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Census Taking

DURING the next two years virtually every country under the sun will be census-taking. In Canada the regular decennial census will be taken in 1957.

The next censuses will be of more than routine importance since there have been so many changes in international boundaries, abodes of people and economic circumstances due to war. The United Nations is establishing training centres for enumerators in Paris and Cairo, particularly for Europe and Asia.

Although census-taking originated centuries before Christ, it was used for simpler and different purposes than it is today. In Babylonia, 5000 years ago, and later in Persia, Egypt and China, the men of the country were counted to give the government an idea of their military and labor resources. Census-taking began to develop into the complicated affair it is now in the days of the Roman Empire. Roman families, and their property, were counted every five years to determine civil status and to fix taxes. In the year Five B.C., the Emperor Augustus extended census-taking throughout the Roman Empire, which then included all of western civilization.

In the seventeenth century, the periodic census was started right here in the New World, in Quebec and Nova Scotia. In the next 100 years Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Spain and the United States followed suit.

Censuses were still being taken for purposes of military recruitment, fixing taxation and apportioning representation in national government. It was not until recently that the great social value of census-taking on a world-wide scale was realized.

Since one of the world's most vital problems today is its food supply, every means that may help solve it must be investigated. One of the most apparent is a census of the populations in relation to the land they live on—their capabilities for producing food for themselves and their neighbors, who might be thousands of miles away. And as United Nations investigations have shown, millions of people do not enjoy the advantages in education, medical treatment and housing that they deserve as human beings. Modern census-taking is a start toward dealing with these tremendous problems.

The census-taker's methods are still "primitive." He must go from house to house, careful not to miss the smallest shack or most hidden hut where people may be living. It is a slow painstaking work, but by actually appearing on the scene the census-taker can gather more information than would be supplied by the simple filling-out of forms.

The statistics collected by 1950 and 1957 census-takers will be of vital importance to governments and consequently to the peoples of the world themselves. But most important perhaps, the full census will enable statisticians to draw a clearer picture of the world's food and resources.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

THERE are some people so admirably equipped with prudence and common sense that they do their Christmas shopping in October or even September.

However, the early-Christmas-shopper is very rare. He (or more probably she) must be in peril of smugness as he watches the mob of those less foresighted elbowing, jostling and doing everything but trample one another underfoot.

A dreadful contagion afflicts the last-minute shoppers. They are convinced that wherever they are there are better bargains elsewhere, and more desirable goods which they could only secure by being in five different places at once. They are ready converts to the theory that might is right and that to the victors belongs the spoils. They buy stuff they don't want, because the quantity is limited or because the person behind them is frothing at the mouth for it. Worst of all, they are tempted to think of their fellow-men as merely rival shoppers—a thought that stiffens the back and hardens the heart.

Every year we resolve—do we not?—to abjure their company in the future: every year we vow that next Christmas we will be prepared in advance. Any every year we find ourselves again one of the mob. Well, who wants to be superhuman, after all?—Vancouver News-Herald.

C. E. Starr, manager of Pacific Fisheries, called this afternoon on the Coquitlam for Seattle en route to California for the winter holiday season. Due to late connections at Jasper on account of prairie storms, tonight's train, due from the East at 10:15, is reported about three hours late.

Letterwriting Can Be Fun

By Violet Ingalls
Letterwriting need not be a chore. It can be fun... If you just 'let yourself go.' (At times I've gone too far.)

One ought not to be too particular about one's penmanship. And an occasional mistake in English is quite in keeping with a free and relaxing style as in spontaneous conversation. Particularly if one's tongue makes a habit of marinating with one's mind. That is my trouble... at times I find my limited vocabulary exhausted... trying to catch up with mine.

The blots too, oftentimes give a casual air to a truly friendly letter. They may be as out of place as a 'spot' of tea spilled in your guests' lap for instance. But, oh, so natural—if you are at all 'Gone With the Wind' in temperament.

I'll never forget one ink blot on a very special friendly letter I once wrote to my husband. It was more like a beautiful snowflake turned royal blue!—I was so proud of it—I was positive I had undeveloped talent for at least depicting scenes. In fact, I was so intrigued by such ingenuity that I mentioned my potential quality to my wise husband and asked if he believed what I believed might be true... And ought I immediately to begin thinking in terms of an advanced course in Fine Art ABROAD?

I awaited his reply with great interest. When it came, I read: "Don't sail. (And save your money... If you still have some.) Just keep on with your ink blots. In my opinion: The successful artist is the one who accidentally upsets his paint brush or 'bucket.' When you have learned all you can with ink, buy yourself an easel, brush and paints—if you wish. But if you change your mind—if you have one to change—why not consider a more practical art: That which would require Scrub Brush and Floor Pall..."

Yes, Letterwriting Can Be Such Fun! Once, when my husband had occasion to be absent from home seven months (he's a master mariner) I wrote him a letter each day. And once, I wrote him twice the same day. He wrote me regularly just once a week. (After his afternoon nap and Tea... and there was so little to do—I fancied—but to while away the time.) Sometimes, he forgot to mail the letter until the following week and then he just added a footnote.

The most delightful advantage of writing one's spouse each day I discovered, was the sharing of all one's moods with him... I had no idea I had so many. In fact, I had no idea there were so many to be had.

I found it no 'trick' at all making my husband feel 'at home' away from home. In truth, he felt so much 'at home' that even now, I believe he begged for an extension of time.

