The Guardian

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

The Federal Budget

That the election honeymoon is now definitely over, was indicated in the budget delivered by Finance Minister Fleming in the House of Commons last evening. It is, in many ways, a cheering budget; but it involves tax increases to the tune of $325,000,000 a year. These increases fall on corporation and personal incomes, cigarets, cigars and spirits.

The cheering news lay in the evidence that Canada has pretty well weathered the economic recession. The deficit for the year ended March 31 last, though astronomically high, was lower by several million dollars than the forecast of last September. A rise of 7 per cent in national production is predicted for 1959, compared with a gain of 2 per cent in 1958. This is based on the assumption that there will be normal crops, stable prices and no "untoward" happenings abroad. The country, Mr. Fleming says, can now expect a rapid growth in employment opportunities. The noticeable upturn since the last three months of 1958 gives grounds for the minister's optimism.

The problem before the Government was whether to coast along on this upsurge, with no tax increases, or to seek more money through higher taxes aimed at reducing the deficit to manageable proportions, and thus strengthen confidence in the government's sagging bond market. The wiser course, we believe, has been followed, though it may not prove generally popular.

Our farmers will welcome the increased tariff protection offered on Canadian fruit and vegetables, particularly during the Canadian production season. Conversely, there has been a reduction in the tariff on some imported fabrics and other items which will be acceptable.

Altogether, the interests of our basic producers seem to have been pretty well safeguarded. It is hoped to reduce the $616,600,000 deficit of last year to $393,000,000 this year with as little strain on the economy as possible. The budget is hailed for that reason by the Conservatives as a "recovery" budget. We have yet to hear what the Opposition thinks about it.

Department Reorganized

Important steps have been taken at Ottawa this month in reorganizing the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Starting in a very modest way more than a century ago, the Department's work and program of activities grew steadily, but comparatively slowly, up to the end of World War II. Since then, owing to the growing complexities of the industry it serves, expansion of the Department has taken place at an accelerated rate.

A great many more scientific and technical personnel have been added to the staff; new research laboratories and other facilities have been provided in many parts of the country, and the responsibilities and work of the regulatory services have widened and become more intensified with increasing farm output. It is not surprising that new problems should have arisen out of the growth and multiplication of duties which the Department has assumed.

Senior officials have been giving attention for more than a year now to finding a solution to these problems. The new plans, which came into effect on April 1, include the establishment of a Research Branch that amalgamates the former Experimental Farms and Science Services, as well as the formation of a Production and Marketing Branch which combines the former Production and Marketing Service.

Each of these units will have as its head an Assistant Deputy Minister under whom will be a Director-General with appropriate supporting staff. An Administrative Branch will take care of departmental housekeeping and will also embrace the Information Division and Economics Division, the latter now not much more than a servicing body for the Department. It is anticipated that a fourth Branch will be established later to deal specifically with conservation and rehabilitation matters.

Of special interest is the amalgamation of the former research services into a single Research Branch under Dr. C. H. Goulden as Assistant Deputy Minister. In an article in The Country Guide, Dr. Goulden explains that the primary objective is to upgrade the quality and increase the amount of research that is being done for the farmer. This is to be achieved largely by the adoption of a system which will emphasize the "team" approach (several scientists, each with different specialized training, working together on the solution of a given problem), and which is aimed at decentralizing responsibility and authority to regional and institute directors, and to superintendents.

The Country Guide expresses fear that under the new setup, the key player in many teamwork research projects is going to be conspicuous by his absence. This is the agricultural economist, for whose employment no provison is made in the new Branch, which will spend about $30 million annually. Dr. Goulden, however, has quelled any fears that anyone might hold that either contacts with or the views of farmers and farm organizations will be neglected under the reorganization.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An unpleasant echo from the past is the news that Britain's Fascist leader, Sir Oswald Mosley, plans to run for Parliament in the next general election. Sir Oswald founded the new "Union Movement" in 1948 to take the place of his prewar British Union of Fascists, but until now he has generally remained in the background.

* * *

The Eiffel Tower of Paris is 70 years old. It was built as a temporary structure for the Paris Exhibition of 1890 and was formally opened March 31, 1889. It is the fifth highest tower in the world. Because it was supposed to be of a temporary status it was built of cheap iron; but not one rivet has had to be replaced in the 70 years.

* * *

A Toronto discussion the other day brought up the suggestion that members of the Canadian Senate should face compulsory retirement at 75 years of age. To which the Sudbury Star adds, unkindly: "Why not retirement at 70? The senators would automatically become eligible for the old age pension, and as the present pension is considered to be adequate for other Canadians there can be no objection on grounds of inadequacy."

