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Let's try for two years without traffic death

TODAY the citizens of Prince Rupert can breathe a sigh of relief and congratulate themselves, motorists, professional drivers and pedestrians alike, that we have completed a year without a fatal traffic accident. We can claim a "shutout" but not a "no-hitter." Unfortunately more than a dozen persons were victims of minor traffic mishaps and suffered a variety of injuries. But we didn't kill anyone.

For this we should thank God, bolster our determination and resolve to progress another 365 days without a traffic fatality. It can be done, because it has already been accomplished by Trail (population 12,000) and Medicine Hat (population 21,000) which have chalked up records of five and three years without traffic fatalities.

Now, some cynics could say that we got through the year without killing anyone due to luck or because of our pedestrians' fleetness of foot. We would like to think that there has been an improvement in the driving habits of both ordinary motorists and professional drivers and also in the care taken by the city's pedestrians. We hope that thoughtfulness, courtesy and common sense are more in evidence than they were and that use of all three traits will become routine.

So much for last year. Let's get on with the job of getting through the coming year. There are 366 days in 1960 so if we complete a second full cycle we will have already reached the second year without a fatal traffic mishap by the time we've passed through 365 days. We've done it, we're proud. Let's do it again.

'Corrosion of luxury'

George F. Kennan is among those warning the American people of the grave danger of complacency, love of comfort and lack of national purpose. The former diplomat and scholar now is teaching at the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, N.J.) and writing international history. He spoke in Washington recently. . . . In a sentence notable for length, but even more for wisdom, he said:

"If you ask me—as a historian, let us say—whether a country in the state this country is in today, with no highly developed sense of national purpose, with the overwhelming accent of life on personal comfort and amusement, with a dearth of public services and surfeit of privately sold gatgetry, with a chaotic transportation system, with its great urban areas being gradually disintegrated by the switch to motor transportation, with an educational system where quality has been extensively sacrificed to quantity, and with insufficient social discipline even to keep its major industries functioning without grievous interruptions—if you ask me whether such a country has, over the long run, good chances of competing with a society such as that of the Soviet Union, I must say that the answer is 'no'."

Walter Lippmann has said much the same. So has Adlai Stevenson. Only recently Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts warned that "the slow corrosion of luxury, the slow erosion of our courage are already beginning to show." And Governor Rockefeller of New York said that the nation must "distrust contentment and shun complacency."

But hardly anybody seems to be listening.

—Milwaukee Journal.

The two seas

There are two Seas in Palestine.

One is fresh and fish abound in it. Splashes of green adorn its landscape. Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its life-giving waters.

Along its shores children play, as children played when He was there. He loved it. He could look across its silver surface as He spoke His parables. And on a rolling plain, not far away, He fed five thousand people in the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

The River Jordan forms this Sea with sparkling waters from the hills. It laughs in the sunshine, and men build their houses near it, and birds their nests, and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The River Jordan flows on south into another Sea.

Here there is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no laughter of little children. Travellers do not pass, unless on urgent business which might take them there. The air hangs heavy above its waters, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink of it.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor Seas? Not the River Jordan—it empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie, nor the country 'round about.

The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop which flows into it, another drop flows out. The receiving and the giving go on, day after day, in equal measure. The other Sea hoards its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives, and lives. The other Sea gives nothing. It is named "The Dead Sea."

—Richmond Banner (San Francisco).

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Uneasy European, Allied trade talks underway

By DAVE OANCIA
Canadian Press Staff Writer

An uneasy Atlantic alliance today tackles the thorny task of patching up family trade quarrels and mapping a program to fight an anticipated all-out Communist economic offensive during the 1960s.

Canada and the United States join their European allies in a series of high-level talks in Paris that could eventually lead to the creation of an organization for Atlantic economic co-operation.

Its objectives would be to boost free world trade and to launch a massive aid plan for underdeveloped countries. Its birth might spell the end of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation, which embraces 18 countries.