As for myself: Instead of singing "Home Sweet Home" I was amazed to find myself singing "Home, Home on the Range" (for I have never lived on one.) I was simply so carefree I couldn't so much as whisper: "Don't Fence Me In," because I didn't feel fenced in.

But the day I wrote my husband: In the morning, when my heart was as warm as the early morning sunshine... and then in the afternoon when my spirit reflected the darkest blue in the changing sky... that was the beginning of a truly Great day. (It was near the time he had neglected mailing his weekly letter.)

Time elapsed (fast time) then came my husband's letter. It was brief. He apologized for his tardiness. But so completely astounded at my moods on that particular day, he wrote: "Why didn't you just write Ishmael and sign your name?"

I hastened to answer his letter—I sent it Registered Mail to the nearest post office. It meant almost two days leave of absence for him... But what a Surprise, when he opened my letter and read its only content: Ishmael. (There was no need to sign my name.)

George Griffith of Campbell and Bennett contracting firm called Sunday night on the Camosun for Vancouver to spend the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

Letters to the Editor

THAT ENGINE DEAL
Editor, Daily News:

Further to the pump deal there are a few aspects to this matter that I think should be brought to the attention of the tax payers of this city, some of which I was aware of at the time of writing my first letter and some of which have developed since. On the morning of December 4, 1949, when I first went up to the City Hall for the pump specifications the engineer must have had most or all of his tenders in from the south as he found it easier to bring some of them out and show me what he wanted from some of the correspondence he had on hand. A nice deal! We local concerns were just getting ours! But when the figures are published they are all lower than ours except for an alternative by one of the companies.

It would be interesting to know what specifications they had to quote on. Then the figures were published in the paper and I heard the Public Works Board had decided to recommend the B. C. Equipment's tender of \$7,286.00.

Board of Works Chairman Alderman Rudderham was not in favor of that unit I understand.

I talked to Alderman Harold Whalen and suggested to him I didn't think the city could purchase a new plant of the capacity we local concerns were, allowed to tender on at the price tendered, that would operate continuously, and that, if they had decided on a smaller plant, we should be allowed to re-tender on equal ground.

Hence, as published, December 15, 1949, Alderman Whalen had the courage to get up and say at the council meeting that we should all have a chance to re-tender: as it looked like we were not all extended the same specifications. Well the upshot is I am supposed to appear before the Board of Works the next morning at 10:30 with a complete revision of price which I did but only after a lot of expensive phone calls.

When I arrived I found that the deal had boiled down to the Finning Tractor company's lowest tender and myself. I suggested to them a tender for a unit of what I considered about equal capacity as the Caterpillar plant now ordered. But I was again informed by the city engineer at this meeting they required a plant to handle 1200 U.S. gallons a minute at 400 feet head which would finish the matter as far as I was concerned, and everybody else for that matter on that basis of competition.

Chairman of the Board of Works, Ald. Rudderham states (Daily News, December 17, 1949) that one cannot always depend upon the rating of an engine but Caterpillar was known to deliver its rating. I would like to know the basis of his assumption.

Ald. McLean asked three times at two meetings if the power factor curve chart of the various pump engines had been examined as he understood it required 160 brake horsepower to do the job satisfactorily. But the question was not answered by the chairman. He either did not know what Ald. McLean was talking about or chose to ignore it.

Guessing on a deal of this kind is not good enough for, as Mr. Rodger of the Standard Machine Works said in his letter (Decem-

ber 17, 1949, Daily News), it is very possible for us to have a serious fire here and I am sure it would be quite a job to extinguish it with a unit that possibly would not supply water to the domestic taps on the higher levels, especially if the unit had a 4-inch discharge.

Ald. Rudderham goes on to say that Mr. Lane, who is the salesman, gave assurance that the unit would do the job—but he does not say how they are going to make the gallowage or head pressure test with people drawing off along the line as the test is being made and which would have to be done without the booster pump as they informed me they wanted a plant to handle it alone in case anything happened to the booster unit located near Eleventh Avenue. Also he does not state, in case it does not do the job, who would stand the expense or a larger unit which would necessarily mean a new pump and engine, cost of freight and handling, foundation changes, pipe connections etc. I am inclined to think this would happen or we would remain as we were before—short of water when pumping from Shawatlans.

The chairman has, apparently, chosen to ignore the figures put up by reputable pump manufacturers of the power required to do the job as we were told required to be done or he is not giving us the proper set-up on the specifications.

As far as contracts are concerned, I seem to recall the council some time ago complaining about not doing so well on gravel contract which they must have neglected to go into the preparation of themselves.

The taxpayers should remember they will have to pay their share of the shot in this matter. Surely there are enough interested to see this through as should be.

The editor of our paper seems to be a fair-minded person and I am sure would not mind publishing constructive criticism.

In order to avoid duplication of correspondence, this matter has been discussed with the Standard Machine Works and they are entirely in accord with the views expressed herein.

BYTOWN MACHINE WORKS
Per W. J. Richards.



IN TORONTO SYMPHONY — Donna Grescoe, Winnipeg-born girl violinist, who charmed a Civic Centre audience in Prince Rupert a few weeks ago, is completing her first Canada-wide tour this Friday when she appears with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. She will play Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto in E Minor" which was one of her featured numbers here.

James Sheddon called this afternoon on the Coquitlam for Vancouver.



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