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Potato Consumption

It may seem something of an anomaly but the executive director of the National Potato Council in Washington attributes a decline in potato consumption in the United States to the cheapness of that food.

Other factors contributing to the situation are the high energy factor of potatoes, which is less required in an age of sedentary work; dieting fads, which quite wrongly treat the potato as fattening whereas many other foods are more so; and the working housewife who doesn't have time to peel potatoes.

None of these explanations present an insuperable obstacle to again increasing the consumption of potatoes per capita. The low price, for instance, should in the long run tell in favour of the potato, particularly as science and industry produce more and more attractive alternatives for portions of the food dollar.

Potato peeling will tend to become passe; they have added health value when baked in their jackets. The potato is also a strategic crop, according to Mr. Case. "They're . . . the one crop that's hard to destroy.

War On Elephants

Recently delegates from South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and Bechuanaland, met in Johannesburg, and after several days of earnest consultation issued a joint declaration of war. The war is neither ideological nor political, nor is it directed against either East or West.

At first it was thought that professional hunters armed with rifles would be able to bring the war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion; when it became apparent that sterner measures would be necessary state troops with machine guns were called into service.

Farmers in this part of the world often are annoyed by a fox or a racoon which enters the farmyard by stealth; nor is it any laughing matter, for both rascals are capable of doing a lot of mischief in one way and another.

Nursing Centennial

Until 1854, when Florence Nightingale took a staff of 38 young women volunteers to the Crimean warfront at Scutari, Turkey, care of the sick and wounded had been looked upon as a form of punishment for criminals or as a penance for members of religious groups.

had to bribe them to obtain food and care. The woman who changed all that was the daughter of well-to-do English parents. Miss Nightingale was named for Florence, Italy, where she was born in 1820.

London was aroused in 1854 by reports of the suffering of sick and wounded British soldiers in the Crimea. Miss Nightingale escorted her recruits to Scutari. She fought army opposition and red tape to obtain improvement in sanitary conditions in the bare hospital barracks.

In the United States, crude treatment of Civil War casualties spurred a demand for improvement in hospitals and nursing care. In 1873 Bellevue Hospital in New York City and Philadelphia General Hospital adopted the "Nightingale Plan", an apprenticeship system combining hospital and nursing schools.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow the 11th Sunday after Trinity, 12th after Pentecost.

The Red Cross is again calling upon Prince Edward Islanders to volunteer as blood donors. Clinics held in seven centres have an objective of 1,000 donors.

Canada generally is gradually becoming accustomed to a situation long familiar in this Province, a preponderance of men over women. The fair sex in this country are in the fortunate position of enjoying scarcity value in addition to their other attractions.

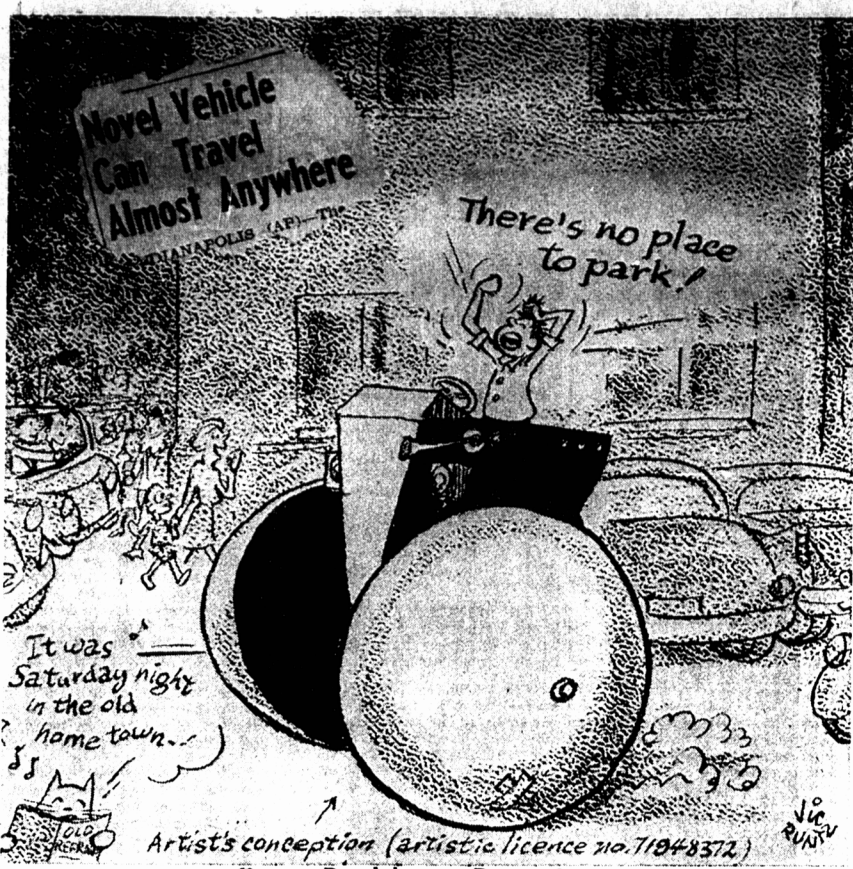
Newfoundland prosperity is strikingly illustrated in the budget speech of the Hon. Gregory J. Power, now distributed in pamphlet form. He estimates that the people of Newfoundland will pocket \$230,000,000 this year, an increase of \$20,000,000 over last year and \$75,000,000 more than in 1951.

Ontario statistics show accidental and violent deaths predominating up to the age of 39 and diseases of the heart as the number one killer over the age of 40. From the lower age groups to old age there is a consistent drop in the proportion of deaths from pneumonia and allied causes and a corresponding increase in those resulting from cancer.

The Registrar of Toronto University proposes that high school students be kept in school for a couple of hours extra because they don't know how to study and are unprepared for university exams.

