

products on the metropolitan markets of Eastern Canada. Outside competitors, at any given price and in spite of heavy transportation costs, are better able to compete. The situation is further complicated by low levels of schooling, the cost of land, lack of mobility within the rural population farming structures which do not lend themselves easily to change and a lack of opportunities outside farming. It added up to a sorry waste of human resources.

The speaker showed that in the case of hog carcasses for the Montreal market, Ontario—which is self-sufficient to the extent of 80 per cent of its grain requirements—is in the best position to compete. The Prairies come second—that is, even before the producers in the Montreal district who have to import 75 per cent of their grain from the Prairies; and that in spite of feed grain freight subsidies.

The egg producer and broiler producer in Southwestern Ontario, using 80 per cent local grain, also has an advantage over the producer in the Montreal district who has to rely on imported freight subsidized grain. The situation is even more out of balance for turkey and beef producers, where it is practically impossible to compete with products from the Prairies and Ontario.

Another discouraging factor Mr. Sauve found was that, under the actual economic conditions prevailing in the East, farming even under better management is not always profitable. "Without too much risk of erring," he said, "we can state that the low level of schooling in agriculture has limited more the opportunities of 'going out of it' than the possibilities of 'earning a good living from it.' To abstract the full potential of longer years of schooling and adult education in farming, the whole economic fabric of eastern agriculture must be woven anew. Education in rural areas is a must, but let us not count on this one factor to revitalize agriculture."

The minister struck a hopeful note in conclusion by stressing that governments, federal and provincial, are no longer relying on half-measures in meeting this problem. "They have now come to realize," he said, "that parity of opportunity for our rural communities can only be achieved by well considered legislation, concerted thinking and action leading to intergovernmental agreements and the cooperation of our rural populations." Let us hope that he is as accurate in this assessment as he undoubtedly was in pinpointing the obstacles to be overcome.

A Sobering View

As the Viet Nam war escalates again there are American politicians—Senator Stennis of Mississippi for one—who favor stepping up U.S. ground forces to 600,000 men to "win" as soon as possible. That such escalation would increase the risk of war with Communist China doesn't bother him. But a more authoritative view comes from General Matthew B. Ridgway, former supreme commander in Korea and army chief of staff, who made a study of this matter and writes about it in his book "Soldier":

"I challenge any thesis that destroying the military might of Red China would be in our own long range interest. We could create there, by military means, a great power vacuum. Then we would have to go in there with hundreds of thousands of men to fill that vacuum—which would bring us face to face with Russia along a 7,000-mile frontier. If we failed to go in then Russia herself would fill it, and the threat to our own security would not have abated one iota..."

He adds a sobering conclusion: "In all the history of the world no civilization based on conquest has long endured."

EDITORIAL NOTES

We all have to economize these days. The Amir of Kuwait has cut his salary by six million dollars a year, leaving him with only a stipend of \$24 million a year to get along on.

Of course, it may not have been entirely a coincidence that our causeway project was started—not on the Prince Edward Island end but on the New Brunswick end, where they happen to have a Liberal provincial government in power and where \$8,500,000 of the \$10,000,000 set aside for the project in the fiscal year starting April 1 is to be expended. But the important thing is that this great undertaking has really gotten under way and will be prosecuted on a very substantial scale.



'WHY DON'T WE GET AN ANSWER?'

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Most Shocking Part Of Disclosures

Winnipeg Free Press

The most shocking statements in the latest auditor-general's report to Parliament, are not those concerning individual cases of administrative blundering ("non-productive costs," as they are politely called), but rather those which document what appears to be a growing indifference among politicians and senior civil servants.

Mr. Henderson cites 450 specific findings of the Glasse royal commission on government operations which were designed to eliminate wasteful practices and result in substantial savings of public funds. Each of these findings was followed through by the staff of the audit office to determine what action had been taken since the royal commission reported. It was found that no less than 78 per cent had not been acted upon.

The most important recommendations, those which would result in the greatest savings to the treasury, remained unimplemented because of the failure of senior government officials to make the necessary decisions: "We found no lack of awareness at the various departmental levels of the need to deal with the situations. It was explained to us, however, that few changes could be made without instructions from top management."

