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

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1955

Newfoundland Trade

It is clear from statements made in the Legislature by speakers on both sides that this Island's trade with Newfoundland is deteriorating. Thus far in the session there has been no official explanation for this regrettable state of affairs; but doubtless one will be forthcoming in due course. It is no secret, however, that for some time past there has been dissatisfaction in Newfoundland business circles—and, no doubt, in government circles as well—over the apparent one-sided character of the commercial relationship between the two provinces. Perhaps, in the old days, this was unavoidable, since there was not much that we needed that Newfoundland was in a position to supply.

Conditions have changed considerably in recent years. New industries in various lines of merchandise have sprung up in Newfoundland; and it is reasonable to suppose that two-way business on a fairly equitable basis is now more practicable. This, of course, is a matter for Government investigation on a thorough scale, an investigation that already may be in process, for all we know. In any event, regardless of any other difficulty that may be in the way, or of any advantage that this Province may seem to possess, there can be no permanently satisfactory business relations which are not based on reciprocity, in so far as that is possible.

It would be a mistake, and a serious one, to count on Newfoundland as a "natural" market for our produce. Whatever validity that assumption may have had in the past, it has very little now, and it will have none at all in the future. It will not be long before heavily laden trucks will be able to go from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, by way of the new North Sydney to Port Aux Basques ferry, to the more populous centres of the new Province without difficulty; and we may be sure that both of these producing Provinces already are competing for the lucrative trade with every means at their command. Since this Province was lucky enough to get in on the "ground floor", so to speak, there would appear to be good reasons why we should continue our trade with Newfoundland, and even expand it considerably. This will not be done by wishful thinking, however, nor by holding on to baseless assumptions, but only by thoughtful consideration of the important matter from all angles, to be followed by sound business planning, in which the export needs of Newfoundland, as well as our own, will be given a prominent place.

Federal Health Grants

According to figures presented in the House of Commons by the Parliamentary Assistant to Health Minister Martin, since the Federal health grants first came into effect in 1948 the Provinces generally have received little more than half the amount allocated by Parliament for this purpose. The grand total of allocations to March 31, 1955, was \$241 million; the grand total of payments to February 1, 1955, was \$141 million. On February 1, with just two more months of the 1954-55 fiscal year to go, the Provinces had received only \$18.2 million of the \$48.4 million set aside for them.

"What is the reason for this?" asks the Globe and Mail, in an editorial in which it goes on to answer its own question: "Are the ten Provinces so wealthy, are their health needs so well supplied, that they can afford to turn down millions of Federal dollars every year? Not at all. The point about Ottawa's health grants is that they are conditional; they have long and strong strings attached. For one thing, they are generally of a matching nature; that is, the Province getting a grant must match each of Ottawa's dollars with one of its own. That may be easy enough for some of them; it is not nearly so easy for others. For another thing, Ottawa specifies how the money is to be used. And for yet another, the Federal grants are made from year to year, which rules out the possibility of long-term planning.

"So long as these conditions exist, the Provinces will never be able or willing to take the total amounts available to them. Why, then, do these conditions remain? If Ottawa really wants to help the Provinces in this important field, let it give them its health grants—as it gives them its university grants—with no strings attached. Let it assume (any other assumption borders on insult) that they are intelligent and responsible enough to spend

the money on the facilities they need most. Under such circumstances, they would unquestionably take full advantage of the \$48.3 million allocated for health grants in the 1955-6 estimates. And Ottawa could take full credit for it."

Ulcers And Longevity

Ulcers, caught in time, do not necessarily represent any unusual hazard to longevity, reports the Institute of Life Insurance. This is indicated in a study of fifteen years mortality experience among 725,000 life insurance policyholders with some known health impairment.

Of about 45,000 cases with a record of ulcers, 96 per cent of them men, those who had been medically treated, without an operation and without having had a hemorrhage, were found to have had a relatively favorable mortality experience during the fifteen years covered. On the other hand, those with a history of surgically treated ulcers had a materially higher than average mortality experience, despite advances in surgical technique. Also, those unoperated, but with a history of hemorrhage, appeared to be somewhat poorer than average risks.

