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NOTES and COMMENTS

No Shaving Before Nine (The Financial Post)

A Toronto barber was fined \$25 the other day because he shaved a man before the legal hour of 9 a.m. One wonders what our grandfathers would have thought of a law which forbids barbers to open for business until half the morning is gone. If man hasn't got rid of his accumulation of whiskers by nine o'clock, he might about as well leave them on for the rest of the day.

Undoubtedly many retail sales hours were unnecessarily long in the old days, but certainly it is possible to err just as seriously in the other direction. To the man who must be at his office desk at nine, the barber shop that does not open before that, is not much use. And barber shop hours are not the only ones being restricted. Motor service stations are closed early and tightly in many communities as tourists, Sunday or late evening drivers have discovered to their annoyance. Even the corner drugstore, where one used to be able to buy almost anything on a Sunday, has not escaped, but that may be well.

Probably with some planners one can accommodate himself to these changes without too great hardship, but not if the restrictions are carried much further. After all we are supposed to be living in a free country and extreme regulations of this kind do not fit into that sort of picture.

Long Locks Familiar in B.C.

The Victoria, B.C. Times calls attention to the changed look of the men in that beautiful part of Canada. Locks hanging over the collars are quite the thing. Towsley kept heads are much in order, and its all because the barbers demand 75c for a haircut. One thing the men learned too, was that when once the hair reaches a certain length, it ceases to grow, some stop growing sooner than others, and unfortunately some seem to never stop until they get out over the back of the man's collar. However, their forefathers wore their hair that way, so why not this generation, they ask.

Another Western paper comes along with a protest about the unkept head and declares the present generation is too lazy to cut its own hair. Forty years ago, dad was the family barber, and he should assume the office again, says a paper in Saskatchewan, so perhaps in the long run high barbering prices will bring about a change where helpless generation can do a bit of its own cutting and reduce the high cost of living, the Calgary Albertan declares.

What's Important

Many workers have begun to realize that it is less important to own a factory than to get a fair share of the production — or its cash equivalent, though cash is less important if there is nothing to buy with it, said the London Times recently.

The story is told of an American visitor who was taken to a large factory near Prague. "Whose is it?" he asked his guide. "It belongs to the workers," he was told. "And whose are those?" the American asked, pointing to about half a dozen large cars standing outside the gates. "Oh, those belong to the bosses."

Shortly afterwards the guide went to visit the American in Detroit. "Whose is that factory?" he asked his host. "Why, that belongs to the boss." The Chech then pointed to a fleet of hundreds of cars standing outside the gates. "And whose are those," he asked. "Oh, they belong to us."

Water Will Sell!

The story is told of an expert beverage taster who had a very poor opinion of water. While the expert was tasting samples of beverages someone slipped in a glass of water. When he came to it and tasted it he said: "I don't know what it is but it won't sell."

Never have we put the proper appraisal on water, but we are beginning to appreciate its value now. Inland towns and cities are searching desperately for water. The shortage of water to turn Hydro turbines is part of the same drought picture. Constantly lowering water tables are forcing people to drill wells at great expense. Failing springs and streams are creating a bad situation across the countryside. The time has arrived when water will sell, and to buyers the cost will be high.

And the cheapest way to buy this needed water will be to create forest cover, restore swamps and hold water in ponds and lakes created by engineers in the high lands. We cannot allow a large proportion of our precipitation to run off in devastating floods and still have enough for the use of vegetation, animal and man.

Like A Snowball

Advices in Ottawa indicate that the Family Allowances Act is under review, and that it is likely that it will be amended at the next session of Parliament in order to provide more generous allowances for large families, says the Oshawa Times-Gazette. There is also a suggestion that the present provision reducing the allowance for the fifth and any subsequent child may be removed from the Act.

This is following the usual trend of social legislation. Once a new social measure becomes law, there starts a pressure movement from various directions to have it made more and more generous. As Hon. G. D. Conant used to say when he was Premier and Attorney-General of Ontario, social measures are like snowballs, they grow as they move along, and while such measures are easy to initiate, they are not so easy to control once they find a place on the statute books.

Family allowances at the present time are costing the taxpayers of Canada \$270,000,000 a year, and even in a period of inflated government revenues, that is not a light burden. Most of the people of Canada are today asking for lower taxation by the federal government, and no one has yet been able to devise a sound method of increasing expenditures on social services and at the same time reducing taxation.

