels were reported Tuesday to have killed eight members of a Burmese army soccer team in an ambush near Pyy 122 miles north of Rangoon on the Mandalay Road. Three other members of the team were reported missing.

FEWER HOUSES STARTED

OTTAWA (CP) — Completions of new dwelling units rose in August and the first eight months of 1956 from corresponding periods last year. Starts on new units declined in both periods. Completions increased slightly in August to 10,732 from 10,685 and in the eight-month period to 78,407 from 72,896, the bureau of statistics said Wednesday in a report of preliminary figures. Starts fell in August for the fourth straight month to 13,097 from 16,219. The eight-month total declined to 87,628 from 90,849 last year.

The Age Old Story

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