

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"
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"The strongest memory is weaker than
the weakest ink."

Disheartening

It isn't likely that the Board of Transport Commissioners' judgment in favour of the Railways' request for a freight rate increase comes as any great surprise to anyone. Unfortunately, this has been the trend for some time, despite the representations which most of the Provincial Governments, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and other bodies interested in economic development have made to the Commission from time to time. Nor does it appear that the latest boost of 11% is to be the last. The Commission calls it "a measure of additional interim relief," which probably means that another 4% and perhaps even a bigger increase will be granted later on. This, at any rate, is the opinion of Dr. Ernest Hope, an economist attached to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and he has good reason for it.

The effect of the increase on Maritime agriculture and industry will be particularly severe, since cheaper transportation is one of the region's most pressing needs. It is also hard on the Western Provinces which, like the Maritimes, find it difficult enough already to compete in the industrial markets of Central Canada. In fact, the only two Provinces which are not adversely affected are Ontario and Quebec, areas which, significantly, have the most political influence at Ottawa.

Just at this time when the Atlantic Provinces are making strenuous efforts to strengthen their economic structures, it is disheartening to see the Railways winning one freight rate increase after another. What, if anything, can be done about it is a matter which will have to be taken up with renewed vigour by all dissatisfied parties. If the Federal Government were as deeply interested in Maritime economic growth as its spokesmen on a number of occasions have indicated, some relief might be expected from that quarter; but in view of the record it is probably a forlorn hope. Yet, if a united and well organized front could be set up, there must be some way, surely, of stopping the upward trend in freight rates before the whole agricultural and industrial economy of the areas discriminated against is shattered beyond repair.

Cites P.E.I. Example

The magnificent achievement of our Island hog breeders gets recognition in the current Letter on Canadian Livestock Products, issued by the Meat Packers Council of Canada. Noting that Canadian hog prices soared to new high levels in November, and that the output is now one of the most important crops produced on the farms of Canada, the Letter goes on to discuss the question of quality.

Some producers, apparently restless under the continued hog grading regulations and repeated urgings that hog quality must be improved, have been asking whether continued stress on this point was necessary now that Wiltshire bacon is no longer being sold. Pointing to our export of hog products going into American markets where only limited grading is in effect, they profess a desire to return "to the old basis of free, open trading on hogs at their values." This argument is disposed of convincingly in the Letter, which points out that if our hog products were allowed to deteriorate to the average quality of American pork products we could enjoy no selling advantage or premiums. But for the past several years our hog prices have been continuously above American equivalents, sometimes by as much as 6 or 7 cents per pound or more, dressed weight.

The article gives a table of the percentages of grade A and B1 hogs commercially marketed by each province, with the percentages graded out of the Advanced Registry

testing stations. The table, of course, shows Prince Edward Island well out in front.

"There can be no question," we read, "that the program used on the Island to improve its hogs there has been wonderfully effective. Basic to that program was the understanding so often demonstrated by geneticists and breeders that, while litter size may be subject to accident or other causes, quality of carcass, age for weight and feed utilization per 100 pounds of gain are highly inherited characteristics. Starting by isolating the boars and sows which consistently produced high quality carcasses in their progeny, they multiplied that seed stock and rigidly tested it for performance under the Advanced Registry plan. Gradually as improvement was made the standards were raised. Finally only boars which were from sows scoring 85 points or better for carcass quality were allowed to stand for service, and now about 80 per cent of the boars used are from sows scoring 90 or over. Swine classes at their exhibitions finally were limited to Advanced Registry pigs and the attention of breeders and commercial producers alike was focussed on production of hogs which breed well, feed well, go to market well within six months and produce top quality carcasses."

The article holds up the example of Island breeders as being well worthy of emulation. The credit, we may say, is long overdue. Too frequently it has gone indiscriminately to "the Maritime Provinces." It is the Island achievement which has raised the Maritime record generally, and no doubt other sections of Canada as well, wherever Island Yorkshire breeding stock has been used. It is to be hoped the good work will continue into the coming year, with the same constant attention being paid to quality as in the past.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Population-wise, Canada's allocation for Hungarian relief is bigger than that of the United States. At the outset President Eisenhower authorized \$1 million, a sum equal to that adopted by the Canadian Parliament. He has now raised it to \$5 million.

