

Better Teeth

The dentist's drill will be used less in future, according to a paper delivered at the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Dentistry for Children. Dr. Ralph F. Sommer of the School of Dentistry at the University of Michigan pointed out that the use of antibiotics and other drugs enables infection to be checked, even in the case of abscessed teeth, and it is unnecessary to drill away the decayed tooth structure. In fact it hardens of its own accord when the infection is cured.

The same meeting unanimously endorsed the fluoridation of water supplies, under competent dental, medical and engineering advice, as a method of combatting tooth decay. The resolution noted that among populations which had consumed water in which fluoridation had been carried out in a proportion of one part in 1,000,000, a marked reduction in tooth decay had followed, with no discoverable ill effects.

Like earlier generations of dentists they also recommended that parents should be advised to avoid allowing their children's teeth to be bathed in acid, caused by too many sweet foods.

The latter suggestion is not likely to meet with any more approval from the present generation of youngsters than it did from their parents when they were young. It all adds up, however, to the fact that we can by taking known and practical measures greatly reduce the amount of tooth decay in the rising generation.

Martian Calendar

The workers for calendar reform are not by any means lacking in humour. In fact ridicule is one of the principal weapons they are in the habit of using in order to start people thinking about the faults in the present method of computing time. An article in the Journal of Calendar Reform includes a mock-serious discussion of the incongruities of the calendar by the French scientist Camille Flammarion in his "Dreams of an Astronomer."

"As in our case, there is no integral number of days in the Martian year. Perhaps their calendar has also been reformed several times without being made perfect. But let us hope they are not as stupid as we, with our months of 28, 29, 30 and 31 days, and with our three kinds of days—civil day which commences at midnight, the astronomical day which commences the next midday and the naval day which commences the previous midday; we who waited thousands of years before we could fix an exact hour in Standard Time because we counted from conventional meridians and the various countries could not agree to a single meridian. Being probably more advanced than ourselves in its planetary age, Martian humanity is most likely more reasonable and is not mixed up with the littleness of frontiers, dialects, customs and national rivalries. For a long time already, no doubt, they form a simple unit. One may also suppose that they do not celebrate their new year festival amid the winter frosts, but in the hopeful days of the equinox."

Not Long Enough

An official of the Federal Indian Affairs Department has intimated that integration of Canadian Indians into white civilization is a slow process because "uninformed" Indians are hesitant about giving up their protected way of life for what appears to them to be economic insecurity. It is just possible that the Indians the official had in mind are not as uninformed as they may appear. In fact, they may be so well informed on the ups and downs of the non-Indian economy that they believe it is the part of wisdom to give it a wide berth. And who will blame them? After all, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush; at least, it would be hard to substantiate any opinion to the contrary.

In this connection it is interesting to learn from a news report that the department concerned is giving groups of selected Indians week-long courses in government, jurisprudence, civil rights, and life in general. The presumption is that once the Indians learn all about these important subjects they will be ready and eager to leave their sheltered reservations for the bright lights of white civilization. So far as the first three subjects are concerned, this may be true enough. A good smart Indian, with not too many other things on his mind, probably could learn a good deal

about government, law and civil rights, in a week; enough, at any rate, to enable him to vote intelligently or even to run as a political candidate with the customary dignity and decorum, to argue on the niceties of the law, and to stand up for himself in a competitive society.

With respect to "life in general", however, it is hard to see how even the best teachers could impart, or the smartest pupils absorb any appreciable knowledge of such a vast subject in so short a time.

The "Food Dollar"

One of the disputes developing in current attempts to solve Uncle Sam's farm problem is just how much of the consumers' food dollar should go to the farmers. Some farm groups publish figures to show that the farmers' share of the food dollar has been getting smaller and smaller.

It is difficult to measure the food dollar. The Kitchener-Waterloo Record points out that money that a housewife spends in grocery stores is not all for food. Part of the money is "tin-can dollars," or "bottle dollars," or "slicing, cooking, wrapping, cellophane, storage, shipping, tax dollars" and many other kinds.

In other words, a housewife buys more than food. She also buys boxes and cans and many services. That makes it difficult to ascertain whether the farmer or anyone else involved is getting his share.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 5th Sunday after Easter; Rogation Sunday.

