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### Strengthen U. N. By Using It

A GOOD MANY PEOPLE are unhappy about the United Nations. Results of the session of the Assembly which has just ended in Paris are not enough to satisfy them. This unsated appetite for peace is healthy. But it is healthy also to appreciate progress.

The Assembly failed to bridge the chasm between Russia and the West. In fairness, we should recognize that in the U.N. Charter we did not equip it for such a task. We gave the Assembly little more than the functions of a debating society. Those functions are not to be despised. For ideas have a power in themselves, as the totalitarians recognize when they deny at home the freedom of speech which in the U.N. they cannot stifle.

Even Russia appears at times to be affected by world opinion as expressed in the U.N. forum. If one doubts it, he should note how earnestly its delegates strive to win debates in the Assembly. He should note the pains the Soviet goes to in the effort to present itself as a democracy. He should note that it refrains from voting rather than appear in the minority against the genocide resolution. So, too, in the Assembly American policy has had to submit to criticism by the small powers and the "neutrals." The great function of free discussion in sifting the truth has been performed.

In the genocide resolution and even more in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the Assembly raised up standards of conduct for the nations which can have a tremendous influence. Critics say these codes will not be obeyed because they cannot be enforced. They have said the same thing about all standards of conduct from the Ten Commandments to Magna Carta.

Moreover, the Assembly recognized that it should grow as a peacemaking agency. Under the leadership of Secretary Lie, Senator Bramuglia, and Mr. Evatt it has pushed unremittingly its own efforts for conciliation of the Berlin dispute. It also continued the Balkan Commission, it has played a useful role in the plans for Palestine pacification, and has contributed to better understanding of other disputes.

This isn't enough, of course. U.N. holds little promise of soon developing into the kind of world government which could require the big powers to abide by peaceful settlements. But that, it seems to us, is a growth which must start at the grass roots in the member countries. Only as they are willing to use U.N., to let it decide disputes and to support its decisions, can it acquire the necessary power.

In this Assembly session the United States did submit its case over Berlin to international judgment. The result was of mixed utility. Undoubtedly, world opinion was crystallized in some measure against Russian intransigence, western opinion was united. This may in the end bring Russia to a more conciliatory attitude. But for the present it has seemed to widen the breach. And it was motivated more by a purpose to use U.N. against Russia in a power struggle than to strengthen U.N. as a world peace organization able to prevent such struggles.

Any use of U.N. to further nationalistic aims threatens its fundamental purpose. U.N.'s great need is for people everywhere to develop an international patriotism which will resist abuse of U.N. by their own governments. Understanding of the necessity for the rule of reason and international agreement to supercede nationalistic lawlessness is a first step. Devoted allegiance to that ideal, alert attention to the patient steps required in practical application of it, and firm support of the most promising machinery available should follow. Mr. Evatt gives us good advice, "Hold on to the United Nations; it is all you've got."



ATTEND FARMERS' CO-OP MEET—J. Russell Love, Edmonton, left, president of the Interprovincial Co-operative, chats here with W. C. Good, Brantford, Ont., during the United Farmers' Co-operative Co. meeting in Toronto. Mr. Good, who has worked for many years to bring about the reorganization of the co-operative as a wholesale controlled by the local co-operatives, saw his dream come true at the first annual meeting of the United Co-operatives of Ontario. The United Farmers' Co-operative Co. Ltd. was reorganized during the past year to provide for control by over 100 local co-operatives under the new name. Both individuals and local co-operatives owned shares under the old structure.

### LACK OF CHILD LEGISLATION CREATES PROBLEM

JOHANNESBURG — Juvenile court magistrates here say that lack of suitable social legislation in the Union of South Africa is placing a great burden on charitable institutions.

There is no law in the Union to compel any wage-earner to pay for the upkeep of any of his children in an institution, nor are court orders for the payment of maintenance binding.

Because of this, say the jurists, thousands of men are defaulting and many children must be taken into charitable organizations, which are finding it difficult to carry on.

Wage-earners can be order-

ed only to make "voluntary" payments of an agreed sum. There is no machinery to stop wages at their source.

The situation is further complicated, say the magistrates, by the fact that a man may agree to support his children one week, and deliberately stop work the next. When that happens, both the law and social welfare societies are powerless.

The South African Council of Child Welfare intends to ask the Secretary for Justice that powers be given magistrates to impose orders for the support of children.

One of the main reasons advanced for failing to pay for the maintenance of children, apart from lack of responsibility, is that post-war optimism and temporary high wages led men to agree to pay amounts they can no longer afford.

### CROWDED INSTITUTIONS

Another reason responsible for the overflow in institutions for unwanted children is that many men have married again since the war and feel their responsibility lies more with the second marriage than the first, particularly if there are any children of the second marriage.

A woman who divorces a man cannot claim maintenance. The courts have no power to order a divorced husband to maintain his former wife, although maintenance can be ordered under a separation order.

Some men agreed to pay weekly sums for each of their children. This sum often amounted to two-thirds of their wages. They then remarried, could no longer pay the maintenance, and the children



OUT A-HUNTING—Winston Churchill, 74 years of age, is still active today and here he is shown as he recently went hunting at Chortwell Farms, Westerham, Kent, adjoining his home.

### Reminiscences

By W. J. — and REFLECTIONS

New Year's Eve, you know, is on the way. And may we suggest the possibility of the night not being silent.

Santa Claus and his reindeers probably reached Prince Rupert over the Skeena Highway, a few drifts and pot holes being mere trifles for such seasoned travellers. Besides, they avoided the mountain differentials one hears so much about.

Someone has started the unconfirmed report that consumers in some part of Canada had side dishes of roast buffalo, along with turkey. And perhaps a chaser of pemmican with quart bottles of Bow River port!