The Iroquois Indians who are fighting to retain control of their land which the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority wants to take over are up against a big problem. The case is now before the Quebec Superior Court. But win or lose it is somehow good to know that their case was considered important enough to be given judicial consideration.

The inauguration of the President of the United States is an expensive business. For Mr. Eisenhower's second inaugural Jan 21 a quarter of a million dollars have been allocated. This includes fresh painting of the Capitol and the building of a roofed platform with Grecian columns. Just why there should be Grecian columns for an American event has not been explained. Perhaps they are meant to add a classical touch to an environment which for the most part has little room for it.

The British-born segment of Canada's population is less than 48% at the present time. In 1901 it was 57%. The French ratio is still about 30%, much as it was at the beginning of the century. Of the 800,000 newcomers since 1951 only about 25% came from the British Isles. Most of the others came from Continental Europe. From time to time we are told that the Federal Government is anxious to attract more British immigrants. Whether a any concrete steps are being taken to that end is another matter.

As noted by the Canadian Press, Mr. Diefenbaker received a parliamentary raise of \$17,000 a year when he won the Conservative Party leadership. He automatically became Opposition Leader in the Commons, which carries a special salary of \$15,000 and a \$2,000 non-taxable automobile allowance. As M.P. for Prince Albert he continues to receive \$10,000 a year. This includes an \$8,000 taxable indemnity, but a \$2,000 allowance, which is tax-free for ordinary members, now will be taxable for him. His total pay is thus \$27,000 a year, the equivalent of a cabinet minister's total salary.



WHEN LIGHTING UP

PUBLIC FORUM

RED CROSS APPEAL FOR HUNGARY

Sir: While diplomats and neutral observers from the United Nations are refused entry into Hungary, it is interesting to note the degree of co-operation existing between the Hungarian Red Cross and the International Red Cross. According to the information and the International Red Cross, which reaches the National Headquarters of the Canadian Red Cross Society almost hourly from Geneva, we are assured that there is no interference with the distribution of Red Cross supplies in Budapest and other centres in Hungary.

The entire operation is being carried on by the neutral intermediary in time of conflict, the International Committee of the Red Cross. This is being done through an agreement with the Hungarian Government and the Hungarian Red Cross. Recently, Dr. Roger Gallopin, executive director of the International Committee returned to Geneva from Budapest and stated that the ICRC would not hesitate to halt distribution of relief supplies in Hungary if the agreement is not strictly adhered to during the operation. Dr. Gallopin also emphasized that no Red Cross supplies have been lost, stolen or seized by Hungarian or Soviet authorities either military or civilian. Supplies are being distributed according to traditional Red Cross principles to victims of the disturbances. A team of ICRC delegates is in Budapest supervising all phases of the warehousing and distribution of supplies. They are all Swiss citizens. They are expected this team will be increased as the ICRC feeding programme is extended and expanded.

Further information passed on to the Canadian Red Cross from Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, reports that about one-quarter of the population of Budapest will receive daily food rations from the International Committee of the Red Cross throughout the winter. Normal food stocks in Budapest are barely adequate for another five weeks, and without Red Cross aid inhabitants would face serious famine. Greater Budapest's population is about 1,750,000. The extent of the Red Cross operation in Hungary may be obtained by the food estimates for

the months of December and January. Here are a few of the items required: 550 tons of skimmed milk, 13 million cod liver oil capsules, 1,392 tons of flour, 132 tons of sugar, a half-million cans of condensed milk and 210 tons each of meat, cereal and rice. It is also learned there is a shortage of coal in Budapest. None is available for private use, even the hospitals do not have sufficient supplies. All coal is used for the production of electricity and gas. Cold weather will mean the provision of more clothing, blankets, and drugs.

Reports from Budapest reaching the Canadian Red Cross estimate over 8,000 families were blasted out of their homes during the disturbances. It is estimated 30,000 more apartments in the city are without glass in the windows. The new Hungarian Red Cross leaders working with the International Committee of the Red Cross are all physicians, members of the National College of Surgeons. They are renowned internationally in the profession, and well known and commended by Hungarian physicians now resident in Canada.

A team of Canadian Red Cross workers is already administering a refugee camp in Austria. This camp is a Canadian staging centre and accommodates 1,000. All people in this camp will be interviewed by Canadian Immigration officials in Vienna while awaiting transportation to Canada. These refugee camps are provided by the Austrian Government. Food, clothing, medical supplies, cooking utensils and bedding are provided by the League of Red Cross Societies which channels relief in money and kind from Red Cross Societies throughout the world.

