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large as that achieved this year; 6 per cent in 1965 vs. 3 per cent in 1964. But it will still be a good year—and the forecasts, it is said, may well be revised upward as the year advances.

So much for the general economy. The prospects regionally are not discussed, but let us hope that the predicted expansion will be felt in this Atlantic area as well as in the big central provinces, from whose head offices most of the encouraging statements originated. If unemployment figures are any guide to our economic state of health—and they should be—then there is need for concern at the trend shown by the mid-November figures, just released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

These figures show that unemployment generally was at its lowest November level in eight years, showing that the jobless total represented 3.7 per cent of the labor force compared to 4.5 per cent a year earlier and 5.2 per cent two years ago. But regionally the rates continued to show sharp differences, rising during the month in both the Atlantic and Prairie areas. The Atlantic rate remained the highest in the country at 6.7 per cent of the labor force, up from 5.6 per cent at mid-October. At the other end of the scale the Ontario rate was 2.4 per cent, down from 2.9.

Not much to be complacent about here. Let's hope, indeed, that the new year will have something better to offer us in this regard.

Some Contests!

Senator O'Leary is credited with having told a Toronto service club last week that "democracy in Canada has become a popularity contest between the leaders of the two main parties." That is one is out of putting it; but to many Canadians it must seem that neither of the contestants is likely to qualify for a popularity prize on the basis of his performance in the House of Commons during the current session. Seldom has Parliament stood in lower public esteem, and the leaders of both the major parties must share a good deal of the blame for this state of affairs.

While Mr. Diefenbaker is cast in the role of the ogre in the flag debate, there are said to be many Liberal MPs completely disenchanted as well. Mr. Pearson's handling of the issue as Mr. Diefenbaker's handling of it. But they have shown greater party discipline than the Conservatives, and have been more successful in maintaining a solid front. That doesn't mean that they are not restless and uneasy under his leadership.

In one way, of course, it accentuates Mr. Diefenbaker's faults in that he hasn't been able to capitalize on Mr. Pearson's failure to inspire public confidence. NDP Leader Tommy Douglas has been much more effective, at times, in this regard. What makes the difference these days on Parliament Hill, however, and what keeps Parliament from flying apart is the facade of Liberal solidarity and unity.

This is the view expressed by a commentator in the London Free Press, who cites the flag debate as a case in point. There the influence of office has kept Liberal dissidents in line. To conceal any differences that might exist among them, they had only to maintain "a wall of silence." Their opponents, if they were to oppose, had to speak out and declare themselves. The one weapon they could utilize for both offense and defense was the spoken word.

Unlike Mr. Pearson, Mr. Diefenbaker has been unable to muffle the sounds of discord within his party—either in the Commons or the country. But if there is one thing as obvious as this it is the Prime Minister's failure to give the strong and decisive leadership he promised. Many of the difficulties his government is facing can be attributed directly to this one fact.

EDITORIAL NOTES

You must be very careful about giving any drink whatever to a bore. A lit-up bore is the worst in the world.—Lord David Cecil.

According to the Ontario Safety League, in an automobile collision at 20 miles an hour, the odds are against suffering a fatal accident 1 to 1. At 75 miles an hour the odds are reduced to 2 to 1. Well worth remembering, if one can think rationally at this speed.

My True Love Sent to Me:

On the First Day of Christmas... A Flag Inspired by a Maple Tree

Two Tax Discussions Debates

Three Bicultural Changes Fumbles

Four Nielsen A-Dieking Complaining

Five Favreau Creditors Crediting

Six Diefs Discrediting

Seven NDP's Demanding

Eight Socialists Royal Commissions

Nine Christies

Ten Provinces

Eleven and

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas All the Commons Accusing!

OTTAWA'S TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

BONN REPORT

Both Sides Of The Berlin Wall

Harry B. Ellis in The Christian Science Monitor

A pleasant woody hill, crowned by walks, shrubs, and gardens where children play, was for me a chilling sight in West Berlin.

For before World War II no hill was there. The ground was flat. Insular, as the new hill is called, is a man-made mound of rubble, bulldozed together from the bombed wreckage that was Berlin in 1945.

From the 25th anniversary of Insular one looks across rebuilt residential districts to Marienhöhe, another "rubble hill."