A dozen American airmen, stranded on a Greenland ice-cap since December ninth, were taken off yesterday. One somehow feels that when Christmas dinner comes before them, there will be no reluctance about second helpings.

Two of the largest of Canada's ocean liners were on the Atlantic, Christmas Day. Leave it to the tars to take care of an occasion like that. It is no hardship to be travelling, under such circumstances. There are some Yuletides at sea when it's more like the other way around.

### COSTLY BIRD

KINISTINO, Sask. — A plain unadorned turkey sold for \$1,355 at an auction in this town of 700 and will pay for the furnishings in the new Canadian Legion hall. The bird was left over from a banquet and "sold" 21 times, highest single bid being \$150.

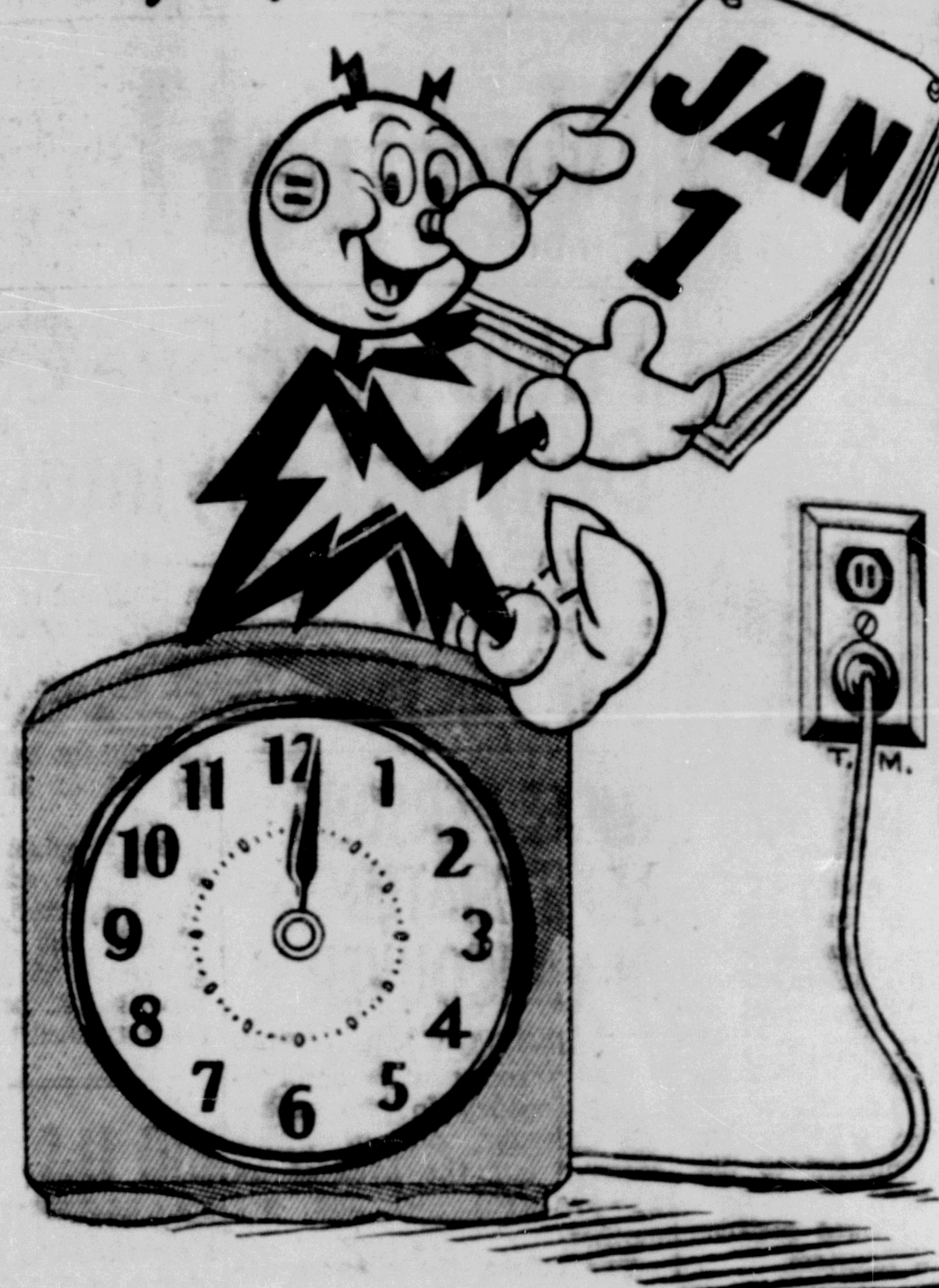
dren had to go to an institution.

Crowded children's homes in the Union show social weakness. There is a serious shortage of foster parents willing to look after children for a number of years without actually adopting them.

There is so much difficulty in finding foster parents that the National Council of Child Welfare has been trying to find a reason. Lack of housing is one reason, the council said, but the main reason is thought to be lack of feeling among South Africans.

There is also a shortage of institutional accommodation for non-European children, who have been committed for their protection.

# Happy New Year



## NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

LANGUAGE SHORT-CUT  
MONTREAL. — Attendants meeting immigrants at nearby Dorval might have to speak 18 languages were it not for one airline's idea. The immigrant now is handed a printed sheet with questions in English and in his native tongue. All he has to do is nod or shake his head in reply.

END OF A LINE  
The last known passenger pigeon died in captivity in 1914.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS  
NEW DELHI. — The Indian government will establish nine fellowships in 1949 to enable French students to do research and teaching in Indian cities. Last year the government awarded scholarships to Indian

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