It was found that three-fourths of the total ulcer cases were duodenal, the balance being gastric. Policyholders with a history of gallbladder disorders experienced a slightly higher than average mortality from heart disease, which is in line with clinical observations pointing to some association between gallbladder disorders and coronary artery diseases.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Canso causeway official otherwise unidentified, is reported as stating that fish will have no difficulty passing around the causeway after the Navigation Canal opens. His explanation is that the canal locks will stay open except when their operation is required for the passage of ships.

Britain's navy may not be as powerful, from an all-ocean standpoint, as it once was; but there is no doubt about her continued supremacy in merchant ships. Last year her shipyards turned out approximately 1 1/2 million tons, more than 1/2 million in advance of her nearest competitor, West Germany. The United States comes fourth.

If mink continue their present rate of travel to Dildo, Newfoundland, from Canadian and American points, that little village has a good chance of becoming the mink capital of Canada, perhaps of the world. No doubt the Newfoundland authorities will see to it that the whales, which are the attraction to breeders, will not suffer depletion on account of the stepped-up immigration.

Whatever Parliament may do with the bill to amend the War Veterans' Allowances Act, so as to allow increased pensions for so-called "burned-out" veterans, Canadians generally will hope that no party will attempt to inject any political chicanery into the discussion. All things considered, the 20% proposed boost would seem to be little enough.

Latest ban under the Food and Drugs Act will prohibit red-striped transparent paper used to make bacon more attractive on the meat counters. The red stripes make the bacon appear leaner than it actually is. Last year, notes an exchange, similar action was taken in respect to the traditional red netting that makes peaches look riper than they actually are. Government control to protect the public from such camouflage is commendable, provided it is used with discretion.

In the Legislature yesterday Hon. Mr. Clark, Minister of Education, referred to an editorial note in The Guardian on a statement he had made in the Draft Address debate, dealing with "antique" textbooks. His statement, he explained, had been that "there may be room in the home for antique furniture but there is no place in the school of today for antique textbooks." The phrase "in the school of today" had been omitted from the newspaper report on which the editorial note was based. His meaning, Mr. Clark explained, was that outdated books should not be in the school curriculum. We regret having inadvertently misquoted the Minister; but the word "antique" as applied to textbooks is itself somewhat ambiguous. "Outdated" is much better, as clarifying what the Minister had in mind. Unfortunately, in some cases, there is a tendency to assume that the latest textbook, particularly if it is more attractively printed and illustrated, is necessarily superior to an older book which may be of much greater intrinsic value. This applies particularly to books dealing with what used to be called the humanities—an "antique" subject by no means outdated, for those who have the aptitude to profit from its lessons.



Logged In

Manitoba Farm Experiment

By Walter Gray
 Canadian Press Staff Writer

Field experiments, which agronomists hope will lead to the creation of a huge vegetable and cereal grain garden in the northern Manitoba wilderness, will begin this spring.

The pilot project will be launched at Wabowden, on the Hudson Bay Railroad, 300 miles north of Winnipeg. Thirty acres of bushland have been cleared for the first plantings.

If experiments during the next few years prove successful, some 12,000,000 acres of virgin lake and bushland may be thrown open for colonization. Agriculture officials estimate that of this acreage, 2,000,000 acres should be suitable for cultivation.

The handful of railroad workers and missionaries in the area have already proven that crops can be grown during the comparatively short season. For years, Roman Catholic priests at the Cross Lake Indian mission have reaped fine crops of potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes, oats, barley and other vegetables and grains.

Arnold Barr, soils engineer attached to the lands branch of the department of mines and natural resources, said in an interview that the province is proceeding cautiously on the project and finds it is an egg-shaped belt of clay extending north of Lake Manitoba and bisected by the Hudson Bay Railroad.

61 more hours of summer daylight than Winnipeg.