* * *

The weakness of carrying on public business by referendum has been demonstrated in the defeat of a proposal to build a badly needed new police station for Hull, Quebec. It had the nearly unanimous support of the Hull City Council and the assent of 54 percent of the ratepayers who bothered to vote. A two-thirds majority vote was needed, and the project was killed because a well-organized minority representing only 22 percent of the taxable assessment stood in the way.

* * *

In the last 10 years the United States has invested more than $15 billion in its missile program. Missiles in the next fiscal year will cost about $$7 billion, about one billion more than Canada's whole budget will spend. Each time an Atlas or a Thor missile blasts off at Cape Canaveral about $2 million of the American taxpayers' money goes up in the smoke, according to the magazine "Flying" which worked out these figures. Even a baby rocket like the Nike costs $80,000 and those are shot off like fireworks on the Fourth of July.

* * *

"Shed a tear for Liberal Leader Pearson," says the Globe and Mail. "His colleague, Premier Joseph Smallwood, announced the other day that Newfoundland's labor legislation was to be mildly modified. Mr. Pearson was gratified, and his expressions of gratification appeared in Saturday's papers. Also in Saturday's papers, unfortunately, was an announcement from Premier Smallwood that he had changed his mind; the legislation would stand. Like many a politician, Mr. Pearson must feel that he can protect himself from his enemies—but who will save him from his frends." Mr. Smallwood may be feeling the same way!

THE CURE-ALL

Adenauer's Decision

By George Kitson
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Konrad Adenauer's decision to give up the German chancellorship for the figurehead post of president of West Germany may profoundly affect East - West negotiations this spring and summer on the problem of West Berlin.

Even though the 83 - year - old German leader does not step into the presidency until mid-September, the early announcement of his decision can hardly help but diminish any influence he might have hoped to exert on the big four foreign ministers' talks opening next month and the summit conference expected to follow this summer.

Adenauer himself said in a German broadcast discussing his decision that he has no intention of becoming a figurehead president, but the fact remains that the powers of the West German president are limited by the constitution and the office has been largely one of pomp, prestige and ceremony.

MAY ALTER RELATIONSHIP

Adenauer's departure as chancellor seems certain to alter, in the long run, the relationship between Washington and Bonn. The men from whom his successor will be chosen are far more independent of the United States than was he.

In this connection, Adenauer's departure has a relationship to the absence in Washington of State Secretary John Foster Dulles, recuperating in Florida after treatment for cancer. All through the post-war years, these two men have made reunification of Germany by means of free elections the official goal of the Western world.

There already is speculation about a modification of German policy on the free-election formula if Dulles also drops out of leadership because of his health. Some radical developments in the Western approach to the German problem might be expected should that be the case.

The effect of the Adenauer decision on Soviet Foreign policy as it applies to Germany must await the foreign ministers' conference in Geneva and any summit talks that might follow.

UNDERSTANDABLY AFRAID

The Russians are understandably afraid of a revival of German militarism. Behind Premier Khrushchev's reluctance to consider German reunification is believed to be a fear that a shift in power in Germany might produce new, aggressive German leaders bent on exacting revenge for the defeat in the Second World War.

To Khrushchev, Adenauer represented at least a known quality —a hard bargainer, ever-insistent on a tough line in any dealings with Moscow but no seeker of revenge either on the East or the Western powers who fought Hitler.

Those who follow Adenauer will be relatively new to both East and West, and Khrushchev's position can be expected to harden until he has had a chance to assess their ultimate aims.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

CAUSEWAY AND CANAL

Sir,—I am obliged to you for publishing my letter.

In your covering editorial you quote me as saying that the canal and causeway were both listed among "the four things first needed by the four provinces" and go on to say that you could not find it in your March copy. I, therefore, enclose you a second copy and I have marked the words with red ink. That was the beginning—and the point—of the article to which you referred.

The Atlantic Advocate cannot be responsible for the opinions of its contributors. The article on Chignecto contributed by Mr. D.A. Young of Foundation of Canada Engineering Corporation is the expression of his own opinion. The main point of interest in his article is his company's estimate of the cost of cutting the canal. He includes the tidal power developments as among the major projects which he thinks could not be undertaken simultaneously for financial reasons. There are several tidal projects under discussion and it is true that they may reach startling totals of estimated expenditure and may or may not be economic. They remain to be proved. The opinion of the Atlantic Advocate is expressed on the editorial page in which we have defined what we believe to be the proper criterion to be applied to public works schemes:

First, there is nothing inflationary about a public works scheme in a time of unemployment.

