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Monday, July 8, 1962

The Late Mr. Stewart

Prince Edward Island has lost a highly esteemed citizen in the passing of Mr. Cecil J. Stewart, president of the Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association.

Mr. Stewart was a man of his word, one who was fair and square in all his dealings, and invariably courteous and considerate to his associates and to the public generally.

Ottawa Speculation

In the face of mounting public protest, the Pearson Government is reportedly preparing to beat at least a partial retreat from its controversial sales tax extension.

So, with expectations anticipated, it is predicted that the backtracking will be done in a cautious manner. In the words of one Ottawa commentator, "An effort will be made to strike a nice balance between peace-offering and face-saving."

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How high is the price? It's a speculation, but the consensus is that Mr. Gordon will take the position that certain industries have been drawn within the orbit of the sales tax that was not his intention or that of the Government.

Smoker's Dilemma

The Financial Post notes, with some concern, that while Health Minister Judy LaMarsh is making loud anti-cigarets noises, not a word is coming from Agriculture Minister Harry Hays or from Revenue Minister John Garland.

Take the Revenue Minister. His excise tax pulls in nearly \$200 million a year from cigarets and his 11 per cent sales tax pushes the total tax take from cigarets up to almost 6 per cent of budgetary revenues.

Or look at the plight of the Agriculture Minister. His department provides research on tobacco growing and helps guarantee loans to growers when surpluses mount. His policies very directly affect the votes of the 7,600 farmers in this \$100 million-a-year industry.

Embittered Farmers

High German and a low French farm prices are causing more trouble to President de Gaulle just now than the question of solidarity with United States policies in Europe.

And the farmers can't sell their products. They are demanding that the government decree an immediate and total ban on farm imports, and have shown their determination by destroying large quantities of Spanish plums, peaches and tomatoes being sold near Marcellis.

Clashes with police and demonstrations by farmers, including the mashing of tons of fruit and potatoes on town streets, have taken place in a wide area from Brittany on the Atlantic coast down to the French "Medi," or south, on the Mediterranean Sea.

To meet the crisis the French government has now banned the import of tomatoes and apricots, and may take similar action with other products.

This trouble underscores one of the chief difficulties faced by the French and West German governments in implementing their new treaty of co-operation. Under the present price system, French farm goods could never be allowed to enter West Germany freely without grave damage to highly subsidized German farmers, who form about 16 percent of the West German population.

And the French ban on imports has to be used with caution. Under "escape clauses" in the Treaty of Rome, France is permitted temporarily to cut off imports but the ban must be reported to the executive commission of the Common Market at Brussels.

Job Training Vital

In the United States, in the decade of the 1960's, automation and related forms of technical change are expected to eliminate 2,500,000 jobs. In the same decade 26,000,000 young people will reach working age—twice as many as in the 1950's.

To give them employment, the nation will have to create 25,000 new jobs every week. It will also have to see to it that the young people are trained to handle the jobs.

How inadequately job creation and job preparation are being accomplished is suggested by a recent unemployment report of the U.N. department of labor. It shows that 13 per cent of the teen-agers seeking employment and 9 per cent of those 20 to 30 could not find jobs in 1962.

The figures are just as serious for Canada, and point up the value of the technical training programs which have been launched with federal assistance in the various provinces. The urgency of these programs is underlined by the prediction of one employment official that only 5 per cent of present unskilled jobs will still exist by 1970.

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Miss LaMarsh, add our Toronto contemporary, may be able to kick the habit, but can either her or cabinet colleagues afford to do so? Or poor Finance Minister Gordon, who's geared his budget to this juicy tax revenue item? It's going to be hard for them all to turn over a new leaf.



"GETS MORE DIFFICULT ALL THE TIME"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Ship Of State Rocked By Dissenions

Parliament adjourned for the short Dominion Day holiday week-end in a state of perplexity and confusion. Seldom in our history has both our major political parties in Parliament, and they will use it to keep Parliament alive carrying out the nation's business. Also, they are both responsible enough to believe that another election shortly would not be in Canada's best interests.

TORY SIGHTS So we may see more of the recent cabinet were being widely whispered an Parliament Hill. Finance Minister Walter Gordon had so shaken Canadian and foreign confidence in the economic stability of the government that he would have to go. He would be replaced by Trade Minister Mitchell Sharp, who has the same or a greater record of success in Parliament after Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

Mr. Lionel Chevrier might be appointed chairman of the Canadian National Railway, and replaced as Justice Minister and as the French-Canadian leader in Parliament by Hon. Guy Favreau, the parliamentary rookie who is already the highly-regarded Minister of Immigration. And some Ministers, notably Postmaster-General Armand Deneau who were appointed as a "thank you" for long public service, might be transferred to the Senate or elsewhere.

Detergents Go Straight

The speed with which the chemical industry is developing detergents is being hampered by sewage treatment and septic tank limitations. The latest indication is the announcement by three major American chemical companies that they soon will be producing moderate amounts of materials from which new detergents can be made.

Today's "hard" detergents involve branching molecules that was purifying microbes being directly breaking down. "Soft" detergents are straight chain molecules simpler than those on its way to the dirt but can be readily degraded in sewage treatment.

Pensions Cost Fortunes

The Government resolution on the increased old age pension says that it will be paid from the contributions of employers, employees and self-employed persons. The difference is that persons in the past were paid from taxation, but it is not a difference that means much. The Canadian budget announced that his part of a contributory old age pension plan will mark a major step in the government's further reduction in its take-home pay.

PUBLIC FORUM

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ALONG THE BYWAYS

Not Reburied For those engaged in the business of getting children educated, the mortgage reduced "and the garage built, old cars seems far off; at 30, the investment for a social security at 70 does not necessarily meet an enthusiastic response.

Yet very few begrudge an increase of \$10 to \$75 a month for the present season. \$100,000 a year will not bring them to the fringe of the lap of luxury if it is all they get.

Surface Salt Is Irritating

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A South African physician believes prickly heat is caused by an increased amount of salt on the skin surface. He attributes the idea that the eruption is the result of clogging of the pores through which sweat is excreted. But the two theories may not be far apart.

Two secretaries were discussing their problems over a cup of coffee. Said one: "I've just asked the boss was, 'Do you want the carboy copy double-spaced too?'" — Financial Post.

Three-year-old Jann wanted to go to a wedding with her mother, who had taken her to circus the previous day. As the bridal party was going down the aisle, in her high-pitched voice, Jann asked, "Mommy, when are the angels coming?" — Montreal Gazette.

British Guiana's Tragedy

By Joseph MacKinnon Canadian Press Staff Writer

It is British Guiana's tragedy that it internal self-government and the approach of independence unleashed racial strife in a colony once proud of its multiracial record. So serious have strike violence and political deadlock become that full independence now seems impossible for some time in the future.

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Our Yesterday's

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A band concert at Queen Square Gardens by the Royal Canadian Mounted Band, will take place this evening, according to an announcement by Bandmaster F.W. Tansley. With the splendid program in readiness for "Beating the Retreat", a survival of an old custom dating from the age of walled cities, and the "Troop Review" the general public is in for a fine evening's entertainment.

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