JUST IN FUN

Mistaken Identity

The shortsighted schoolmaster was rapidly losing his temper.

"You, at the back of the class. What was the date of the signing of Magna Carta?"

"I don't know."

"Well, then, can you tell me what the Gordon Riots were?"

"I don't know."

"I taught that last Friday. What were you doing last night?"

"I was out drinking with some friends."

The schoolmaster gasped and his face went almost purple. "You have the audicity to stand there and tell me that! How do you expect to pass your examination?"

"Well, I don't. You see, I just came in to fix the electric light."

Who Could?

The new baby proved to have very powerful lungs. One day his brother, aged five, said to his mother: "Mother, baby came from Heaven, didn't he?"

"Yes, dear," answered Mother.

The small boy was silent for a moment, then he went on: "I say, Mother!"

"What is it, dear?"

"I don't blame the angels for slinging him out, do you?"

Considerate

"How do you get on with Jeanette?" asked Dick.

The ardent young lover sighed.

"I started off well," he replied. "I said I was knee deep in love with her."

"Sounds all right," said Dick. "What was her reaction to that?"

The young suitor grimaced.

"She promised to put me on her wading list."

STUFF AND THINGS

"No, No! He asked for a fez not a fizz!"

Good English

A professor of English had a very pretty secretary. One day his wife, entering his study unexpectedly found the secretary sitting on his knee.

"Eustace," she said, "I am surprised."

The professor turned round. "No, my dear," he said. "We are surprised; you are astonished."

The Merry Widow

It was raining very hard and the children were confined to their class-room during the mid-morning break. The teacher, to keep them quiet, talked to the class on business careers and asked various children what they would like to be when leaving school.

"Please miss, I'd like to be a widow," answered Joan in a determined voice.

"A widow!" exclaimed the teacher. "But why?"

"Well miss," replied Joan, "If you're not married, people call you an old maid, and if you are married, your husband bosses you, but if you're a widow, you're just right."

A Big Saving

A Hollywood dress shop owner met a friend, who greeted him with: "Joe, I hear your shop was robbed last night. Lose much?"

"Some," answered the owner, "but it would have been much worse if the burglars had got in the night before."

"How's that?"

"Well, yesterday I marked everything down 20 per cent."

Being Explicit

"Madam," rebuked the postman, "I am not afraid on account of your dog but my trousers are frayed on account of your dog."

No Restrictions On Food Parcels to Great Britain

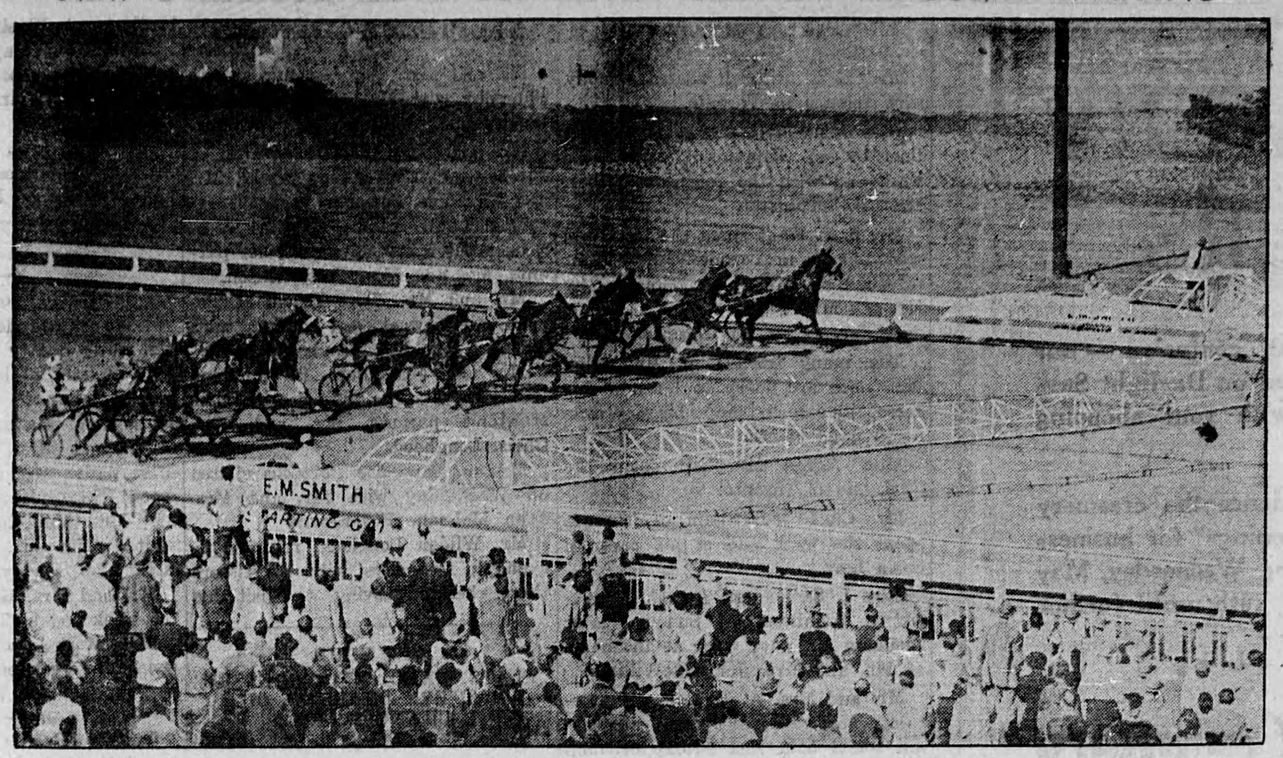
There seems to be some confusion in the public mind about the rules governing food parcels to Britain.