FIXING THE BLAME By top management, of course Mr. Henderson can only mean cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and heads of Crown corporations who, through inertia, ignorance or sheer disinterest, have failed to take the necessary steps to implement the Glasse recommendations.

The cost of their procrastination is illustrated by the fact that when the commission made its report three years ago the administrative overhead of government departments and agencies was approximately \$1 billion. Today it is \$1.2 billion, an increase of 20 per cent despite the implementation of about one-quarter of the Glasse suggestions.

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. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

POTATO PROBLEMS

Sir—As a tablestock potato grower I believe it is to my advantage to plant small seed. It has many advantages: it goes farther, a better stand comes quicker; there is less disease and less cut surface to rot. If I have to buy certified seed every year, I am almost sure to have a lot of disease around my place if I don't disinfect. I don't have the equipment to do a thorough job of that and the Department won't do it for me for love or money unless I am on contract. Seed growers should be compelled to clean up every year if they want to sell seed. There is the most danger selling seed from contaminated property, because if they change their seed every year or so they might go a long time before being detected.

There is a very limited market for seed, mostly contract, and when that is filled, that is about it. With tablestock you can let them grow (if you are not too big a grower) and have very few small potatoes—just about enough for your seed. What is being done about a disease-resistant variety or strain, as some varieties are more susceptible than others, leads one to hope for progress in this direction.

I am, Sir, etc.

FOOD PRODUCER Freetown, P.E.I.

But even if it is considered that some of these recommendations are complex and may take more than three years to put into effect it is impossible to understand the apparent indifference of public officials to the more obvious cases of waste or worse.

What, for example, has the secretary of state done to recover the \$450,000 which the CBC paid out last year in "salaries and wages for work not performed"?

What is the minister of labor doing to collect the \$200,000 spent by the unemployment insurance commission for a computer which did not work and was abandoned?

Mr. Henderson's report is full of such examples and these are only a few of them. But they increase each year: in 1963 they took up 171 pages; in 1964, 193 pages; this year there are 233 pages.

The public could ask for no more convincing evidence that the auditor-general is doing his job—and that the politicians and senior public servants are not.

Cripples At Ottawa

Financial Post

There is a remarkably unpleasant 19th century aroma given off by the regulations now governing the Disabled Persons Act.

The government agrees that a disabled person is entitled to society's help to the extent of \$75 a month. No one will quarrel with the principle. But the disabled person tries to overcome his handicap and become of some use in our work-oriented society, he is allowed to earn only \$360 a year or his pension is reduced by whatever he earns in excess of that amount.

This says very clearly that these payments are charity pure and simple, that the recipients should fold their hands, resign themselves to their invariable fate and thank a bountiful government for remembering them at all. The law is a self-defeating ass, especially when millions are being spent on "re-training" people and billions are being devoted to the education of hale and hearty young people.

On the purely financial level,

producing "statutory declarations" that they had been in the armed forces from the ages of nine, 11 and 12?

OTHER QUESTIONS Why has the minister of justice failed to collect from two retired RCMP officers the \$1,318 for which they failed to account and were dismissed—on pension—from the force?

Why is the minister of national revenue continuing to permit customs inspectors, who are presumably employed full-time by the federal public service, to sell British Columbia fish and game licences to tourists on a commission basis which totalled more than \$25,000?

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Reason In Retreat

Toronto Globe and Mail

Rhodesia's self-imposed siege mentality drives reason steadily into retreat. The capacity for self-delusion which helped to produce the tragedy of unilateral independence has now led the Ian Smith government to assume new powers of censorship, propelling it along the same melancholy path followed by Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy.

The rules are sweeping: in effect they put the censor in the composing room, enabling him to change stories and to say on what page they should be published. It even becomes an offense to indicate that publications are subject to censorship. Editors are being obliged to fill the white spaces which they had been leaving to indicate where the blue pencil had been at work.

In a fighting war, limited censorship can be condoned. It is doubtful, however, whether the Canadian people, even during the Second World War, would have tamely submitted to the draconian laws Salisbury has now applied. Having done so, a gag now is indispensable for Mr. Smith's government.

Censorship in Rhodesia was first imposed last November, shortly before the illegal seizure of independence. One month later, the Ian Smith regime published emergency regulations making it an offense to turn on the radio in a public place if it picked up a broadcast that might imperil public safety. In January, at a court case arising from censorship, a government lawyer hinted that the courts might have to be replaced by revolutionary tribunals.

