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NOTES and COMMENTS

Is Retiring Age At 65 Too Low?

When should the worker — professional, laborer otherwise — retire on pension? The standard now is 65. Robert K. Burns, director of the University of Chicago Industrial Relations Centre, says retiring age should be raised to 68 or 70.

It is true too many today are still capable at 65 of doing in top-flight performance and suffer the danger of degenerating physically and mentally when forced to retire.

There is also the argument that at 65 a person could be entitled to lay off and take it easy after a lifetime of work.

From the angle of shelving a man or woman at or any other age, retirement is a wrong principle. The adage that it is better to wear out than rust out is sound.

Granted a person is in good physical condition at 65, retirement should merely be a change of occupation rather than putting the old horse out to pasture.

The word retirement should be dropped as also term pensioned. Some new term should be found to classify the man or woman who at 65 with the aid of a pension, supplemented by an agreeable side-line, faces the twilight secure in the knowledge that there is still plenty to do that is worth while.

Worry and Baldness

A great many people do a great deal of worrying about the possibility of becoming bald. Medical scientists are beginning to conclude that worrying is as much a cause of baldness as anything else.

One of them says there is much less reason for man hair now as in primitive times. Hair was worn to mankind for warmth. The glacial period is over and most men and women are living in rather comfortable surroundings. He foresees in about 1,000 years that the person sporting a head of hair will look upon as a freak.

Milady with her glorious locks would worry herself bald if she contemplated existence 10 centuries hence.

People do too much worrying not only about their personal appearance but about everything else. If worry contributes to the loss of hair what must it do to the rest of the human system, particularly the eyes?

Fear complexes should be controlled to the point that they can be dismissed at will. This takes willpower and a proper mental attitude toward values.

If people go bald from worry it is because they have a false sense of values.

Too much importance is attached to non-essentials most people. Few people ever worry about the essentials. Perhaps a close study would reveal that essentials need not be worried about.

Proper mental and spiritual adjustment is much more effective than a hair tonic to those who fear dness.

Troubles in Toyland

A letter published in the Young Communist paper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, complains of the quality of toy dolls. Many dolls have their heads fastened on with crude pegs, and "every now and then, to the child's horror, the doll's head drops off." (Just like the doll's head?) And the toy furniture soon begins to fall apart. (Like the morale in a kolkhoz?) And the paint on the dolls is bright-colored balls. (Like the glamour of Communist promises?)

Komsomolskaya Pravda verifies the complaint with its own researches and illustrates the article with several humorous drawings. One of these depicts a Russian mother pointing at a toy shop window full of atrocities and saying to her child, "Behave yourself now, or I'll buy you a toy!"

Before capitalist mothers preen themselves on the superior quality of their own children's playthings they had better take stock of the youngsters' arsenal of toys — and we use the word arsenal advisedly. The workmanship will be found far superior, we are sure, but the character of the toys may be less reassuring. Popular numbers in the Canadian nursery range all the way from the old-fashioned six-shooter to the latest in death-ray machines.

Though dolls' heads roll in Russia, must youth not find its way to maturity in Canada?

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Checking the estimates should be done with such care that it is a hit with the taxpayer. A doctor says that the average dream lasts about five seconds. Does make-up wear off that fast?

OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



For Parents Only "Your Child Admits Fear."

By Nancy Cleaver

"Daddy, I'm scared!" "Mummy, I'm afraid!" How do you react to your child's fear? Perhaps he doesn't say he is afraid, but you can see that he is frightened. Fear is written on his little face. The muscles of his body are tense. His heart is pounding like a hammer.

Fathers are sometimes annoyed when a son shows he is frightened. They forget how they felt when they were small. They may be more lenient with a little girl's uneasiness. But all the same, they are proud of their children when they are confident and sure of themselves.

Mothers are more apt to be sympathetic. Often all a child needs is a mother's reassuring arms to put courage back into him. Perhaps just a word of comfort will make the sun seem to shine on a gloomy day.

Parents are able to be more patient with their child's fright if they know that being afraid is a common experience of all little folk. No infant inherits fear of certain things. But a new baby appears to be frightened by loud, sharp noises. He is scared if he seems to be falling, likely because this makes him feel insecure.

A little child is often nervous in unfamiliar surroundings or with a stranger. If he has no pet at home, a cat or a dog may petrify him. Between the ages of two and six, bad dreams of lions, bears, even burglars sometimes are so terrifying that a child cries out and wakes up. Almost every child at some time expresses fear of the dark. Terrifying movies or TV scenes, exciting radio programs and certain kinds of violent Crime Comics have tended to greatly increase school children's nightmares.

Unnecessary exposure to fear provoking situations is a mistake in child training. Movies which are advertised as showing "most sensational and alarming scenes" are certainly NOT suitable for tiny tots or even public school scholars. A cross watch dog at a certain home may be avoided by walking along with mother on the other side of the street. At the same time, parents should explain to boys and girls that there are many movies suitable for juveniles and that most dogs are fond of children and enjoy their company.