Under present regulations, we (The Ottawa Citizen) are informed by the United Kingdom Information Office in Ottawa, unsolicited parcels of food up to 22 pounds may be sent to individuals in Britain, and the recipient is not charged duty, does not have to surrender coupon "points" for the goods.

There are no restrictions on the quantity or amount of any food, within the maximum of 22 pounds.

Thus the British Government has removed all the barriers to the generosity of Canadian friends.

NEW STARTING GATE USHERS IN CALIFORNIA SULKY MEETING



A new type starting gate, designed by E. M. Smith, Los Angeles industrialist, ushers in the Western Harness Racing Association sulky meeting at Hollywood Park, Inglewood, Calif. The gate, split in the middle, straddles the track and is powered by two streamlined automobiles.

Love and Business In Soviet Don't Mix

Love laughs at locksmiths but it had better preserve a more subdued attitude towards the iron curtains. The Supreme Soviet has by decree forbidden marriages between Russian citizens and foreigners. It may be regarded as a development rather than a departure. The Soviet citizen, man or woman, who marries a foreigner remains under all the obligations of Russian citizenship and the Soviet authorities have in practice done much to discourage such matches. Permission for a wife to join her husband in his own country has been given in the majority of the few cases where British soldiers married Russian wives during the war. The outlawry of marriages with all aliens is a more extreme form of the same attitude and as an example of "non-fraternization" can be equalled nowhere else in the civilized world. The time chosen for the promulgation of this sweeping decree seems curious; is the moment regarded as particularly threatening to the blood brotherhood of the Soviet system? At any rate today's many official visitors in Moscow have been warned in time that they must not let sentiment interfere with business. Even if they fall in love with Soviet citizens they will never be allowed to marry them.

DELICACY

A new Canadian cheese with a background rivalling fiction will soon make its bid in world markets.

Development was spurred by the war. Imports of such cheeses as French Roquefort and Danish Blue, ceased when Germany's conquests spread. Canadian markets were empty of these items.

One leading cheese manufacturer had long considered the possibility of developing a Canadian product which would make the Canadian Market independent of imported cheeses. He was Simon Labarge, head of the Chateau Cheese divison of the Borden Company, Ltd.

French Roquefort is made from sheep's milk by a centuries-old formula, and is matured in natural caves. The Canadian problem was to develop a comparable formula utilizing cow's milk, and to duplicate by mechanical means the maturing conditions of the French caves.

Into Mr. Labarge's Ottawa office one day walked a Danish immigrant, Andris Kolding, seeking a job. He was born near Copenhagen, and is a trained cheesemaker, and was a voluntary refugee.

