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NOTES and COMMENTS

How's Your Diction?

If you can read the following paragraph in 15 seconds your diction is well above average:

"I bought a batch of baking powder and baked a batch of biscuits. I brought a big basket of biscuits back to the bakery and baked a basket of big biscuits. Then I took the big basket of biscuits and the basket of big biscuits and mixed the big basket's biscuits with the basket of biscuits that was next to the big basket and put a bunch of biscuits from the baskets into a box. Then I took the box of mixed biscuits and a biscuit mixer and the biscuit basket and brought the basket of biscuits and the box of mixed biscuits and the biscuit mixer back to the bakery and opened a can of sardines."

Spring House Cleaning

"If there is one thing a man's fancy definitely does not turn to, it is Spring house cleaning. For days—weeks sometimes—he knows not the swift completion of his daily rounds. He has homework. The favorite chair nestles no more by the fire but barricades the hall. The tramp of determined feet on bare floors drowns out the radio commentator. Meals—once loving and expansive—become meagre under the pressure. The husband is relegated to kitchen police. He scrubs. He mops. He notes by the cobwebs that the spiders have been busier that he around the house. The expedition to the attic becomes lost in nostalgic treasures. At the end, the house is so clean it's hard to relax.

"One method is to throw out the heirlooms, the elaborate carvings that give dust so affectionate a sanctuary. That's too easy and against sentiment. The high, shrill buzz of the vacuum cleaner penetrates the land like the whine of a bagpipe. The flog of the rug resounds from every yard. Stepladders teeter and barely recover from each agonized lunge for the elusive curtain ring. Storm windows and screens are excruciating exercises of balance and muscle. The painstaking detail of cleaning Venetian blinds taxes the philosopher's patience. In really energetic households the ear shivers in the screech of the floorscraper. Home is neither sweet nor a house, and sounds of Spring are anything but peaceful.

"Like income tax time, Spring is also a totalling up and reckoning. Where are the home projects of yesteryear? He finds unfinished symphonies of carpentry everywhere. Every Spring they increase and multiply and fill the house. The backlog is man's refuge and rebuttal to woman's work never being done. Was this the year he would relax more, rejoin the tennis club, enjoy some baseball? For the last time and once again he learns it takes the weight of numbers to clean a house and keep it that way. Spring is the time when man signs the Declaration of Interdependence at the point of a broom."

Added Protection

At one time in the province, for that matter across the Dominion and in the United States, one of the big rackets, particularly in the rural districts, was the sale of lightning rods. There were no controls and as a result inferior equipment which gave little or no protection was installed.

In 1921 the Ontario Legislature took action to curb malpractice among those engaged in this trade with the result that purchasers were assured of value for their money. At its session last week another general revision of the terms of the Lightning Rods Act was brought down by the Legislature for the purpose of further controlling and regulating the sale and installation of lightning rods.

All persons selling or installing the rods must be licensed by the Ontario Fire Marshall, who retains the right to suspend or revoke the license. Appointment of inspectors to enforce the Act and regulations is provided for.

Licenses are allowed to sell and install only those types of lightning rods which they are licensed to handle. Penalties up to \$200 or six months imprisonment are provided for under the Act.

Where lightning rods have been installed for less than 10 years and the owner of the building has suffered loss by reason of damage from lightning, he may bring action against the licensee for recovery of the amount of loss, which is not to exceed the total cost of the installation.

Peculiar Business Snarl

What the judge himself described as a Gibertian situation is reported in the Overseas and Trans-Atlantic Mail. When her husband died, Mrs. Agnes Wade became sole owner of all shares in a company which operates a small coastal steamer on Bristol Channel. The widow could not administer the affairs of the firm because she was not a director. Only a general meeting of the company could make her a director. But, as sole shareholder she couldn't call a general meeting because a rule provided that such a meeting must be convened by two members of the company. To get the matter straightened out, Mrs. Wade went to the Cardiff County Court. Judge L. C. Thomas gave her permission to hold a meeting with herself, and elect herself a director. Then he awarded costs in the action in favor of Mrs. Wade against the company, which, of course, is Mrs. Wade.

Had this been in Canada, under Section 179 of the Dominion Companies Act we suppose that as Mrs. Wade owned more than a fourth part of the value of subscribed stock she could have called a general meeting by signing a written requisition for one and sending it to herself.



With the proposed freight rate increase expected to produce more inflationary pressures throughout this country, particularly in the Maritimes, British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces, the objections to this decision are increasing rather than decreasing with time, judging from reports heard along Parliament Hill, with protests coming here from all parts of Canada as the premiers of seven provinces are preparing to take appropriate action to appeal this decision when they meet here on April 24. In addition, it is understood that layers are studying points of appeal, too.

Furthermore, it is significant that whispers heard on Parliament Hill now show the development of an opinion that political, social, and economic angles of this decision should be reviewed instead of the "cold railroad economics."

"The matter of the freight rate questions is, to my mind, still in the pending stage," said Transport Minister Chevrier in the House of Commons during a debate on this issue. "There has been tendency in this debate today to confuse two issues, the one which was the increase recommended by the Board of Transport Commissioners and the other which was the equalization of the rates or, to use the expression mentioned at various times in the debate, a discrimination in the rates across Canada."

Mr. Chevrier made it clear that those two issues are "quite separate one from the other."

"The Board in this case was dealing with one specific matter, namely, an application not by the Government of Canada but by the railways, though the Railway Association of Canada representing some twenty railways, to the Board for an increase in freight rates," declared Mr. Chevrier, emphasizing that "if anyone reads the judgment carefully he can come to no other conclusion than that the Board had not before it an application to consider or investigate or make a survey of the equalization of rates from one part of the country to the other."