* * *

The special conference—first for the Western finance ministers since the collapse of the European free trade area negotiations in 1959—will have the immediate goal of heading off a trade war in the Western camp.

But it also is an open recognition that the nature of the cold war is changing. The world is heading into a period of intense economic competition and the West must make a gigantic effort to prevent Soviet gains in the uncommitted areas.

Meeting in Paris today in an attempt to deal with the twin problem facing the West are ministers from France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Britain, Switzerland, Portugal, Denmark, Greece, Sweden, The Netherlands, Canada, the United States and the secretariat of the European common market.

The first sessions today will be a ministerial meeting of the British-led European Free Trade Association. On Wednesday, the full-dress Atlantic economic conference gets under way. It will be followed Thursday by a ministerial council meeting of the OEEC.

Talks during the next three days likely will focus on three topics:

1. Discrimination against dollar goods. Canada and the United States now feel there is no justification whatever for these restrictions and will urge prompt action to remove them. Canada also is expected to voice her concern about the possible restrictive features of the common market's agricultural policy to be announced during the next month.

2. Fear of a trade war in Europe. There is a danger that friction between the French-led common market and the British-led "outer seven" may develop into all-out economic conflict in the Western camp. Britain wants to bridge the gap between the two trade groups. Canada and the U.S. fear the wider grouping will close off some of their traditional markets.

3. A new approach to helping underdeveloped countries. Britain, the U.S. and Canada want to see a greater contribution from continental European countries now riding the crest of a prosperity wave.

The need to revise the constitution of the OEEC now is widely accepted. This organization was set up in 1947 to deal with the problems of distribution of Marshall plan funds and to stimulate efforts of European nations to help themselves.

The U.S. is expected to propose setting up a "wise men's" committee to work out a new organization for economic co-operation on an Atlantic scale.

Use feet more

From The Fredericton Gleaner

There are three distinct advantages to using our feet more. By judicious use of our feet as they were intended to be used, we can make a contribution to solution of the city's traffic and parking problems, cut down our automobile expenses, and benefit our health.

Money from slums

There always have been some in every generation, and in all forms of society, who prey upon the poor. That is why usury, even though it persists still in some parts of the world, is such a serious offence.

When one looks at slum areas one wonders how anyone could make money out of such property.

Certainly it is an economic and social liability to the community. But there are people who make plenty out of slums—which is one reason why slums persist.