Before long Kolding was on the Chateau payroll, engaged in laboratory research. New formulas were worked out, artificial "caves" were built, a brand new manufacturing cycle evolved. The result was a new cheese with the properties of French Roquefort and Danish Blue—it's a "blue" cheese. Trade-named "Blufort" it caught on at once.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

House and Lot

Most G.I.'s would be satisfied with their lot if they could get a home built on it.

—Milwaukee Journal.

Maybe a Raise

Paris has a guillotine for sale at $840. And no buyer is likely to stick out his neck and ask for a cut.

—Ottawa Citizen.

Far More Dangerous

Never do things by halves. A man half drunk behind the wheel of a motor car is far more dangerous than one who is dead drunk.

—Guelph Mercury.

Five Freedoms

"It will soon be picnic time again, and no doubt some picnic parties will think the Four Freedoms are: Slashing trees; breaking bottles; leaving farm gates open; littering the ground with paper, cardboard plates, drinking cups and the remains of a meal."—Toronto Star. To say nothing of the Fifth Freedom: Leaving live ashes to cause destruction by fire.

—Kingston Whig-Standard.

Answer to Prophets

The unmistakable facts are that the Soviet Union is not planning war, that even if it was, it is in no state to wage it, that it is even more afraid of an attack from the United States than the United States is from it, and that those who talk so insanely of the 'next war' are the very people who unconsciously are doing most to promote it.

—Ottawa Citizen.

Still Fighting

Looks as if the big powers are going to spend as much time fighting each other over Germany's future as they did fighting a war to decide Germany's future.

—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Sounds Logical

If louses are lice
And mouses are mice,
Would you say that a guy
With two spouses had spice?

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Apparently Russia hopes that Britain and the United States will make substantial loans to Germany, so that Germany in her turn, will be able to make reparations to Russia. Surely we have had enough experience of that kind of financing.

—Niagara Falls Review.

Too Dear

A society has been formed with the object of abolishing the word "dear" from business letter salutations. If it would abolish the "dear" from prices, it would be doing something worth while.

—Toronto Star.

Scotland Protects The Golden Eagle

A reward of £10 is to be offered for every golden eagle's eyrie from which the young are able to fly safely, says The Edinburgh Scotsman.

This is part of a scheme for the protection of the golden eagle in the Scottish Highlands which has been undertaken by the Association of Bird Watchers and Wardens at the invitation of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The Association of Bird Watchers and Wardens are also about to begin a scheme for the better protection of such birds as the white-tailed eagle, osprey, kite, honey buzzard, hobby, and march and hen hammer.

Rewards of from £3 to £10 are to be paid to gamekeepers or others for the rearing to maturity or fledgling state of any of these seven species on their lands and beats, and compensation will be paid for proved damage to poultry and game by these birds.

Billion Is A Lot Of Folding Money

During the war years, governments spoke of money in terms of billions. The New York municipal council has just received its first billion dollar estimates in history. The United States Government budget for the current year is $20,000,000,000, and when Dominion Finance Minister Abbott presents his statement soon, he will probably talk in ten-figure amounts, comments the St. Thomas Times-Journal. It is hard to visualize a billion in dollars, and when legislators pass measures of legislation costing that amount without much discussion, we wonder if they ever envision what one billion dollars would look like, and how long it would take to count them.

* * *

A Columbus University man figures it out this way: Count out 1,000 dollar bills and stack them on a table. Count out 999 more stacks and you have $1,000,000 on the table. It would require 1,000 such tables to make $1,000,000,000.

How long would it take to count out all that dough?

If you worked eight hours a day, without resting on Sundays or holidays or taking a vacation, and planked down one one-dollar bill a second, it would take 105 years. In other words, if you were told you could have $1,000,000,000 if you counted out the money in dollar-bills, you simply could not do it; you probably wouldn't get half-way.

* * *

We recall a story many years ago in which an Englishman was offered one million pounds in gold if he could carry that amount of one-pound gold pieces in a pail from one room to another. It looked easy as well as tempting. He trundled bucketsful of sovereigns day and night, but collapsed from exhaustion long before the pile was exhausted.

Yet governments have been spending billions with easy abandon.