Secondly, there is nothing inflationary about a scheme that will create wealth and employment in a measure greater than the cost of the investment.

We have never said and do not believe that Canada cannot afford both the causeway and the canal.

Yours faithfully,
THE ATLANTIC ADVOCATE
Michael Wardell
Editor and Publisher.

(Our correspondent has added nothing to the arguments advanced in his previous letter, to which we replied editorially. In the marked copy he has forwarded, the Advocate's statement that "Prince Edward Island wants a causeway, New Brunswick a canal" is underlined in red ink; but we had already quoted the whole paragraph, the gist of which was that if these schemes should prove incompatible, "it must be the canal". As for responsibility for the opinions of its contributors, Mr. Young's article is commended editorially and the Advocate does not dissociate itself from the views he expressed in the statement quoted by us. Lastly, in that part of its editorial defining "the proper criterion to be applied to public works schemes", the Advocate was dealing exclusively with the canal scheme, which it estimated to cost "eighty or a hundred million dollars, or more." It said nothing whatever about Canada being able to afford the causeway as well, now or at any time, or about its advantages to us or anyone else. — Ed. G.)

HOSPITAL INSURANCE

Sir,—I have read with interest a letter from Mr. Harry Pridham which appeared in your issue of April 1, in which he comments on the Prince Edward Island hospital insurance plan and on the strike of wood workers in Newfoundland. He makes the sweeping assertion that the hospital plan on Prince Edward Island will be a perfect failure and advocates a sales tax of 3 per cent which I understand is the policy of the Conservative Party as enunciated by Mr. R.R. Bell in the Provincial Legislature.

Six provinces have so far adopted the hospital insurance plan and out of these five have adopted the voluntary plan; namely, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and P.E.I., not only on the advice of their own health officials but also on the advice of qualified hospital insurance experts.

I consider that these health officials and experts are better qualified to advise as to the best method to be followed than is the ordinary layman. In a small agricultural province such as ours, a sales tax is neither sensible nor practicable for the simple reason that the farmer would have to carry the greater part of the load notwithstanding Dr. Wendell MacDonald to the contrary, because the tax would have to be levied on all purchases of the farmer for the reasons pointed out by Dr. Bonnell in his speech on the hospital bill.

The farmer is like no other group or class in the community for he is a producer, a consumer and a manufactuer; and a sales tax would apply not only to his purchases of the necessities of life but also to his implements of production and manufacturer such as machinery of all kinds, gas, oil, fertilizers, lime, seeds, feeds, to mention only a few of the countless requirements that a farmer has to purchase during his yearly operations. A sales tax would therefore be an extremely costly plan for the farmer.

I have carefully followed the speeches in our Provincial Assembly concerning this important piece of legislation, and as I understand it the plan covers everyone in the Province who wishes to take advantage of it. If I am wrong I would appreciate it if Dr. Bonnell would correct me through the press.

The plan is voluntary and calls for a contribution of $2.00 per month for single persons and $4.00 per month for married people including their family (if they have one) until they are of legal age. All indigent persons who are now receiving financial assistance from the government, either federal or provincial, will have their contributions paid by the provincial government and those who are not now in receipt of financial assistance, if due investigation shows that they are not financially able to pay, will also have their contributions paid by the government.

This then will leave only the 10 percent or 15 percent mentioned by Mr. Pridham without this "most advanced piece of social legislation; and if they are so indifferent that they are not willing to contribute the small yearly amount that is required to enable them to partake of the inestimable benefits of this legislation, then they are not deserving of any consideration whatsoever.

As for his remarks concerning the strike in Newfoundland, I doubt if any of us are qualified to discuss the merits or demerits of the strike. It is only those who are conversant with conditions as they really exist who are in a position to do so. But in passing I might mention that we farmers, Mr. Pridham included, were a few years ago thankful that we had another Liberal Premier who had "guts" enough to stand up for the farmers who stood to lose thousands of dollars through a strike at the C. ada Packers Plant in Charlottetown. I would commend to Mr. Pridham the reading of Harold Bell Wright's book, "Helen of the Old House" in this connection. I will conclude my remarks by quoting a passage from a speech delivered before the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by New York Attorney, Theodore B. Wiseman, "Labor Union power constitutes a more immediate threat to our way of life than does the military might of Soviet Russia".

