

The Accepted Time

There are many ways of wasting that intangible thing called "Time"; and most of us have experimented with a great number of them at one time and another.

When one stops to think of it, the years are very much alike in the really important things that make up the continuing human story — Progress and setbacks; hopes fulfilled and hopes blighted; contentment and discontent; faith and disillusionment.

There are, of course, many questions we wish the prophets could answer as we turn over a new leaf in the calendar of the years. The biggest question of all, perhaps, has to do with the issue of war and peace.

It is a common habit to think of other times and other seasons, other years, as having been more interesting, more romantic, more stirred by the glory of God.

Many New Year Dates

In ancient times the Egyptians, Phoenicians and Persians began their year at the autumnal equinox (Sept. 21) and the Greeks until the 5th century B.C. at the winter solstice (Dec. 21).

year from the first day of the month of Tishri (Sept. 6-7), but their ecclesiastical year begins at the spring equinox (March 21).

March 25 was the usual date among most Christian peoples in early mediaeval days. In Anglo-Saxon England, however, Dec. 25 was New Year's day.

The Year At Home

In many ways Canada's progress during the past year has been phenomenal. We have had very optimistic reports as to our booming national economy — reports which unfortunately do not take into consideration the difficult times our agricultural industry has been facing.

We have made marked progress provincially in highway improvement, extension of rural electrification facilities, in the fishery industry and in the processing of dairy products.

For Charlottetown it has been a red-letter year. Visitors have come from far and near to join in our centennial celebrations, and we have had the privilege of welcoming national and regional conventions of all kinds on a scale far exceeding anything in our civic history.

The year has brought sorrow and tribulation into many homes; and to all who have suffered in this way we extend sympathy and the hope that, with the passage of time and the consolations of religious faith, their burdens may be lightened and their hearts refreshed.

To our readers generally, young and old, we take pleasure in extending our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Write 1956 after today

Let's hope that the good highway traffic record of this Province during the Christmas holidays will be carried over into the new year.

Shakespeare might well have been thinking of the New Year when he wrote of Time as "a fashionable host, that lightly shakes his parting guest by the hand, and with his arms outstretched, as he would fly, grasps in the corner. Welcome ever smiles, and farewell goes out sighing."

The author of a recently published book, "Coins in Bible Days", reaches the conclusion that the coin which St. Peter found in the fish's mouth, as recorded in the 17th chapter of Matthew, was a tetradrachm from the Phoenician city of Tyre.



HAPPY LANDINGS, EVERYONE!

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.

APPEALING Sir,—The residents on the 48 Road would like to use this column to bespeak their appreciation to those who planned the detailed route for the Trans-Canada Highway in this section.

People here have complained years ago that this portion of the road was badly in need of repair and have looked forward to a hard surfaced road.

Now that the final survey has been completed and will this month be presented in Ottawa, we are indeed grateful to those who are responsible for making a dream become a reality.

To Premier Matheson and to those whom it may concern (who so justly defended our interests), our warmest thanks. We congratulate them on choosing the wisest, safest and easiest possible route for this portion of the T. C. H.

I am, Sir, etc., MRS. G. HENRY JONES Lot 48.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Now is the midnight tremulous with hope. And quick with shadow-shapes of things to be: The velvet wings that will be joy in June.

The music of the bells comes clear: A passing and a birth... How strange that what the darkness takes: The darkness gives: Courage and faith to keep the heart And like a white light turn through-out the days.

The mists lift long enough to show The young year with a shout Strides underneath the lintel Like a laughing boy.

—William Whitney.

Wren's Plan Restored.

Montreal Gazette Sir Christopher Wren replanned London after the Great Fire of 1666. The prodigious architect also designed hundreds of buildings to grace the new city, including some 70 lovely churches.

As his most important work, Wren had definite ideas about how it should be decorated and lighted, what its setting should be. But his advice was voted down by state and church officials. It has taken 250 years and another Great Fire of London to present St. Paul's as he saw it and the effect, say the authorities, prove that he was right in the first place.

Outside, Wren demanded that the area surrounding the cathedral should be kept clear, so its outlines could be appreciated from ground level. This was not followed until German bombs had levelled the buildings around it. Since then, a new conception of the beauty of St. Paul's has been born; it is the conception that Wren had of it from the first.