WHITBY EX-MAYOR DIES DURING PARADE

Marching with veterans to attend a Remembrance Day service, John W. Bateman, 86, former mayor of Whitby, collapsed and died last Thursday. A prominent Baptist church worker, he was to assist Rev. F. G. Darnell in placing a

wreath on the church cenotaph. "He promised me he wouldn't try to march in the parade," said Rev. Mr. Darnell. "I was surprised to see him march off."

There's a hitch somewhere—else we wouldn't have so many thumb-jerking pedestrians.

THE ROYAL SHOW IS ON

Entries in the Horse Show of the Royal Winter Fair, Nov. 16-24, have crowded the horse palace to capacity again this year and overflowed to home stables in the district. Regulations preventing horses from leaving the premises during the show have been waived and approximately 140 will be trucked to their home stables at night. Officials regret this inconvenience to the exhibitors but there is no alternative. Entries covering approximately 100 horses were returned for lack of space and for being behind the deadline. Although the horse palace was packed in 1947, entry figures show that room for four more animals has been found this year, making a total of 1,238.

Beef cattle entries total 588 as compared to 528 for 1947. The market cattle division shows a decrease of 170 animals. However, to provide adequate stabling it will again be necessary to have a culling committee reduce this number on the day before the show opens. Dairy cattle entries at 1,202 are 120 below last year.

The effect of culling out approximately 150 sheep before the 1947 show is evident in the decrease of entries in both breeding and market divisions. The total is down about 300, but Royal officials believe the net result will be a higher standard.

Breeding swine entries are down slightly but the market division is up, bringing the total to 694, an overall increase. Total entries of poultry, pigeons, turkeys, waterfowl, rabbits and covies are about 300 higher and cooping will be filled to capacity. This year there will be no showing of canaries or budgerigars.

Figures for other divisions are not complete yet because they are open to entries until November 11th.

However, in the world championship seed grain divisions there is a very marked increase and the deadline may see the figures doubled.

Some entries for sponsored competition have not been received.

"Coal Oil Lamp Sales Booming," says headline. This indicates a switch from watts to wicks.

Add to the things that do not mix: Oil and water, alcohol and gasoline, wives and secretaries.

We wonder how many women looking in shop windows are merely sneaking a look at themselves in the glass.

An American bootlegger was caught directing his business from jail. Another shock from a dry cell.

How Many of Those 3400 Birds Fell Prey to Hunters?

The King City correspondent to Richmond Hill Liberal reports on the pheasant hunt from that location as follows:

Large numbers of huntersmen traversing municipalities in search of pheasants during the official two-day open season for York County were mainly satisfied with an average bag this year, said George Armitage, district game warden. A total of 3,430 birds had been placed early in the fall in townships of Vaughan, King and Whitechurch, approximately twice the number of last year. Prospects appeared favorable at the start, he said, but rain the first day, Nov. 5th, sent birds to cover probably reducing the number of birds shot. Majority of huntersmen came from Toronto districts and the full nine hours each day were eagerly used up.

Few deer were reported seen, said the overseer, though one bounded from Markham Township across Yonge Street in the vicinity of Summit Golf Course, doing slight damage to the car of a passing motorist. Provincial police were on hand and said the "deer hit the car."

NEEDLE FOUND IN STOMACH WOMAN, 93, IS WELL AGAIN

Mindemoya, Nov. 10.—Mrs. Elizabeth Nelson, 93, of Ice Lake, Manitoulin Island, left the hospital today, hale and hearty after the removal of a three-inch darned needle from her stomach. She was operated on 10 days ago.

The aged Manitoulin Islander has been bothered for some weeks by a soreness in her stomach and came to hospital for examination Oct. 27. Dr. R. B. McQuay decided to operate and the operation was performed Nov. 1.

How the darned needle got into her stomach is a complete mystery to Mrs. Nelson. She says it might have been there for years. She has always been in good health and only recently began to feel discomfort.

FUNERAL ON FRIDAY FOR R. T. SPEIGHT, 79 NATIVE OF MARKHAM

Funeral service were held Friday for Reginald Tane Speight, 79, of Logan Ave. who died in Toronto Wednesday. Born in Markham, Mr. Speight had been an employee of the T.T.C. for 35 years, and retired in 1933. He was a member of the C.O.F. He is survived by a daughter Dora and two sons, John and Harold. Interment was in St. John's cemetery.

WILL IT LOWER THE PRICE OF COAL?