Roy Hopper, superintendent of the Brandon experimental station, will be in charge of the project. Vegetables and cereal grains will be planted on the 30 acres.

Mr. Barr said that increasing activity in the area may hurry the project along. Mining interests plan extensive work in the Mystery Lake area, located on the eastern boundaries of the clay belt.

The provincial government is preparing further surveys of possible power sites along the Nelson river which flows through the area. The soils engineer said the project should greatly affect the Indian population now suffering from a declining trapping industry upon which it has mainly depended for a living.

Moccasined Statesmen

We have been lavishing these tired eyes with a photograph of Sir Winston Churchill stepping from his car at 10 Downing Street wearing a soft hat, a pair of moccasins with the initials "W.S.C." on the toes.

"Moccasins in 10 Downing Street! Here, in the heart of Commonwealth, where patent leather shoes went with silk hats as figures of history dressed for their noble duty!"

It is of course a challenge. There must be somewhere Canadians with suitable pieces of deer-skin, a love of statesmen and girl friends who can stitch beads nicely into letters as "L.S.S.", "G.A.D." and "M.J.C."

If they make them and send them to the appropriate lords of the forest in Ottawa the challenge becomes more profound. If Churchill can wear moccasins why not Canadians? Our only fear is that "Mike Pearson, whose bow ties are not as discreet as his speeches, might insist on porcupine-quill designs and political friend and foe, making their way through the thick bush of the lobbies, would have to tread more carefully than they do.

SAFETY SEATING

CANBERRA, Australia (CP)—New regulations make it compulsory for new-type civil airliners imported after Jan. 1, 1957, to have seats facing the rear. Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams, director-general of civil aviation, said these seats afford three times as much protection as forward-facing seats in event of a crash.

An Unwanted Peerage

(St. Thomas Times-Journal)

Lord Stansgate is a Labor peer whose eldest son, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, is a Labor Member of Parliament. Lord Stansgate is about 77 years old, and his peerage is the hereditary type. In the natural order of things Lord Stansgate will pass on and Anthony will automatically be moved up to the House of Lords.

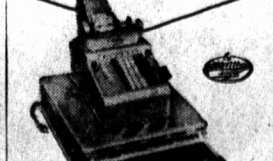
But Mr. Benn does not want to become Lord Stansgate and have to quit the House of Commons for the House of Lords. He petitioned the Lords to be allowed to refuse the title after his father dies, and remain plain Anthony Wedgwood Benn, M. P. The Lords said it could not be done.

Mr. Benn is not the first peer's son who wanted to refuse the peerage in order to remain in the House of Commons. Waldorf Astor tried hard to bypass the peerage when his father died, and when he found it could not be done he did the next best thing—he got his wife, the present Viscountess Astor—to run for his Plymouth seat in Parliament. She won and served in the House of Commons a great many years.

There is no doubt that Sir Winston Churchill could have had the highest honor the King could bestow upon him after the war if he had chosen to accept it—a peerage at the very least. But that would have meant leaving the House of Commons and it would almost break the old man's heart to do this. His identity would have been lost under a peerage, and the honor which he did accept from the Queen is the highest possible without sacrificing his own immortal name.

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
NEW MEDICAL DISCOVERIES

New medicines, and new methods of using known medicines, are constantly being developed through research. Among the latest advances are these:

Varidase, streptokinase-streptodornase has been reported used effectively to reduce swelling, associated with bruises, wounds, operations, infections and tooth extractions more rapidly, thus shortening hospital confinement.

This preparation already is widely used in surgery for dissolving pus and blood clots. In such cases it is applied locally.

By administering it intramuscularly, it reverses the process of inflammation, according to tests conducted by Dr. Joseph M. Miller, chief of surgical service at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Fort Howard, Maryland.

Excellent Results

Tests were made on 64 patients. At the end of the first day of treatment, Dr. Miller reports, beneficial effects were observed. Excellent results, he says, were obtained on 45 patients, and good results in 15.