Thermometers and hygrometers have been placed on different floors of Federal buildings to determine when temperature and humidity break the "comfort barrier". It is more difficult, however, to take account of individual comfort or discomfort when in the same building some employees may be sitting at desks, lightly clothed while others are climbing ladders or carrying burdens and wearing relatively heavy clothing.

The Battle of Heligoland Bight was fought this date 1914. British submarines had determined the routine of the three lines of German ships guarding the entrance to the Kiel canal and the Elbe. A light cruiser force made a sweep of the bight commencing before dawn.



PUBLIC FORUM

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

APPROCIATION Sir—I wish to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks to the Canadian Red Cross Blood transfusion service for the generous donation of blood so necessary in saving the life of my daughter.

I am, Sir, etc. LAURENCE B. GALLANT North Rustico.

THE \$64 QUESTION is that of farm costs. Are those things which farmers must buy to maintain and operate their agricultural plantings going to remain at the high level of recent years?

Yes, agriculture in his blood since he did so well with the allotment. He now spins on his hands at bridge whenever spades are trumps. —Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

Big Ben's Centennial

A centenary to be marked this summer and which is of unusual significance to the people of Britain and millions throughout the world is that of Big Ben. The year 1954 is the 100th since the completion of the works of the great time-piece familiarly known as Big Ben, although strictly speaking this appellation should be given only to the bell in the tower which tolls the hours.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Pursuant to public notice, a Fair was held here on Wednesday last, for the sale of live stock and agricultural produce. The demand for good cattle, particularly milch cows, was brisk, but very few were offered for sale, and although far from being in good condition, they readily realized from \$7 to \$10 a head.

WILL HOLD RALLY

VATICAN CITY, (Reuters) — An international rally of knights of the nine-century-old Sovereign Order of Malta will be held in Rome from Oct. 5-8. Purpose of the rally will be to pay homage to the Madonna in this Marian year.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The real reducing hero is the one who can stick to his diet at an American Plan resort. —Edmonton Journal.

There's one excellent way to break up a children's party on schedule, the only problem being how to get the fire engines to dash past the house. —St. Catharines Standard.

High-strung individuals who don't know how to rest, and won't try to learn, invariably die at a comparatively early age when a little "slow-up" would help preserve them for many years of usefulness. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Maybe the baby born in an air-liner flying out of Honolulu will turn out to be a high-spirited youngster. —Fort William Times-Journal.

In the old home town an old lighted had the mixed distinction of being the oldest and the slowest settler. —Kitchener Waterloo Record.

Long periods without rain in these summer days invariably force the head of the house to return after his day's work to home and hose. —Toronto Telegram.

Shoe salesmen make much of the relaxing effect of rubber heels. They might also mention that they don't scratch the desk-top. —Hamilton Spectator.

If nature had not stepped in, reports B. Tucker Abbott, a Smithsonian Institute biologist, the world might long ago have been overlaid with oysters. Abbott says that there is one species of common on the Pacific coast, that lays as many as 10,000,000,000 eggs a year.

A Lunenburg schooner is back in port with 400,000 pounds of fish. She didn't get them on the fishing banks, but by purchase in Newfoundland for another cargo. It is a phenomenon of these times, a Lunenburg fishing vessel freighted with fish from Newfoundland, to keep Lunenburg processing plants in operation.

An Australian textile expert hopes to revolutionize the industry by the introduction of a new type of fibre, called ramie. Actually the Egyptians in Biblical times were acquainted with ramie and used it for weaving fabrics.

The clock was built on the principle of a grandfather's clock with governing weights which, if allowed to run down all the way, would almost reach the street level nearly 300 feet below. For the first 60 years of its existence, the clock was wound by hand, two strong men taking five hours a day three times a week to do the job.

Despite its five-ton mechanism and its 100 years of service, the clock is one of the most accurate timekeepers in the world. An official report has it that last year it lost only half of one second—a marvellous achievement when it is remembered that an expensive watch is considered a good time-keeper if it varies not more than a minute in 24 hours.

The huge bell on which the hours are struck got its name from Sir Benjamin Hall, who was a big man known as "Big Ben," and who was supervisor of works at the time of installation.

Big Ben, whether referring to the bell or the clock itself, has become more than a recorder of time. The architecturally beautiful tower and the booming note as the hour is struck, have become inseparably associated with life in London. Through the medium of the airwaves, the cheerful and confident voice of Big Ben frequently travels around the world.

The duck shooting season has been extended, with the result that there will be more dead ducks than usual this year. —Lethbridge Herald.

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The Passing Scene

Anyone who reads the newspapers these days cannot help observing the great wave of Anti-American feeling that is abroad in the world. The latest friction between that country and France over French hostility, or at least half-heartedness, towards the European Army Plan, has helped to bring the situation into clearer focus, but the antipathy has been building up ever since the end of the Second World War.

West Germany, the enemy of only a few years ago, seems to be less affected than some other continental countries; but, even there, public opinion appears to be less cordially inclined than the official relations between the two countries would indicate. In the Far East matters are even worse. Japan, which General MacArthur once called "a bastion of democracy" is no longer pro-American in anything but a formal sense and in some respects, is downright unfriendly.

Behind all this anti-American sentiment, of course, is Soviet propaganda. How to combat it and to make friends of the people of those countries which have been the recipients of United States economic aid is perhaps the greatest task facing United States diplomacy in this hour. So far, it would seem, it hasn't been done very well. Dr. Cahn seems to think that the work should be transferred from Government agencies to one or more of the Educational Foundations, the Ford Foundation for example. But, in view of the fact that—rightly or wrongly—these Foundations themselves are now under much criticism in certain influential circles, it isn't likely that Dr. Cahn's suggestion will be followed.

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