A "mechanical mole" that digs and loads coal at a rate of three tons a minute has entered, or soon will enter, the war against the high cost of mining soft coal. This particular 26-ton contraption has just been unveiled for the edification of the press at New Lexington, Ohio, by a Pittsburgh coal company, but other concerns are reported to have their own versions under development.

Indeed, the idea of 'continuous mining' has been a matter of study and experiment in the industry for several years past. In the "continuous process" the four basic steps in mining are reduced to one. When and if the makers of the machine just exhibited succeed in getting the last of the "bugs" out of it, they expect to raise the output of coal per miner from the present average of six tons a day to around 100 tons. Their mechanical contrivance would handle both cutting and loading and would eliminate the need for drilling and blasting.

It is probably no accident that unusually rapid progress has been made in the field of labor-saving devices recently in the bituminous coal industry. Indeed, in placing new emphasis of late on such long-range worker benefits as his welfare fund, John L. Lewis may well have had this fact in mind.

Monopoly has a way of generating its own competition, and this is

as true in the case of labor monopoly as in any other kind. In the past few years Mr. Lewis has employed the monopoly position of the United Mine Workers to obtain from the mine owners and the public all that the traffic would bear. During and since the war, even before he received his 1948-49 contract, he had succeeded in getting for his union the highest average weekly wage in any of the nation's principal industries, a wage representing an increase of more than 224 per cent.

One frequent result of a development of this kind is to increase the tempo of obsolescence—the shift to new sources for the product of the industry in question or its equivalent. Another is to speed up the introduction of labor-saving devices. This is particularly likely to be true in the case of an industry in which profits are low or spotty and labor costs high. Soft-coal mining as a whole fits this description: On the average, labor accounts for 60 per cent of all mining costs. That undoubtedly has much to do with the fact that there has been increasing emphasis in recent years on "strip mining," where the use of machinery can be maximized. The introduction of "continuous" mining would represent the economically logical extension of that process.

—New York Times

"WILL THAT CURTAIN NEVER RISE?"



New Books In the Library

Fiction
 "Peony," Buck; "The Precipice," MacLennan; "The Flames of Time," Kendrick; "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," Hodgins; "Shannon's Way," Cronin; "The Case of the Drowsy Mosquito," Gardner; "Gus the Great," Duncan; "Bright Skies," Loring; "Give Me One Summer," Loring; "My Lord of Wrybourne," Farnol; "No Highway," Shute; "Rogue River Fued," Grey; "Melissa, Caldwell," "Annie Jordan," Post; "The Heart of the Matter," Greene; "Behind the Curtain," Gibbs; "The Victory of Paul Kent," Hale; "The Time is Noon," Haydn; "Tomorrow Will Be Better," Smith; "I Want to Go Home," Lockridge; "The Dogs Do Bark," Willard; "The Dark Wheel," Macdonald; "The Web of Days," Lee; "Harp in the South," Park; "The Gulf of Time," Standish; "The Burnished Blade," Schoonover; "The Story of Induraja," Wernher; "Home Port," Prouty.

Non-Fiction
 "The Gathering Storm," Churchill; "This Was My Choice," Gouzenko; "Great Morning," Sitwell; "Sarah Binks," Hiebert; "How to Help Your Child Grow Up," Patre; "Tales of the South Pacific," Michener; "The Varsity Story," Callaghan; "From Smoke to Smother," Reed; "Civilization on Trial," Toynebee; "Malabar Farm," Bromfield.

WINS NOBEL PRIZE



It was announced in Sweden that Dr. Paul Mueller, 48, of Basle, Switzerland, was awarded the 1948 Nobel Prize in medicine. He was given the prize, worth 159,772 crowns (\$44,000), for having discovered the strong insect-killing powers of DDT. Dr. Mueller will receive the award in Stockholm on Dec. 10.

Prices Then, And Now

A subscriber recently brought into the office of this paper an old store bill bearing the name of John H. Millard, Newmarket, and Mrs. Wm. Heacock, Aurora R.R.2. The bill dated Dec. 3, 1897, was a striking reminder that living costs have soared since that day. The purchaser from the Newmarket store had acquired the following:

Bedroom suite	\$12.00
Extension table	4.50
Sideboard	4.00
Six chairs	1.80
Bedstead	2.00

With the purchase the customer was given a wash board and a potato masher free.

Some people live happily ever after a chance to argue with someone else.

Newly-rich relations have a habit of breaking relations with poor relations.

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