Inside, he wanted the main structure kept clear so that a person entering from the west could see right through the building. Instead, a great screen was erected dividing the church in half. Wren also said that plain glass windows should light the building. Instead, a stained-glass was used and the gloomier parts of the interior had to be artificially lighted.

The Commonwealth Framework

By Robert Rhee, Canadian Press Staff, London

The flexible framework of the British Commonwealth was stretched and tested during 1955, but the structure remained substantially unchanged.

In almost every corner of the 14,656,000 square miles covered by the unique association of a quarter of the world's population, there were gradual steps toward meeting aspirations of maturing colonies and dependencies.

There was trouble, too. One of the most difficult areas was tiny, strategic Cyprus in the Mediterranean, where the cry for union with Greece—"Enosis"—sparked bitter violence against British soldiers sent to restore order.

LITTLE PROGRESS Sir John Harding, former chief of the Imperial general staff, was named governor in September in a tougher bid to quell the disturbances. But outbreaks continued and political negotiations made little progress.

Constitutionally, perhaps the most significant event of the year was Pakistan's decision in February to become a republic like its neighbor India, yet to remain within the Commonwealth. Pakistan, a nation of 76,000,000 people, was created just eight years ago.

This showed itself in the West Indies, where representatives of the islands agreed in March on an inter-island immigration policy that opened free travel between the colonies. The decision was a preliminary step toward a Caribbean federation, on which "final decisions" will be discussed in February during a West Indian conference in London.

LOOK TO INDEPENDENCE In West Africa, Nigeria, the Gambia and the Gold Coast celebrated the first anniversaries of their 1954 federal constitutions. Opening its 1955 legislature in February, the Gold Coast expressed the hope of achieving "independence within the like of the present assembly." It would become the first Negro nation in the Commonwealth.

The emphasis changed in Kenya from military action against Mau Mau raiders to economic and social development of the 5,500,000 African inhabitants. With the Mau Mau's manure armies cut to mere fragments, the country turned to "winning the peace" in preparation for next year's elections, result of which will likely influence Kenya's future for many years.

Uganda's difficulties seemed closer to solution with the return in October of the Kabaka of Buganda, Mutesa II, earlier banished by Britain for standing in the way of constitutional development. While East and West Africa matured along inter-racial lines, South Africa continued to press forward the nationalist's full apartheid policy.

Reports that South Africa, smarting under Commonwealth criticism of its segregation of races, would seek republican status, possibly outside the Commonwealth, were not so frequent, nor so loud. In other Commonwealth developments, Malta asked Britain to allow the Maltese people to "integrate" with the United Kingdom in the same sense as Northern Ireland. An all-party round-table conference in London considered the

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

NEW DRUG DISCOVERIES HELP FIGHT SERIOUS ILLS New help for arthritic sufferers, the mentally ill and drug addicts is promised by recent medical developments.

Sterane, a powerful anti-arthritic drug, is a potential aid to some 200,000 persons now regarded as permanently disabled. It might also prove helpful to 10,000,000 others who suffer from rheumatic diseases.

The drug is a steroid and is related to hydrocortisone, although it is chemically different. The anti-inflammatory hormone is four to five times more potent than cortisone or hydro-cortisone.

Its other uses are in treatment of bronchial asthma, ulcerative colitis and several types of skin disease. Injections of histamine may sharply increase the number of persons leaving mental hospitals, a Canadian scientific team says.

Thirty-day histamine treatment brought about sufficient improvement in 20 of 100 schizophrenic patients tested to permit their release.

The improvement rate might have been even greater, the doctors report, except for the fact that the majority of the patients had been under care for more than two years and many for more than five years.

Use of thiazine may turn out to be of great value in treatment of drug addiction. Recent studies indicate that administration of the drug eliminates from convalescence such disturbing withdrawal symptoms as feelings of oppression in the chest, palpitation, irritability, weakness and shaky hands.

Even insomnia, the most difficult symptom to cope with, is now easily controlled. But, all such drugs should always be given under the direction of a doctor.

QUESTION AND ANSWER S.E.: I had a coronary heart attack about six months ago. Are there any known cures for this disease, such as surgery?

Answer: You should have adequate rest and eliminate possible contributing factors, such as over-stress which might have led to your having a coronary heart attack.

suggestion in Britain that the commonwealth should be enlarged to include such countries as Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Greece, and even Germany.