In September there will be a keen contest between teams of British and American cars over an 850-mile route. Little commercialism is expected to enter into it, however, as the classes are for cars manufactured between 1906 and 1916 and between 1916 and 1930.

Eight Provinces joined with the Federal Government in providing vocational or technical training for unemployed in the last fiscal year, according to Labour Minister Gregg. This scheme has many advantages. A short period of unemployment for an individual can actually mean a higher standard of living in the long run rather than being a period of disheartening idleness.

The consolidated financial statement for the Canadian Red Cross gives a complete picture of the widespread operations of that organization. It is interesting to note that the Blood Transfusion Service was the second greatest item of expenditure, although less than half that going to designated funds, international and other social work. Campaign expenses come to 3.44 per cent and administration salaries to 4.07 per cent.

Dr. Daniel Francois Malan, South Africa's Prime Minister, was born this date 1874. Educated as a Dutch Reformed minister, he became a member of Hertzog's Nationalist Government. He founded what afterwards became known as the Nationalist Party. He opposed Gen. Smuts' policy of participation in the Second World War. It was not until 1948, however, that he gained power with the aid of the leader of the Afrikaner Party. On the colour question he follows a policy of separation.

While opportunities for white collar employment are increasing throughout the world, the demand for such jobs is out-running the supply, according to the International Labour Organization of the U. N. The explanation suggested is that people "do not necessarily measure their social standing in terms of income." Perhaps, rather, it is that people still associate white-collar jobs with higher incomes and are slow to recognize that many others offer more attractive opportunities.

Names are apt to be deceptive. In previous years Canada and the United States had a simple agreement, existing since 1930, for the clearance of boat-racing equipment at border points. With the passing of the "Customs Simplification Act," however, boats, as well as race horses, aircraft, motorcycles and bicycles, are delayed at border points because bonding is now involved and is usually available only during normal working hours. Race meets will certainly suffer unless the "simplification" is revoked.

"If only people thought more about marbles and less about atom bombs!" So exclaimed a British woman, wife of a Canadian when she watched a game at Tinsley, on the borders of Sussex and Surrey. American sailors, Londoners, a team from Glasgow and others went down to defeat before the men of Sussex. In this country, sad to say, marbles attract only youngsters and them only for a brief period in the Spring before the ground is dry enough for baseball. What marbles need are heroes, like the hockey and other greats, before becoming really popular.



About This Time Of Year

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.

DISFRANCHISED

Sir: Mr. J. Leo Praught having, as he thought, played it smart by catching his potatoes out of season thus avoiding buying a potato license which would have gone in part for advertising the industry and keeping it out of the doghouse now finds himself caught in a web of his own weaving and assumes the role of a disfranchised martyr.

His clarion call to the Matheson Government to protect his freedom would ring far more effectively in the Legislative Chamber were white collars as fashionable as starched with a majority of votes. I am Sir, etc.

INDEPENDENT FOX

FOR THE BOARD

Sir,—Certain letters have been appearing in your forum recently which might confuse many farmers on the issue of our Potato Marketing Board Plebiscite which is to be held next week. It is well to look at such things from different angles, so I would like to point out a few things which have not been stressed so far in your paper. First of all the powers of the Board were outlined in yesterday's paper in a way designed to frighten us farmers. However, I don't think that will work as we all realize the need of legislative powers to effectively regulate anything because those powers, as far as I can find out, are contained in all marketing acts across Canada, and the Dominion Act was supported emphatically by the Liberal, Conservative and C. C. F. parties when it was passed at Ottawa. (See from page 2478 on in Hansard of the first 1949 session). Also our Board is set up on a democratic basis where producers in each county have the privilege of electing their representatives on the Board every three years—the same principle as applies in electing our government and one which we all cherish, and many of our boys have fought to defend.

There are some policies of the Board which I am not fully in agreement with. One is the dividend on a 15¢ bushel, and we have been promised that it will be as good as the legal provisions are enacted. Another is that the producers who hold their potatoes until spring should be allowed a higher initial payment to cover the cost of sprouting and to allow for shrinkage. There should also be something done to see that the market farmer has a chance to dispose of his crop before the planting season commences. However, I believe all these things can and will be worked out satisfactorily if the Board is given time and support.