These moves show that Rhodesia is hurrying down a slippery slope. They may also suggest a gathering panic as the regime seeks to make events fit its own distorted viewpoint. It is sad to see a former member of the British family of nations go so wildly wrong. Not all the bougainvillea and jacaranda trees of Rhodesia can conceal the sour aroma of a society based on false premises.

OFFICER ACQUITTED

AUCKLAND. (AP)—A naval court martial Wednesday found an engineer officer of the New Zealand flag ship, the cruiser Royalist, not guilty of negligence in a charge arising from the cruiser's breakdown in the Coral Sea in November, 1965. The officer, Cmdr. Henry Rogerson Simmonds, had been charged with negligent performance of duty in failing to prevent contamination in the ship's propulsion machinery.

The Ways Of Warts

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Several years ago I received the following letter from an Atlanta, Ga., mother: "Please send the leaflet on warts as soon as possible. If it is not in the next mail you just might receive several warty little boys. I cannot stand it much longer." We sent the leaflet, but not in the next mail. We never received the little lads but assumed they weathered the warty stage of life.

Warts are caused by viruses and are contagious. This is demonstrated by removing the lesion, grinding it up, and putting the juice into a fine filter. The material that filters through can cause another wart if applied to the skin of the victim or on another's skin. They also are auto-innoculable. A lesion on the inside of a finger may spread to the place touched on the adjoining finger. It is little wonder that our mother was having trouble with her children.

The most common variety (verruca vulgaris) occurs chiefly in youngsters and mainly on the wrist, hands, and fingers. In childhood, they grow and multiply profusely; some tykes have a hundred or more that are irritated and spread by picking and biting. They are rarely so numerous in adults, which means that the majority disappear somewhere along the line.

The common wart is pinhead-sized, smooth, and shiny at first. They grow gradually until becoming pea-sized, rough and dirty brown or gray in color. They remain this way for months or years. To the best of our knowledge, the causative viruses ultimately die leaving the ugly growth to fend for itself.

The treatment varies from the most scientific to autografting. All physicians have watched them disappear after a little hocus-pocus in which the child is told to rub the wart with kernels of corn, potato peelings, or anything else, and burn the remedy that night.

The scientific approach utilizes surgery, electrocauterization, ultrasonic therapy, or applying caustic chemicals.

NOSE LESION

Mrs. B. writes: I'm terribly worried about a sore in my nose that I've had for 20 years. What should I do?

REPLY If you have neglected this lesion, you deserve no sympathy. On the other hand, if you have received the best medical care available, little more can be done about the abnormality except to have it examined periodically to evaluate its status.

PATERNITY

Mrs. L. writes: I know blood tests can show that a man is or is not the father of a certain child. But are there tests to prove that a man actually is the father?

REPLY No. If the mother is type B, for example, and the child A, the man could not be the father if he is type O or B, but he could be if he is A or AB.

BLACK AND BLUE

C. A. writes: If a child becomes black and blue with the least bruise, does this mean he lacks vitamin A?

REPLY No. Bleeding tendencies are associated with lack of vitamin C but not with A. Other possibilities include fragile capillaries or a disturbance of the clotting and mechanism.

REEMIES AND MARRIAGE Mrs. K. writes: Can premature babies marry?

REPLY Not until they reach legal age. Prematures are no different from other babies after they reach 5½ pounds and have convinced everyone they are here to stay.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Never neglect unexplained weight loss or gain.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A snoring husband and a noisy child have one thing in common: At least you know where they are and what they're up to. —Door County Advocate.

An old timer is one who remembers when a dishwasher had to be married, not bought. —Calgary Herald.

I went into a big store in town and asked the assistant for a small packet of washing powder. She handed me a packet marked "Large." "I'm afraid you didn't understand," I said. "I asked for a small packet." "That's right, madam," said the assistant. "It comes in three sizes—Large, Giant and Super. I gave you the small size—Large." —New Statesman.

The farmer had driven his team of mules to town and was late returning home. "What took you so long?" asked his wife. "On the way back," he explained, "I picked up the minister and from then on them mules didn't understand a thing I said to them." —Montreal Star.