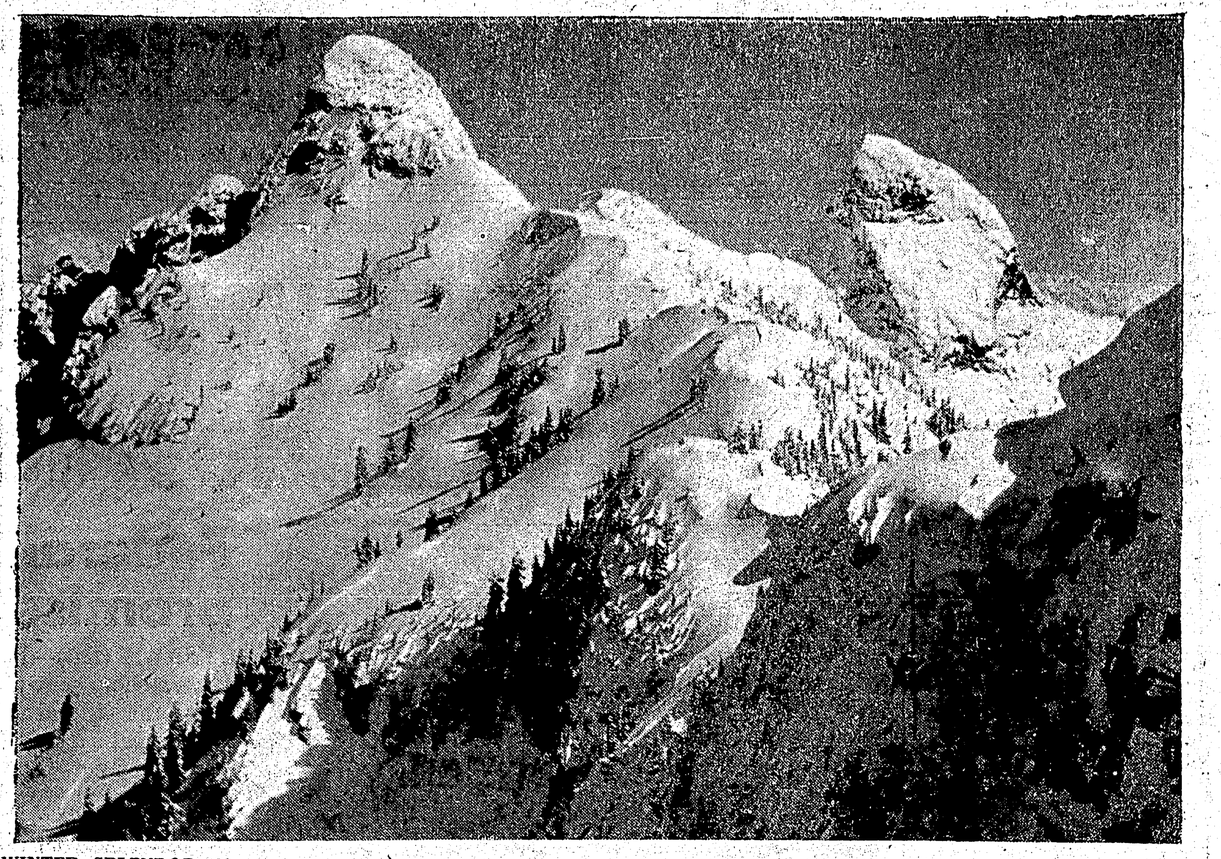
—Windsor Star.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

What utterly astonishes me in these TV westerns is the way everybody can shoot with a six-shooter. Not only the marshalls and famous outlaws can whip their gats from their hips with lightning speed and always kill their man. Dead as a tick. But even no-account cowhands have the same gift.

In real life, as I experienced it in the first or Mud War, and in the more recent war, hardly anybody could hit a barn door with a pistol. Pistol shooting is an art as far removed or advanced from rifle shooting as croquet is from tiddly-winks. For three and a half years of my life in that first war I carried, day and night, a trusty .45 strapped to my midriff. And I don't recall ever having hit anything with it. I shot it any number of times, and scared the stuffing out of my immediate neighbors, some rats and, on occasion, myself. We carried pistols for reasons of morale. On rare occasions, they proved useful: but they were "belly guns." When serviceable, they were fired at point blank range. And even then, the target was usually winged, not killed.

To see these western bad men and good men, legs astraddle like little boys who have had an accident in their pants, snatching forth their guns to fire without aim, invariably getting the enemy fair through the heart, makes those of us, to the number of a hundred thousand or so still living, who carried pistols in war, feel very inferior, or else derisive.



WINTER SPLENDOR—Sharply etched against the sky are Vancouver's gleaming Lions. These snow-covered peaks on the north shore of Burrard Inlet appear from many parts of Vancouver a sleeping lion. At the 6,000-foot level snow remains deep until midsummer while sunshine bathes the lower levels. —CP photo.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Signed articles, and editorials credited to other newspapers do not necessarily reflect the views of The Daily News.

How to write a letter to the editor

From "The Citizen"

When a letter of yours appears on the editorial page, you probably have the largest audience you will ever address.

Editors of most newspapers make provision for the public to be heard through Letters-to-the-Editor columns. Surveys have shown these letters to be among the best read features.

Your readers are a cross-section of society. They include all races, religions and occupations, all shades of opinions. Your letters to the editor form one of the most influential channels through which an active citizen can express his ideas about timely subjects of general concern!