It is always a help to be able to confess one's anxieties to a friendly person. Especially at bed-time a child's fears may be mentioned. The majority of youngsters, especially boys, who engage in rough play, secretly fear danger situations in which they may receive bodily injury. They may also be very much afraid of being called a "Sissy" when they are dared to do something they realize is unsafe.

In our modern world, so many children are injured playing on the road or crossing it carelessly that this is one area of life where even small youngsters should realize what may befall them if they are careless. Instead of unduly frightening him, a tiny child must learn that he must play in his own yard.

When he crosses the road, he is accompanied by a grown-up. He learns sensible caution not fear, from his parent. A school age child must practice safety procedures such as crossing at right angles at an intersection and obeying traffic signals. Youngsters should know the traffic rules. They can look on the policeman, who is a traffic officer as a friend.

The dentist and the doctor should also be spoken of as "friends." A visit to have a tooth filled or extracted, is not nearly so terrifying to a youngster, if mother has pictured the dentist as a person who wants to help people. Physicians often prefer to see their small patients alone because the parent's apprehension is most contagious. The child should be told that the doctor is a kindly person. Although his treatment may hurt it won't hurt for long. This helps a child to overcome his panic when entering a doctor's office. Letting a child know what to expect banishes the dread of the unknown to some extent.

Some sins are far more serious than others — particularly those the other fellow is guilty of.

The one good thing we can say about winter is that you can get all the way home before the ice cream melts.

REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT

By Michael Starr, M.P. Ontario Riding

The Post Office Bill has continued to be the main item of debate. Charges of patronage in the Post Office Department have been hurled by the Opposition, and there has been amazement that at the last moment an announcement has been made by the Postmaster General that the increase will also apply on postcards.

While other world markets were shrinking, Canada's trade with the United States soared to an all-time high in 1953, but Canada is a long way from bridging her American trade gap. About two-thirds of the increase resulted from heavier Canadian imports. In 1953 Canada imported from the United States more than she exported to the United States to the tune of \$766,600,000 Canada's total exports to all countries in 1953 was \$4,172,000,000 and her imports amounted to \$1,387,000,000.

Canada's Civil Defence force continues to look impressive on paper. The last official figures claim that 162,000 civil defence workers have now been enrolled in federal and provincial and municipal organizations and of this total 57,000 have been trained. Health Minister Paul Martin, who is the Federal Minister responsible for civil defence, is visiting Washington this week. With him he will have a batch of senior civil defence officials. While in Washington they will participate in the regular meeting of the joint United States — Canada Civil Defence Committee which was set up in 1951. It is to be hoped that Civil Defence in Canada will gain some benefit from this meeting.

The Estimates for the fiscal year 1954-55 have been tabled by the Minister of Finance

1954 Officers for Soil and Crop Improvement Assoc.

Wilfred Schneller, Baden, was elected President of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association during the annual convention in Toronto last week. He succeeds Howard Harper, Goodwood.

Other officers are as follows: Honorary Pres., Hon. F.S. Thomas, St. Thomas; Past Pres., Howard Harper, Goodwood; 1st vice pres., Andrew Johnston, Renfrew, R. 5; 2nd vice pres., W.W. Dawson, Peterborough, R. 11; Sec.-Treas., A.H. Martin, Toronto; Executive, Harry Strang, Hensall; James McBain, St. Thomas, R. 6; Geo. Vansickle, Cainsville.

New directors appointed to the present board are: Hugh Glasgow, Tupperville; Owen Sweetman, Little Britain; Victor Johnson, Moose Creek; C. E. Skene, Oxdrift; Roland Roy, Mono Park.

Few things are more entangled than Italy's spaghetti politics.

and they total close to 5 billion dollars. This is about 53 million more than last year and will mark an all-time high in Canadian history of Federal Government spending peace time or war time. The total of their estimates brought a gloomy shadow across earlier hopes that Mr. Abbott's 1954-55 Budget would contain tax cuts.

In the Estimates also is an item providing \$50,000 which the Government will ask Parliament to vote to help meet the cost of the Eighth World Jamboree of Boy Scouts, to be held in Canada in 1955. The Finance Minister's Estimates state that the funds would be in the form of a grant to the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts Association. The Association is in charge of arrangements for the world meeting of Scouts, which is expected to be held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, from August 18 to 28th, 1955.

We are informed that Ottawa has gone out of the pork vending business. The last 9 million pounds of canned pork held by the Government for disposal has been sold by Ot-

Game Warden Deplores Death of Mother



The death of the mother of these two new-born bear cubs, held here by Ruth Forbes of Barrie, Ont., was an unnecessary one, according to game warden J.S. "Sandy" Ellis of Barrie. Commenting on the shooting — by two farmers who chased the animal for three hours during a blizzard after it was flushed from hibernation by a farm dog — Mr. Ellis said: "There is so much unnecessary killing

these days by so-called sportsmen that we are very concerned about it." He said that shooting of bears was legal, but this bear was doing no harm and there had been no complaints of bears — of which there are only a about six bears in the area — causing trouble in the district. "If they ever prove a menace, the department of wildlife will do something about it," he added.

tawa to a group of distributors. A condition attached to the sale was that it was to be marketed outside of Canada. It is said that the selling price was somewhat higher than 17 cents per pound received for the 22 million pounds which went to West Germany some time ago. The reason for the conditional sale is that the Government does not want this cheap pork to compete in the domestic market — with non-federal pork which is now being sold for about 35 cents per pound.