The optimist is as often wrong as the pessimist, but he is far happier. —Stratford Beacon Herald.

There is only one endeavor in which you can start at the top and that's digging a hole. —LEW Magazine

After a young lawyer had talked nearly five hours to a jury which, by that time, felt like lynchings, his opponent, a grizzled old veteran of legal wars, smiled sweetly at the judge and jury and said, "Your honor, I will follow the example of my young friend, who has just concluded, and will submit the case without argument." —Financial Post.

We knew that taxes were for the birds, but only suspected that the whole business has gone to the dogs. In Chicago, Prince and Tiny, two canine beneficiaries under their late master's will, must pay their taxes. We don't know what they get in return from the government, unless it is hydrant and tree conservation. —Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

Most Parolees Go Straight

Ottawa Journal

Statistics about prisoners usually are joyous but not this one. The National Parole Board reports that in seven years, less one month, it has granted 14,430 paroles and has had to return to prison only 1,546 of those released. On the average, about 90 per cent of the men released on parole completed their period on parole without committing further offences.

The board took occasion, in releasing that reassuring information, to add: "Men released from federal prisons must serve their time off for good behaviour, which is one-quarter of their sentence, on parole, which means that they are under control for a much longer period than they would be if they were released at the end of their sentence."

About 95 per cent of all prisoners are released from prison sooner or later anyway, even if they don't get parole. It is obviously more desirable that they should be released under control.

"The parolee under supervision is liable to immediate reincarceration in case he violates his parole conditions. Parole also provides for flexible supervision administered in accordance with the needs of the community. This control may be automatically tightened at any sign of danger to the community. Therefore, parole provides protection for society."

The parole system has its critics, including those who believe the penal system should be tougher, not gentler.

Aid Without Dollars

Christian Science Monitor

"If I had a million dollars... Dreamers like to tell what great and worthy projects they would carry out — if they had the means. Without money they assume they could do nothing. They are wrong. Take the case of young Deane

Schoolboy, Burlington, Mass. French, All Deane had was an idea — the idea that he and the folks in his small city ought to do something to help the war-hit people of South Vietnam. Now his Project SOS (Send Over Soap) is a success story in the news.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 16, 1941)

Apparently suspicious of a Japanese thrust in the Far East, Britain announced she had mined the sea approaches to Singapore, her great Oriental naval bastion.

Re-occupation of the strategic Ethiopian - Sudanese frontier post of the Nile about 300 miles west of Addis Ababa, Kurmuk, was announced by the British general headquarters in Cairo.

TEN YEARS AGO (February 16, 1956)

Galleries of the Senate chamber in Ottawa, which usually have scarcely a baker's dozen listening to the debates, were crowded to near-capacity when Senator Elsie Inman of Montague, P.E.I., made her maiden speech on the floor of the Upper House.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Plowing Match and Agricultural Fair Association was held at Bridgetown, with the president, Mr. L.S. Hunter, presiding.

Deane got the idea for his project when talking with an older friend, a man in the Marine reserves. The friend told him soap was so scarce in Vietnam that many people had none. The Marines, he said, would take donations if they were entrusted to them.

Deane took this as his cue. He enlisted the Burlington Junior High Boys Club and joined to members in soliciting gifts of soap from the community. People responded warmly. The boys ended their effort with some 5,000 cakes of soap — plain bars, household soaps, cosmetic soaps, bath soaps, and even bars of chain stores. Project SOS exceeded its own quota.

Success of Deane's project will not only bring a message of comfort to the distant families in Vietnam but it provides an answer to the question: "What can one person do?"

A columnist in The Observer (London) recently compiled a list of one-woman projects in London suburbs, begun without money, that flowered into important social service agencies. All these cases, taken together, give evidence that one person's small effort, wisely directed, can blossom into a big philanthropy.

Travel bargains advertisement for CN. Lists destinations and prices: Montreal \$14.00, Moncton \$ 3.20, Saint John \$ 5.00, Halifax \$ 5.40, Sydney \$ 9.00, Corner Brook \$16.00, Toronto \$20.00, Winnipeg \$34.00, Vancouver \$56.00.

These are examples of CN's new Fare Bargain Plans. Select the best prices including complimentary meals are equally attractive. Call CN about the Red, White and Blue Fare Plans.