I am, Sir, etc.
FARMER
Alberton, P.E.I.

The Big Treaseury Hole

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—A combination of forces, including the recession and increasing pressure for more cradle - to - the - grave security, helped blow the big hole in the federal treasury last year.

Political play for power may also have been a factor. Out of the general elections of 1957 and 1958 came a shift in government and pledges of increased welfare payments, more farm subsidies and a bigger split in the federal tax pot with the provinces.

Biggest in peacetime, the 1958-59 budget deficit of $616,600,000 compares with one of $38,600,000 in 1957-58 and a surplus of $257,500,000 in the 1956-57 fiscal year.

Roughly equivalent to about 12 per cent of budget expenditures, the deficit might actually have totalled $828,400,000 on the basis of spending.

CLEANED OUT FUND

But Finance Minister Fleming cleaned out a $211,800,000 special non - budget defence equipment fund, built up by the sale of Canadian arms to North Atlantic partners, and used this to cut down the size of the deficit as applicable to the budget.

Recession played a double role in the huge deficit rise. It blocked any tax boost the policy-makers may have contemplated, for the general feeling among the experts is that a recession is no time for tax increases. And it actually reduced the government's tax take.

Because of the business slowdown and because of a paring of some tax rates in December, 1957, federal budget revenues in the last fiscal year dropped to $4,770,800,000 from $5,048,800,000 the previous year.

Including special taxes for old age pensions, revenues totalled $5,146,800,000, down from $5,420,300,000 in 1957-58.

Expenditures, including pension outlays, climbed to a record $5,673,400,000 from $5,457,400,000.

WELFARE BILL ROSE

By far the biggest rise was in the welfare bill — pensions, increased to $55 a month from $46 in November, 1957; the new national hospital insurance plan; family allowances; health grants, pensions to the needy, the disabled, the blind and to veterans; federal grants on unemployment insurance.

The welfare bill rose to $1,326,700,000 from $1,143,000,000. Federal aid to farmers, including higher price supports and a special acreage payment, rose by some $71,800,000. Payments to provinces, including a bigger share of the tax pie, increased by some $83,000,000.

As the government went deeper into debt, it found it cost more to borrow money with interest rates increased because of a variety of conditions in Canada and the United States. With a higher debt and higher interest charges, the government had to pay out an extra $65,200,000 in debt charges which rose to a total of $604,400,000.

Blood Pressure Is Discussed

By Harman N. Bundesen, M. D.

YOU have heard a great deal about hypertension (high blood pressure). Now let's discuss hypotention (low blood pressure), the opposite complaint.

Each of us has an average normal blood pressure, depending upon our age, sex, weight, constitution and ordinary activities. Blood pressure below this average occurs in perfectly healthy persons. Women, it seems, are more likely to develop it than men.

NOT SERIOUS

If there are no other symptoms present, low blood pressure is not necessarily serious. In fact, many doctors say that, all things being equal, a person past middle age, who has low blood pressure, generally can look forward to more years of life than can a person of similar age who has high blood pressure as a problem.

The main thing is to recognize the fact that you have low blood pressure consult your doctor and then follow his advice to the letter.

Often a person with low blood pressure will be underweight, have poor muscle tone and have generally low physical stamina. Otherwise, he is perfectly normal in all respects.

TROUBLE AHEAD

However, when he overdoes something—tries to play golf too much, dances too strenuously, works too hard—he will have trouble.

He might feel dizzy, become apprehensive, experience a numbing sensation in his hands and feet. He may also complain of neuralgia-like pains throughout his body.

Persons who knock themselves out, socially or for job reasons, are also frequently victims of low blood pressure.

REST IN ORDER

This type of person is apt to be tired when he arises in the morning. As the day progresses, he gains physical momentum.

Generally, a rest or an adjustment that balances work and play more equally will return the blood pressure to normal level.

Low blood pressure should be watched and treated where necessary, by a physician. If no serious factors are involved, it is merely a matter of understanding the condition and learning that you must not overdo things.

Some cases of low blood pressure are connected with emotional disturbances. Once these emotional situations are resolved the blood pressure may return to normal by itself.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

L. J.: I have prostate gland trouble and am afraid of an operation. Please advise me if this would be dangerous

Answer: In prostatic conditions, the disease, if uncontrolled, is much more dangerous than the operation might be.

MAXIMS

Each honest calling, each walk of life, has its own elite, its own aristocracy based on excellence of performance.