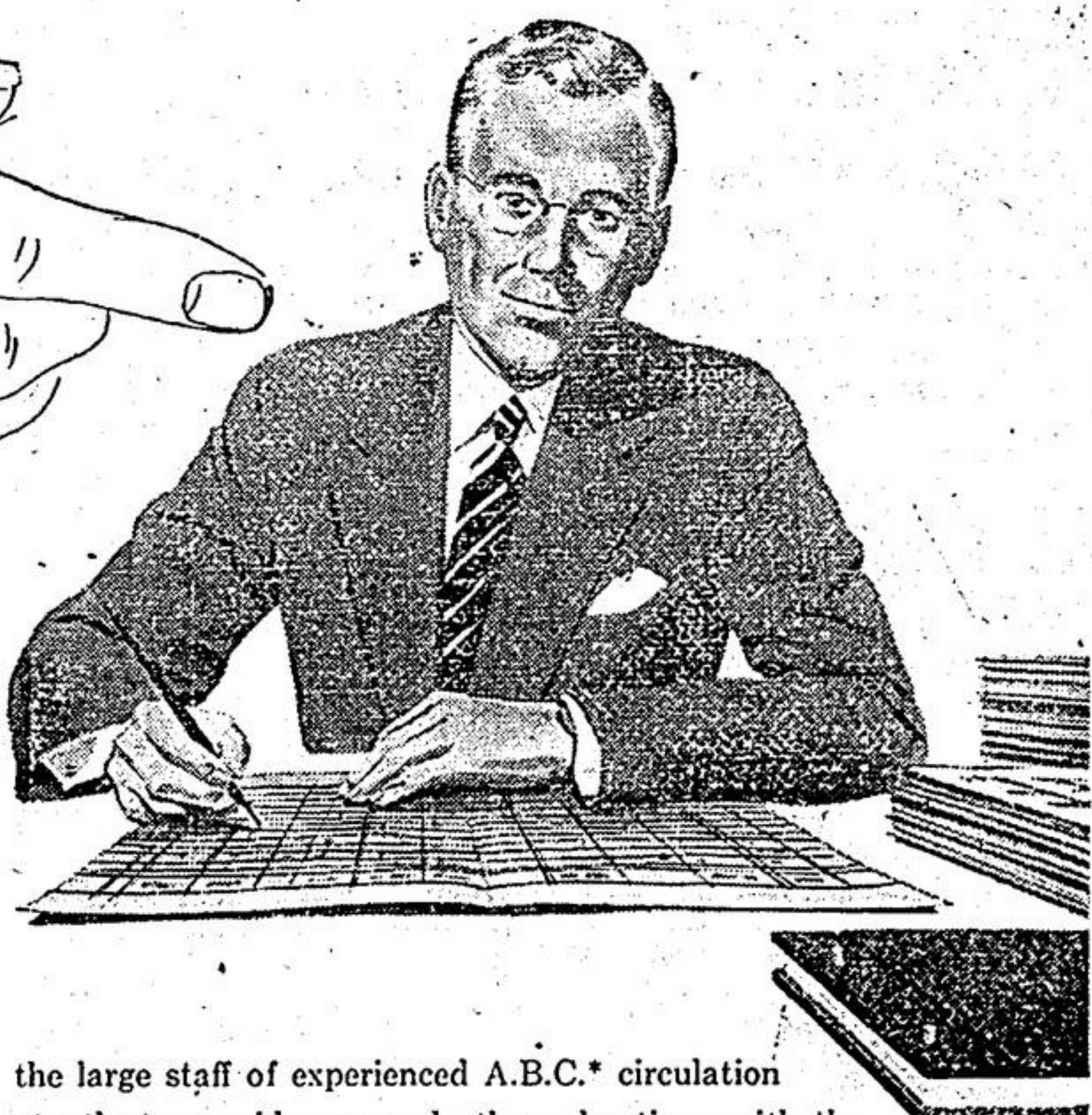
As of now, Agriculture Department economists still remain hopeful that 1954 will be a good year despite rumblings of unemployment. They anticipate no serious interruption of economic activity. Instead, they say "an expected increase in consumers' income and in food consumption may well mean the sale of a larger volume of farm

products in Canada." Outlook for the Canadian farmer, says the department remains favourable. Cash receipts from sale of farm products may even exceed 1953 total. This assumes, of course that farmers will be able to deliver during the first seven months of the year "a substantial proportion" of the year-end carry-over of grain. Cattle marketings are likely to be higher at prices, say the economists, comparable to those of 1953. But lower hog prices may eat up the advantage of increased marketings there. Assuming average crop yields at unchanged acreages, department economists predict net returns from farm operations only slightly lower than those of last year. This is not the view the farmer has, and has had for some time. To the farmer the picture looks very gloomy and he is not hesitant in saying so.

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