Criticism has been voiced of the cost of operating the Selling Agency. Surely we can afford to pay 1 1/2 cents a bushel to have our market prices stabilized and held to the highest level possible, by maintaining uniform quotations and eliminating price cutting. At least we know what it's costing now; we didn't in the past.

The old and devious technique of confusing the issue by bringing personalities into it has been restored. Surely our farmers can meet at the head of the Potato Board can not be bought off. I understand this, too, has been tried.

Some of our dealers have become very anxious to support and promote co-operatives as the entire solution to our marketing problems. This is quite a change of attitude. I wonder why. According to the experience of farmers in Western Canada, Denmark and other exporting areas, something more was needed before producers could really say they were able to protect their own interests in marketing.

I do not think this is an issue between dealers and farmers on this Island. We are too small a unit to fight among ourselves. Basically what we need is an organization to protect ourselves against

NOTES BY THE WAY

A psychiatrist is one chap who doesn't have to worry as long as other people do. —Toronto Star.

The pessimist says many a woman who cares nothing for her husband lives on his account. —Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Among U.S. children, we understand, "cops and robbers" has been replaced by "spectators and congressmen." —Edmonton Journal.

The trouble with spring in Northern Ontario is not so much recognizing it, as living through it. —Sault Ste. Marie Star.

A Scot chicken farmer has a radio in his henhouse and turns it on every time a comedian is scattering his corn. —Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

Mothers are understanding, patient and kind, but so are some fathers. The real distinction is that only mothers can tie a little girl's sash in a bow that looks like one. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Harvard University is going to send a signal to Mars by radar, and Senator Soaper remarks that if there's an answer Harvard will say "Who is there?" and if the reply comes back "It's me" instead of "It is I," Harvard will ring off. —Hamilton Spectator.

Since the scream of a frightened starling scares starlings but not pigeons, Washington airport authorities are going to try the scream of an eagle on the pigeons. And if that fails why not broadcast the roar of a senator letting off steam? —Brantford Expositor.

How important are symbols of "progress" measured against the lasting and inspiring values of the human heart and mind and soul? Bigger guns and bigger ships have no relation to greater courage and ingenuity—far from it. Medical science can do less than nothing for those who treat their health with contempt. Huge schools do not automatically ensure broader education—very often they do the reverse. Libraries can't guarantee wisdom. From this we take what we want. No individual, can mature.—From an editorial for young people, Hamilton Spectator.

The speculators and big interests outside the Province who generally make more money out of our potato crop than we do, and incidentally, have often boasted that they can make as much or more money during a year when the price to the farmer is low than they can when it is high.

Some of our local assemblers and truckers today would treat their health with contempt. Huge schools do not automatically ensure broader education—very often they do the reverse. Libraries can't guarantee wisdom. From this we take what we want. No individual, can mature.—From an editorial for young people, Hamilton Spectator.

The question has been asked, "What program has the Board to offer in the future? Will it be compulsory, etc.?" Why? Why? I ask questions on the ballot? I ask what has anyone else to offer? Let us profit by the experience of organized farmers in other parts of Canada. We want a pool system. It is the only fair way of marketing our product. If we had two questions on the ballot, and voted against the central selling agency the Board would not be able to take advantage of the support legislation from Ottawa under which we have all profited this past year.

Remember this, we can easily vote away our Marketing Board but we cannot vote away our marketing problems. Think it over and "VOTE". I am, Sir, etc., JAMES A. MURPHY, Cherry Valley.

The glad mood in which Toronto's first rodeo their new suburb has passed, according to a Toronto newspaper columnist, to be replaced by the deadpan, staring-straight-ahead mask usually associated with street-car riders. Possibly the mode of transportation doesn't matter so much as the time and destination. Early morning sleepiness, with a day's work at the end of the ride, are conducive to a dazed expression. —Ottawa Citizen.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. MALPEQUE PIONEERS

"The Ramsays and McIntoshes, who were the first immigrants to Malpeque, settled there in 1770. What is now Malpeque was then a dense unbroken forest of immense hardwood chiefly, and extended softwood. Huge trees on the seashore, river edges and Richmond Bay beaches. For several years provisions were very scarce. The landlord's at 'home' in Britain, to encourage people to emigrate, told them that sugar was growing on the trees (maple sugar), that all kinds of fruits were plentiful, that fish was abundant, and that provisions were in profusion. Hence nearly all the first settlers brought no food with them, and they were exposed to many privations. A few French inhabitants sparingly supplied them. This humane people would go to the North Cape, catch sea-cows, preserve the flippers, carry home, and also haul on dog sleighs, and give a considerable portion of the newcomers."