Here are some suggestions which can help in writing the kind of letter that is most likely to receive favorable consideration from an editorial desk:

- If possible, use a typewriter, and double-space the lines. Type only on one side of the paper. If you write in ink, write plainly and neatly. Do not crowd words or lines.
- Express your thought clearly and concisely, keeping to one subject per letter. Editors prefer letters of no more than 200 words due to space limitations. Longer letters are accepted occasionally if they have considerable reader interest.
- Be sure your meaning is clear. Write in simple words and sentences of not more than 255 words.
- Do not be merely critical. Try to include some constructive and worthwhile suggestion. Too much criticism is boring.
- Avoid violent language. A claim constructive approach is more persuasive than ranting. It is possible to be witty without being cynical.
- Help provide the truth which may inadvertently be missing from a news report or editorial. You can render a valuable service to the public by presenting news and views which perhaps have been given little or no attention by the press.
- Do not hesitate to use a relevant personal experience to illustrate a point. When rightly told it can be persuasive.
- Appeal to the readers' sense of justice, fair play and mercy.
- Always sign your name and give your address. You can use a pen name or initials for publication if you wish, by so informing the Editor, but he must know the source of the letter. Do not be unduly timid about signing your name. Letters which may carry real signatures are given preference.
- Use good grammar, spell correctly, and avoid the use of capital letters except for personal or place names.

Do not be discouraged if your letters are not used, or if they do not appear for several days. If one letter in ten is accepted, you have reached an audience large enough to make your interest worthwhile.

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Our Dining Room will be closed temporarily for repairs, watch for our re-opening advertisement. We will continue to take orders to go out at the rear entrance from 5:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. daily except Sunday. Free Delivery on orders of three dollars or more.
Phone 6226

With the Classics

There is sweet music here that softer falls
Than petals from blown roses on the grass,
Or night-dew on still waters between walls,
Of shadowy granite, in a gleaming pass;
Music that gentlier on the spirit lies,
Than tired eyelids upon tired eyes;
Music that brings sweet sleep down from the blissful skies.
—Tennyson.

The greatest events of an age are its best thoughts. It is the nature of thought to find its way into action.
—Christian Nestell Bovee.

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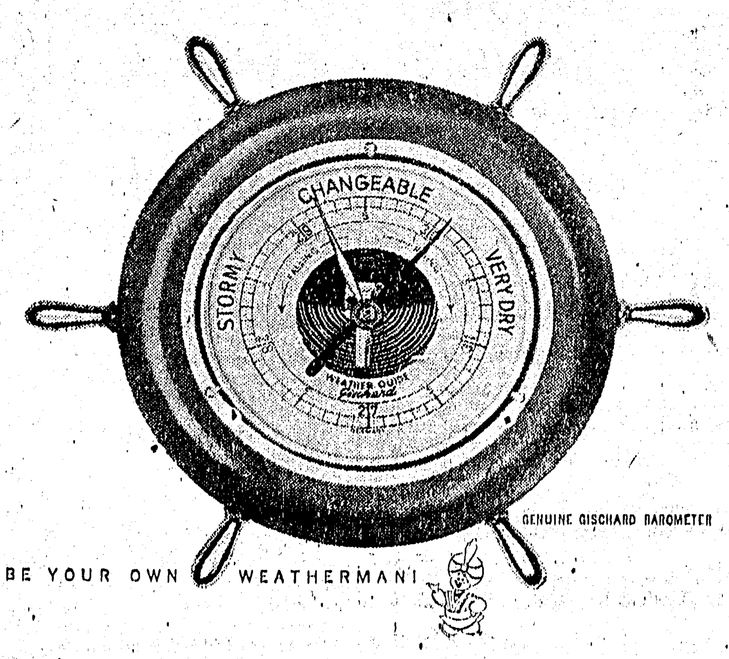

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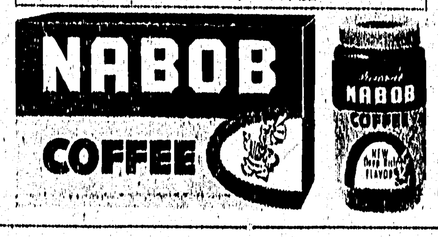
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