The year also marked the death of Lionel Curtis aged 84, whose single-minded efforts helped to bring the British Commonwealth to birth out of the British Empire. The Commonwealth, it was said on his death, was given its present meaning and associations by one Englishman within his own lifetime.

As the year drew to a close, member nations were preparing for the 1956 conference of Commonwealth prime ministers, scheduled for June 27 in London. They last met early in 1955.

CHECKING UP LONDON (CP) — Inspectors examined 9,519 sacks of coal in Middlesex county last year and found 173 were underweight.

HISTORIC TAVERNS CHATHAM, Ont. (CP) — In the early 1840s the thriving shipbuilding and shipping community of Chatham had one tavern for every 100 residents. Mrs. W. E. Hanley told a meeting of the village historical society, the village population 1,000 then, had two schools, four churches and 10 taverns, she said.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Manitoba's Indian population is reported to be multiplying at a rate of almost three times as fast as the whites. This may start a movement to give the country back to the Indians. Probably they'd reject the offer on considering how the country has been denuded of forests and what the hunting and fishing are like these days.

Any honest and intelligent person is fully qualified to prescribe a healthy and workable diet to anyone who wants to reduce, a qualified and indignant physician told me recently. "It's simple, it works, it causes but slight inconvenience to the dieter. It is simply this: Continue to eat what you like, only eat less of it." It is so simple, it is doubtful that this system ever will be popular.

The Soviets have two instruments to cover up surreptitious armament and defeat control—namely their ruthless dictatorship and their Iron Curtain. The democracies, which transact their business in public under the watchful eyes of a free people and a free press, can neither adopt sudden changes of policy nor hide major enterprises, even if they would. But the Soviets not only work in secret; they also control their people and all their means of communication, and they bar that free flow of information and travel and the free exchange of ideas that are the best vehicles of mutual understanding.

The city of Red Deer is really getting tough with dogs—or rather with dog owners. A licence costs \$5 for a male, \$25 for a female. Under a new bylaw passed unanimously by city council, dogs may not run at large from May 1 to August inclusive. They may not be on school grounds at any time, or cause damage, annoyance or disturbance. If a complaint of such damage, annoyance or disturbance is substantiated in court, the dog to be destroyed.

Many talented Canadians have undoubtedly failed to reach their potential peak in the world because they lacked the financial ability to obtain advanced education, and thereby Canadian industry has lost many good scientists, executives, and engineers. While it is possible for a man to rise to the top of a profession or industry without university education, and many have, they are the exceptions, and there is no telling how much they would have achieved with the added impetus of higher education. Financial assistance to provide better education where able to justify it should be one of the rights of every Canadian youth. This would not be a charitable expenditure, but a sound investment in the future of Canada.

One of the remarkable things about receiving Christmas cards is how very seldom one receives the same card from two (or more) different people. It does happen, of course. But not often. This surprising variety is a tribute to the ingenuity of the card designers. Most people might be hard put to think up ever so many surprising varieties do come in surprising profusion. No doubt many are really only the variations on a theme, as it were. But they are at least variations. There is one other aspect of Christmas cards that calls for a yearly decision. What is to be done with them—and what in most cases they linger until New Year's, and then cease to be. Not many people are like the late W.L. MacKenzie King, who used to have his Christmas cards bundled up every year and put into the attic. Did he ever intend to get them out sometime and have a look through them? Perhaps that is a question that will one day be answered by one of the army of biographers that Mr. King seems certain to have within the next few years.

Britishers have complained and sometimes boasted that outsiders do not understand them. That is probably true and what happened recently in London will certainly not help clear matters. After 20 years leading the British Socialist Party—"the party of the masses"—Clement Attlee has been made a peer. He will leave the House of Commons and will sit in the House of Lords. Not long before, Winston Churchill, who for 15 years had led the British Conservative Party, "the party of the classes", also retired. But he refused to become a peer because that would mean he would have to leave the House of Commons. To an outsider it might seem more logical had the whole business been reversed. But the British never pretended to be a logical people.

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Failure to comply means a \$25 fine. It is not stated whether payment of the fine means the owner may keep his dog. Penalty for not obtaining a licence, for keeping a vicious dog or for letting a dog run at large in the summer is \$10 the first time, \$5 the second and \$10 the third.

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