"Two poor men of the British were early one spring short of all kinds of provisions except potatoes. They launched their canoe to search for eels. They spent two days paddling away up along the shores to the Barbara West River, and were returning nearly starved, and melancholy because their cruise was thus far fruitless, when they noticed shallow grounds covered with eel grass out in the Malpeque Bay, and they thought that for the curiosity of the thing they would try. No sooner had they poked their spears into the mud, than they caught them full of the long-looked for and much desired fish."

"They soon loaded the canoe, landed, dug a hole in the snow covered, shore or bank, returned to the eel ground, reloaded, and again emptied their craft, and the third time filled the canoe, when they joyfully paddled home. Usually in winter eels were found to be very numerous when spear-rod through holes cut in the ice, a half barrel of them being frequently got from a single hole." —From an article in The Presbyterian, Jan. 3, 1878.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer CIVILIZATIONS OLD AND NEW

In 1870 a German archaeologist, who happened to be a student of Homer, began a series of excavations in Asia Minor. The main object of his search was the legendary city of Troy, the theme of the Iliad and the Odyssey. After much labour in running down one clue after another, only to find that none of them led to anything of much value to his quest, he at last discovered the remains of a city which he and his fellow scientists assumed marked the ruins of nine extinct civilizations. The sixth mound, made up of walls, defensive gateways, palaces, foundations, articles of gold, silver, and bronze, and various relics of ancient warfare, was identified tentatively as the Homeric city. Subsequent expeditions seemed to confirm the previous findings, but accurate identification of the other mounds has never been made.

Recently, however, a group of scientists from the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara, Turkey, announced certain findings regarding the ancient kingdom of the Hittites which is supposed to have flourished some 2000 years before the beginning of the Christian era. Further examination of these ruins have indicated a connection between the Hittite Empire and the city which, according to tradition and legend, principally the latter, finally succumbed to Greek trickery after withstanding heroically a ten year siege.

While these discoveries, and others of like nature, are mainly of interest to archaeologists and historians, they are not entirely without general value. Perhaps their chief value is in reminding us all that civilizations and cultures, like nations and individuals, have no permanent tenure on the earth. In the past, one after another has arisen, flourished for a time, then ceased to be. Some lasted longer than others and left a greater imprint on the pages of human history, but all went their ways to ruin.

"Civilization," wrote the poet, "is a fiction." The words could be applied with equal significance and truth to other empires, cities, and societies. There is a widespread and uncomfortable feeling in these days that another global war might well write "fnis" to civilization as it is in this hour. This is based, of course, on the fear of modern methods of mass destruction; but, all nuclear possibilities aside, there is no strong reason for supposing that the civilization we know will last for ever and ever.

If history follows the usual course, the civilization which has been built up so laboriously and to such a great height of technological attainment will one day vanish and be replaced by another more able to carry forward the purpose of the ages, better equipped to implement the good hopes and dreams of mankind's 20th century. It is so deeply convinced of his superiority over his predecessors, and so very proud of his mechanical achievements, that he finds it hard to believe that all the things in which he glories will in due course be marked by moss-covered mounds, which will dis-

The Poet's Corner BIRDS ARE BRAVE Birds with no single note of grief sing through the season of the least. Not once as if they were aware of their own brevity in air. Nothing within their sum of song says life is little, death is long. They build, breed those they can not save. From sudden menace. Birds are brave! But subtle, more than simple. Birds Give wider meanings than mere words. Insist, in their incessant song, That life is right, that death is wrong. —Carleton Dewey.

The Age Old Story The Lord knoweth the days of the upright; and their inheritance shall be for ever. VAST FOREST The original forested area of Canada amounted to nearly 2,000,000 square miles.

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