A second team will take over the administration of another camp, a former Viennese hospital, on January 1st. This camp will accommodate 500 men, women and children.

Canadian may well be proud of the part the Canadian Red Cross is playing in the Hungarian tragedy.

I am, Sir, etc.,
EDWIN C. JOHNSTONE
President, P.E.I. Division,
Canadian Red Cross Society.

OTTAWA REPORT

TV Missed A Lot!

By Patrick Nicholson

OTTAWA—Last week's Progressive Conservative Leadership convention was the first such public political gathering in Canada to be brought into our homes by television.

The kindest comment being made upon this experiment by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is "practice makes perfect". It is hoped that results will be better next time. So bad was the technical handling of the telecast that many home viewers are asking whether the government-controlled organization deliberately made the convention as dull and uninteresting as it could.

The greatest flop of course was the simultaneous translation into English of speeches being made in French. It compared with similar work heard at the United Nations and at NATO like kindergarten with high school. Perhaps simultaneous translation is better when round was handled better. Then came those interminable camera sweeps, when sound suffered a two minutes silence instead of a lively commentary. Tele viewers were shown pictures of the crowd in the auditorium, delegates sitting, reporters reporting, that official or participant spoke. The speakers words were quietened or even faded out; the tele-lens picked up intimate glimpses of unwitting subjects, but never did a commentator tell us anything about the victims of those candid camera snaps.

And that was what made the whole convention so dull to the average home viewer.

LADY DELEGATES
Who, for example, were the two lady delegates on the platform, with heads together while Donald Fleming's secondor was speaking in French? One lady had a vaguely familiar face; she was whispering a short story; the other lady, very elegantly dressed, smiled in a chic manner suggesting the flatterer of the anecdote. Viewers would have been interested to hear that the speaker was Dr. Charlotte Whitton, Ottawa's former mayor, and the listener was Mrs. Harry Quart, active Diefenbaker fan from Quebec City. They would have been even more interested to hear - but the commentator could not have told them - that the story concerned the adventures of three famous Canadians in the life hereafter.

The wandering lens would have brought more interest if a commentator had explained that the serious-minded listener so energetically chewing, while being televised in profile, was the famous writer Bruce Hutchison from Victoria; that the smiling photographer squatting at the base of the podium was the Toronto Star's ubiquitous snapper of the famous Norman James; that the grey haired man so busily fingering his moustache was Ottawa's well-known broadcaster Austin Cross, that the good-looking brunette wearing a fur hat was Mrs. E.W. Sansom of New Brunswick, active campaigner and former president of the Conservative Women's association.

YOUNG DELEGATES
That in the centre of the group

The Poet's Corner

'TODDLER IN TOYLAND
The elevators open wide,
The youngsters hurry in
To wonderland, on every side,
But where does one begin?
Trains through tunnels, clanging bells,
Hear that top that hums
Toy pianos, carousels,
Blaring horns and drums
On the counter, wind-up toys —
Monkeys doing tricks
Caper for the girls and boys
Past the building bricks,
Smiling children shake the hand
Of Santa Claus himself,
While all the time, wide-eyed, you stand
A small enchanted elf.

—Helen Hill Young,
In the Toronto Daily Star.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(December 20, 1931)

About \$200,000 will be put in circulation this season as a result of the sale of fox pelts in Charlottetown. During the past ten days the sales have averaged about \$20,000. A continuance of brisk buying in Charlottetown is indicated by present conditions.

A cargo of over 20,000 sacks of seed potatoes is being loaded by J. A. MacDonald of Cardigan to Cuba, while the Harris Abattoir Company is preparing 14,000 sacks for early shipment to the same port. Cuba has also accepted over half a million bushels from the Potato Growers Association together with several thousand bushels from other dealers in the Province.

TEN YEARS AGO
(December 20, 1946)

A meeting of the Public Utilities Board was held last evening in the Law Courts Building with representatives of the Provincial motor bus companies present. The purpose was to secure information concerning the services with the object of the Board being to decide on a uniform mileage rate applicable to all bus companies in the Province.