According to stories heard backstage on Parliament Hill now-a-days, it would not be surprising in the least if the costs of building new homes in Canada will start a downward movement within the next few months and this should be good news for thousands of Canadians who are suffering hardships during this housing crisis. Apparently, with some exceptions, building supplies are becoming more plentiful and more construction work will be undertaken, with general buyer's resistance to high prices among prospective home builders causing definite effects. As a result of this tightening up of available cash, prices should start



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Issued by authority of Hon. Ernest Bennett, K.C., M.P., Postmaster General

Scott Township Council Opposes Daylight Saving Time

Bitterly opposed to daylight saving time being adopted by the towns and villages, Scott Township Council took a step in opposition to daylight time which certainly is very awkward for farmers to operate on when, where they have to take into consideration early morning rising, the dew, and the opportunity for work in daylight during most of the summer.

However, while Scott township cracks down on daylight time, we have the peculiar spectacle of seeing Uxbridge township council adopting it for that municipality. Wonder what support this council has for their action?

The town of Uxbridge with Scott bordering on their northern boundary and in stiff opposition to daylight, and Uxbridge township all around them, and favoring the fast time, the merchants in the northern town must be perplexed if they have sympathy for both municipalities. Here is a report from the Uxbridge Times relative to the position in the Township of Scott, and a resolution passed by the Township Council:

"Moved by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mr. Graham, that whereas rural people in general on our farms find much inconvenience in having daylight saving time forced upon us by our local towns, this council does hereby request councils of local towns and villages to remain on standard time for this reason.

It is well known that for several years at the instance of urban peoples who want long evenings of leisure, urban councils have adopted during summer months what they call daylight saving time to get off work an hour earlier in evenings in complete disregard to the needs or to the great inconvenience of those who work on the lands, and supply the towns with their very means of living. It is well known that the farmer cannot run to town at any and all hours during the day to procure emergency repairs for machinery and other needs particularly at his most important time of the year—hay and harvest. He cannot start an hour earlier in the morning to haul in his hay and grain on account of natural conditions, but when the workmen in town gets off an hour earlier in the evening the farm worker feels the same is coming to him. It is looked forward to the thought that town residents will show their appreciation for the loyal support they receive from the farms and for the future operate on what the Kansas farmer says is "God's Time" Standard Time."

downward before long.

In the midst of passing hundreds of millions of dollars to run the nation's business, the House of Commons has also included a one dollar item. In Nov., 1945, Sgt. Frank R. Snow of Winnipeg applied for veterans' insurance of \$4,000 and paid the premium. One month later, he died. The application had not been finally approved and it could not be legally paid since the insurance scheme was young then, involving delays before the forms reached Ottawa. Ever since then the Department of Veterans has sought a way to pay the claim to the widow, feeling a moral obligation. Finally, it was discovered that, if Parliament approved the \$1 payment, the DVA will have to pay the \$4,000. This was done and explains the \$1 item hidden among the many millions.

Officials here seem to be under the impression that the new freight rates will inevitably lead to increases in prices all along the line in many directions, though they are still studying the likely effects on the nation's price structure.

Col. H. M. Bankhead, Commercial Attache at the U.S. Embassy here since 1933, is about to retire at the end of June, with this official being one of the most popular figures along Parliament Hill and widely known for his friendship to Canadians.

Plans for further expansion of the National Research Council laboratories in this capital are seen in the expropriation of 200 acres of farm land near the present buildings and headquarters of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics here.

It is forecast in unofficial circles on the Hill that the present butter shortage will continue until the end of April—at least.

The soft coal strike in the U.S. has interfered with train travel between this country and the U.S., since normal schedules became abnormal.

Newly-announced revisions of salaries for scientific, professional and technical civil servants are expected to lead in attracting large number of graduates from Canadian universities to the Government services, perhaps stopping the mad rush to other countries on the part of such young graduates.

(Reproduction Prohibited, 1948, Federal Features Syndicate)

THIS KNOWLEDGE

Q.—How can I polish ebony toilet articles?

A.—They can be given a brilliant polish by rubbing a little white vaseline jelly into them with a soft cloth. It is necessary to keep rubbing until the wood has absorbed all the jelly.

Q.—How can I avoid accidents caused by a stepladder slipping on wet floors?

A.—Find an old worn out overshoe, cut out a few small rectangular pieces to fit the bottoms of the stepladder legs, and tack or glue a piece to the bottom of each leg.

Q.—What can I do to food that has become too salty?

A.—Place a wet cloth over the vessel in which the food is cooking, and the steam will draw the salt into the cloth.

Q.—How can I avoid shiny seams after ironing?

A.—When the seams of a garment are shiny after ironing, touch them lightly with a piece of cheesecloth wrung out of tepid water.

Q.—How can I take proper care of ferns?

A.—A fern should not be moved from place to place, and should not be kept in a very strong sunlight. Do not water it every day, but soak it thoroughly every third day.

Q.—How can I prevent wooden utensils from cracking?

A.—When drying any wooden utensils, place them where they are not near the fire. The heat will crack them.

Q.—How can I treat a rag rug that has been washed, so that it will lie flat on the floor?

A.—Try starching it somewhat heavily. This will make it lie flat, and it will keep clean longer, and will be much easier to wash the next time.

Q.—How can I remove melted wax from the sides of good candles?

A.—Try dipping the candles into hot water.

Q.—How can I whiten and purify sponges?

A.—Soak in milk, then rinse thoroughly in warm water with a little carboric acid.

Watch the advs. for weekly specials. The local merchants give you good leads.



REVIVAL SERVICES

STOUFFVILLE
 United Missionary
 Church

April 18 to
 May 2

(inclusive)

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