TO PAY COMPENSATION

BONN (Reuters) — The West German finance ministry said Monday it had agreed to pay compensation to Dutch citizens who suffered losses to their personal property through confiscations during the Nazi occupation between 1942 and 1944.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The problem with juvenile delinquency is that we cannot do a thing with our children because other parents don't control theirs. —Brandon Sun

"What," someone asked a parliamentary candidate, "will you do if you're elected?" "Good gracious," exclaimed the impecunous candidate "What will I do if I'm not?"—Hamilton Spectator

A Northwestern University professor reports that a potato can predict the weather. Imagine the humiliation of the government forecaster, going home to tell the wife and kiddies that he has been replaced by a vegetable.—Chicago News

November is still some months away, but already railroads in the United States are thinking they may be shut down by a strike. The contracts with the various unions come up for renewal then. The way things are going, there could be a long strike. That is just another trouble in a world beset with troubles.—Windsor Star

The Buddhist emperor of India two centuries before Christ, Asoka, issued an edict, inscribed in Greek and Aramaic. It was unearthed last year in Afghanistan. The edict recommended nonviolence in terms of absolute respect forlife and for all living being, and commanded obedience to father, mother and elders. From this it would appear that Asoka was born 2,159 years too early.—Fort William Times-Journal

Ontario could be crippled without using a single atomic bomb. All that would be necessary would be to cut off electricity. Think what would happen to your town without hydro! We have become utterly dependent on electricity, machinery and gadgets. If they were suddenly cut off, millions couldn't survive two weeks. The ones with the greatest chance of living would be the Eskimos, the Northern Indians or those white people who live in the far corners of our country or who have not yet lost touch with the wilderness. — Fergus News-Record

The Poets Corner

PLAYWRIGHT: SPRING

No player ever walked the boards
With greater pomp, more measured stride
Than this trim actor of the birds
Whose camouflage is here betrayed
By thunder-wings and fantail spread.

The fallen column of a tree
(A hollow house for little beasts).
Sufficient stage, is set today
To satisfy his thespian tastes.
The play begins that spring requests.

A courtly drama is the theme
Enacted on a weathered bole—
Curious courtship, season mime.
Performs, obeys a cycled rule:
Serious mummer acts his role.

A tympano of trembled sound
Fills the woodland's mottled shade
And rolls on echo out beyond
From ancient, rhythmic measures played
By strutting talent in a glade.

—William Vincent Sieller
in the Christian Science Monitor

One of the penalties of parliamentary government, it seems, is the infinite capacity of certain types of politicians to cut themselves adrift from reality.—Ottawa Journal

The Japanese are finding solution to downtown parking. Three huge underground parking lots now under construction in downtown Tokyo are expected to handle more than 1,000 passenger cars when they are completed in May of 1960.—Owen Sound Sun-Times

There is no way of escaping business failures entirely although the number is immensely greater when business is generally good than when it is bad. But if all businesses succeeded, then being in business would mean an automatic guarantee of fame and fortune, which is far from being the case. In Canada, for instance, 1,380 business firms failed last year, leaving ehind in their vanishing from the commercial scene $55,060,000 in liabilities. This is set against 1,498 failures in 1957, with losses amounting to $50,651,000.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

The Age Old Story

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(April 10, 1934)

Frequently discussed plans for obtaining for Charlottetown the advantages of the Carnegie Demonstration Library, now successfully functioning in other parts of the province, came to a head last night when members of the Library Committee decided to raise by public subscription an amount of $1,200 necessary for the purchase of equipment required under the Carnegie Library scheme.

Mr. Ira D. Reid of R.T. Holman left Monday morning for Montreal to attend the Frigidaire Conventon which opened Tuesday. This convention is held each year to keep those in charge of Frigidaire departments throughout Canada posted on any new developments. Mr. Reid will return to the province in a few days.

TEN YEARS AGO
(April 10, 1949)

Four P.E.I. Air Cadets are home from a three day operational flight from Summerside on the Lancasters, Zenith and Polaris, in which they took part in simulated bombing raids on Toronto and Hamilton. This trip was made possible by Wing Cmdr. G. R.F. Gross, Commanding Officer at the R.C.A.F. Station at Summerside.

Belief that there will be an early start made on the Trans-Canada Highway project, was expressed by Premier J. Walter Jones, who returned from Ottawa Saturday. While the agreement between the provinces and Ottawa have not yet been signed, the Premier said he was satisfied from the progress made that the work would be begun this summer.

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