The "Youth and Police" policy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was praised at a police conference in Charlottetown yesterday by educationist Mr. L. W. Shaw, Director of education for the Province. The conference, held at the Mounted Police Headquarters, was attended by representatives of each R. C. M. P. detachment in the province.

of young B.C. delegates - there was a surprising number of surprisingly young delegates from all parts of Canada - were two U.B.C. students, Virginia Huckvale and Chris Maule; the former daughter of a well-known Vancouver newspaper-woman and the latter a recent immigrant from Britain, and the two of them late arrivals at the convention because they got off the trans-continental express to have dinner "ashore" at Calgary, and found the steaks too good of the service too bad and missed the train.

That the Saskatchewan delegation was the most bubbling and excited and enthusiastic of all, centred round such well-known figures as John Brydon, Roy Hall, John Diefenbaker's law partner in Prince Albert), Mrs. Marie Harvey and Dr. Lorne Connell.

That the tall good-looking delegate on the platform, so often caught in shots behind Davie Fulton, was B.C. leader Deane Finlayson. That the young delegate wearing a very fancy blanket coat was Woodstock's M.P. Wally Nesbitt; that the very active man bobbing about talking to this and that delegate was Quebec's Wil Dufresne, very active Diefenbaker supporter, looking rather like a film star was Bill Stewart, son of a former premier of P.E.I.; that the beauty queen of the big press box was Angela Burke from Timmins.

Yes, the C.B.C. missed out a lot of home-town interest.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.
**SCIENCE NEEDS OUR HELP
TO AID RETARDED CHILD**

About three children out of every 100 born are destined to be mentally retarded—an estimated 120,000 a year. About 4,800,000 children and adults alike suffer from mental retardation. That's about three per cent of our entire population.

Mental retardation is ten times more common than crippling polio. It is over four times more common than permanent rheumatic heart conditions and it is 15 times as prevalent as blindness.

Pretty startling statistics, aren't they?

REAL PROBLEM

Vast as this problem is, it goes virtually unrecognized by the general public. Yet for some 10,000,000 persons—the mentally retarded, their parents, brothers and sisters—it is indeed a very real problem.

Jack Benny, who is Honorary National Association for Retarded Children, asked me—and other health writers—to mention the problem during November when the Association was conducting its annual campaign for funds.

RESEARCH NEEDED

His request arrived too late for me to include it in any of last month's columns. But I'm glad it did. For funds are needed to conduct research into this tremendous problem all year long. We can't do enough in a single month-long period.

In many cases mental retardation probably could be prevented. Yet, pitifully little research is being done in this field.

We know some of the causes. In fact, there are about 70 known or suspected diseases or mishaps occurring either before or during birth or during early childhood which are linked to mental retardation.

German measles, hepatitis and various other diseases which strike a mother during pregnancy may be connected with retardation of the baby.

Cases of long and difficult labor or very rapid delivery carry a higher percentage of defective children than average deliveries do.

CHILDHOOD DISEASES

Childhood accidents and diseases such as whooping cough, measles, chicken pox, polio, and meningitis can cause the condition if inflammation of the brain result.

So help science lick a nother great medical problem.

While you're in a generous Christmas mood, think about the good work being done by the National Association for Retarded Children. You can reach them at 99 University Place, New York 3, New York.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

B.M.: Can any disease other than rheumatic fever cause a child's sedimentation rate to go up?

Answer: Yes, many infectious diseases can cause the sedimentation rate to rise.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Did you hear about the fellow who promised his wife before marriage he wouldn't look at another girl, but now he contends it was a campaign promise.—Guelph Mercury

There is a mechanical baby-rocker on the market now. But we must still salute dear old Mom as the hand that pushes the buttons that rocks the cradle that rules the world.—Hamilton Spectator.

A marine caught in the dreadful fighting on Guadalcanal during the Second World War wrote to his family at home asking them to join with him over the many thousands of miles of distance in reading the same passage from the Bible every day. The movement, for such it soon became,

led the American Bible Society to establish a program of worldwide Bible reading. This year the million Americans and other millions in forty other countries agreed to take part between Thanksgiving and Christmas.—New York Times

The attitude of parents whose children have been mixed up in acts of destruction and damage, when confronted with the losses has been to tell the complainants to "try to collect". If the law made them financially responsible for the destructive acts of their children, they would be concerned with what their children did and the city would be a better place in which to live and in which to own property.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

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