No improvement was noted in four patients. Three of these had advanced and complicated conditions, and the other received insufficient treatment.

"Aliflorone" Acetate, a derivative of hydrocortisone, promises to make long-term treatment of chronic skin conditions more practical and more economical.

Upon releasing the new product, Sharp & Dohme, Division of Merck & Co., Inc., announced it possesses an anti-inflammatory activity up to 10 times as great as hydrocortisone on a weight-for-weight basis. This indicates that its skin condition responding to an ointment of hydrocortisone will respond to Topical Ointment of "Aliflorone" Acetate in one-tenth of the concentration.

Treating Whooping Cough

A new intramuscular form of the antibiotic, terramycin, has proven helpful in treating whooping cough, according to three doctors of Brooklyn's Kingston Avenue Hospital.

Drs. Gustave Davis, Samuel Weinberg and Benjamin Newman report that 40 children were given three injections of terramycin per day. Their temperatures returned to normal in an average time of less than one day, the physicians said.

None of the children vomited after the second day of treatment. By the third day, the doctors reported, the number of whoops had decreased and the coughs had become less severe.

The average hospital stay, they said, was shortened. There were no deaths and none of the cases developed into pneumonia.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

E. F.: What are the symptoms of Burger's disease?
 Answer: The earliest symptom of the disease is a pain in the calf of the leg or foot, especially after exertion. Color changes usually appear in the foot, the foot becoming a purplish red when held down, and white when it is elevated. In severe cases gangrene may occur.

MONTREAL (CP)—Cunard Line carried 266,000 of the 939,000 passengers who crossed the Atlantic in 1954 from Canada, United States and European ports, the company announced Wednesday. Twelve Cunard vessels now operate out of Canadian and American ports.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Down in Boston the vice-president of an insurance company says that the difference between a good driver and a bad one is decided by "a good breakfast, a happy home atmosphere and a hearty goodbye kiss." The executive's company finished a survey not long ago, and it showed that "unhappy home life caused by nagging over money, in-laws and behaviour of children were the main factors behind poor driving." This is a very thought-provoking conclusion, which should repay discussion in every home.

—Ottawa Citizen.

Greater Vancouver has practically half the population of British Columbia, yet not much more than a quarter of the membership in the Legislature. That is why British Columbia needs an effective redistribution measure even more than Manitoba does. As matters stand now, 20 voters in some of the more populous constituencies have no more influence at election time than a single voter in another constituency. As a result, we have no longer representative government in British Columbia — only the shadow of it.

—Vancouver Province.

The inevitable has happened in the telephone industry — the hands-free phone is on the market. Two thousand of them are already in use in the United States, most of them presently to be found in the offices of executives. The working of the latest development is simplicity itself. After dialing the number, you simply press a button and start talking — no holding receiver to ear or mouth to mouthpiece. A midjet microphone is a front corner of the phone picks up your voice from as far as 10 feet away and a dwarf-size loudspeaker carries the other party's voice through the air in your room.

— Brockville Recorder and Times.

There is no mystery about the spread of "investigationalis" on Capitol Hill. A few legislators who have their ears close to the ground have made themselves national figures by investigating abuses and supposed abuses that are closely allied to popular emotions. Their success in publicizing themselves, even though they may have failed utterly in enlightening Congress or the public or in preparing the way for any legislation, has induced many others to seek an easy access to the television screen and the front pages of newspapers across the country. Congress has thus been diverted in a shocking degree from legislating to probing and witch-hunting.

—Washington Post.

Girl babies are apparently coming into their own in an adoptive way—at least in the Montreal district. The annual report of a society for the adoption and protection of infants shows that an exactly equal number of boys and girls, 602 of each sex, were placed in homes for adoption during the year. Legal adoptions were completed for 485 girls and 477 boys. This is a far cry from the days when small girls were considered a drug on the market. It reminds one of the fact that, especially in earlier years, girl infants in Eastern countries were so much at a discount that they were frequently thrown into a river or simply left to perish.

—Nanaimo Free Press

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