Iced Earthworms Shipped By Plane To Save Platypuses

A duckbilled playtpus is a queer critter. One of evolution's leftovers, it is an otter-like animal, furbearing, with a tail like a beaver. It has teeth when it is born and horny, bill-like plates when it grows up. It hides within its four ankles a poison apparatus. And strangest of all, the female is egg-bearing.

It lives in water part of the time and burrows in mud the rest, feeding on aquatic insects in the first instance and on food such as earthworms in the second, says the Sault Daily Star.

But if it is queer, it also is very valuable in zoological eyes. Its sole habitat is the rivers of Australia and Tasmania, and it is a very delicate creature which rarely survives captivity. New York's Bronx Zoo, for instance, has not had a platypus since 1922, when it managed to keep one alive for 49 days.

* * *

So when word reached the zoo that three which the director of Australia's Healesville Sanctuary for platypuses was bringing to the Bronx were running short of food as their ship neared the Panama Canal, it called for action.

The action involved digging up 10,000 earthworms—a platypus apparently gets sufficient calories for subsistence from 800 earthworms a day—from their cool haunt in the basement of the lion house at the zoo, and shipping them by air to meet the platypus-carrying steamer.

The earthworms, although they have nothing much to look forward to, are being very tenderly treated. They are packed in moss, and also iced, for an overheated earthworm mildews, according to zoo officials. And mildewed worms will not do for precious platypuses.

* * *

While their iced worms are on the way, they will continue to nibble at the special food on which they have thrived throughout the Pacific crossing—a mixture of pablum, corn meal, bread, ground up leaves, sand, wood ashes and wet newspapers

The Bronx Zoo will place the platypuses in a special tank where they may swim, burrow or laze at will—if an iced earthworm diet gets them there.

Ultra-Modern

One of New York City's largest apparel stores which moved into its new headquarters on Fifth Avenue recently has reached a new peak in interior decoration. Salesgirls in one department wear Nile green dresses that match the green leather on the bleached wood chairs.

A feature which will appeal to the building's maintenance crew is steam coils under the sidewalks which will quickly solve the snow removal problem next winter.

No. 1 Opera Blonde

The No. 1 blonde of opera is what they're calling Dorothy Kirsten now, a title voted her at an International Beauty Show in New York.

Obliging

The golf club grouser was complaining bitterly at the "nineteenth" about worm casts on the greens. The captain came in and was immediately buttonholed.

"Isn't this the time of year to treat worms?" the grouser asked.

"Yes," was the reply. "What'll you have?"

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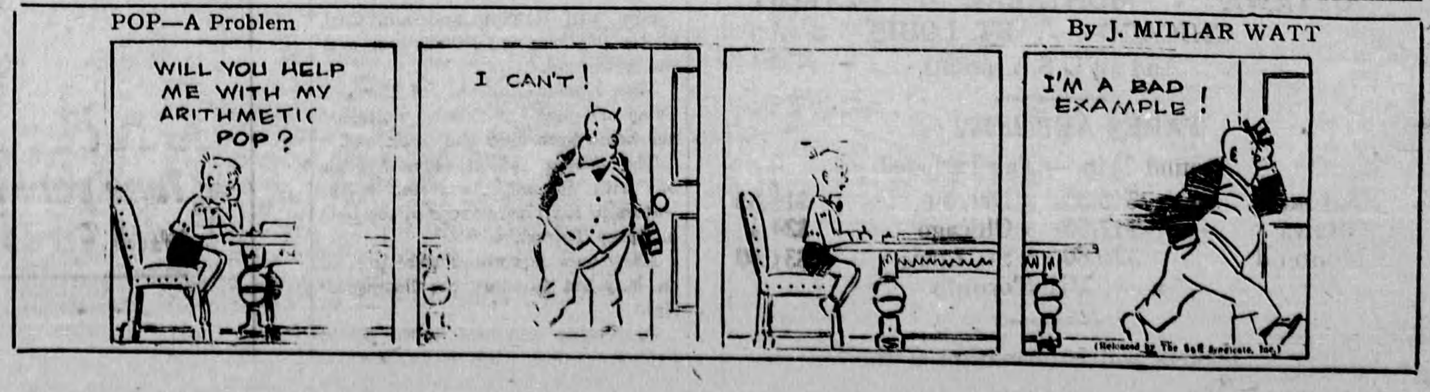
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