Booklets published by the West Berlin city government list the stars of the moment. They describe the heroic rebuilding of the shattered city. One book describes the heroism by picking at the stones with their bare hands. Today a commemorative statue of a rubble girl (rubble woman) stands in West Berlin.

Germany rushed on, aided by West Germans and by the United States. Today, 19 years later, West Berlin has become a metropolis of elegance and culture.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events. It does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed. All letters published are subject to editing. The Editor is unable to return correspondence regarding letters submitted.

UNSATISFACTORY SCHEDULE

Sir:—A recent protest from Prince Edward Island authorities regarding a cut down on CNR boat schedules brings to mind the unsatisfactory air schedule between the island and Moncton since Newfoundland interests have taken over Maritime Central Airlines.

In Eastern Provincial Airways efforts to expand to other centres, it appears that the interests of the island and travellers there, have been overlooked. Promises of improved Island services forgotten, and Island schedules reduced, and changed. This is a growing concern to travellers since Moncton is the key centre for passenger traffic from the island.

For some time now there have been two flights daily to and from Moncton, approximately twelve hours apart. On Sunday there has been only one flight leaving the island in the mid-morning. This is a great many tourists, students, and others working in the province are unable to ship a weekend on P.E.I. This handy express service to the island is a schedule for Island air transportation. Surely P.E.I. deserves better service than this!

A flight every night during the year would be a tremendous evening, would enable travellers to make other connections better, and would be a tremendous service to the island. It is a growing concern to travellers since Moncton is the key centre for passenger traffic from the island.

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Halitosis And Tension Toeing France's Policy Line?

By Dave McInish
Canadian Staff Writer

Canadian governments have shown an enthusiasm for the proposed nuclear fleet of following American or British lines in foreign policy. The matter arises out of British Prime Minister Wilson's proposal to develop where an accusation of toeing France's foreign policy line may be made against a Canadian government.

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It has been added that NATO without France is unthinkable and that any policy which would tend to alienate France from the Atlantic is a bad policy.

Mr. Martin told Mr. Gordon Walker that any nuclear arrangements must unite and not divide NATO.

This is apparently one objective of the British Labor government's present creation of a nuclear force independent of NATO.

It is the British proposal to develop of a NATO nuclear fleet that would not arouse France's hostility. Canada might be willing to participate in the fleet if it were not for its nuclear role.

But if France were a hostile power, it would be the nuclear fleet idea, Canada probably would opt out again on the grounds that it would not be party to isolating France.

Rosetta Stone Copy

Hamilton Spectator

It was interesting to read that the University of British Columbia is making arrangements to purchase a copy of the Rosetta Stone.

Discovered in July 1799 near the Nile town of Rashid by one of the British engineers, the Rosetta Stone helped unlock the secret of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and cuneiform.

The Rosetta Stone came into British possession when Lord Nelson and an army, led by Sir Ralph Abercromby, defeated Napoleon in Egypt in 1801.

Castings of this stone, which will be of tremendous aid to scholars, are made by an American company from a mold made from the original.

In Peril Once Again

London Free Press

The peril of Pauline had nothing on the Canadian Pension Plan for cliff divers. The federal government tried to accommodate the divergent views of various provinces.

Quebec particularly concerned, and now seems unlikely to be able to do so. The project through this will not be because of any opposition in the House of Commons where the principle has been generally approved.

The burden rests now, rather unfairly, on Premier Robarts of Ontario. According to Allen Lawrence, MP for Toronto, St. George, serious consideration is being given to setting up a distinctively Ontario plan for Ontario people.

Premier Robarts would have every justification for saying that if he could provide an acceptable alternative. He should be able to do so. The province could, in fact, an Ontario plan might well be more favorable to the participants than a national one, because Ontario has more resources to draw on and the average income is generally higher than it is in most other provinces.

The first obligation Mr. Robarts has to his own people—as he has pointed out. But if he could provide an acceptable alternative, he should be able to do so. The province could, in fact, an Ontario plan might well be more favorable to the participants than a national one, because Ontario has more resources to draw on and the average income is generally higher than it is in most other provinces.

They are the difficulties of working out a national plan will greatly increase. And are the smaller provinces—particularly those which are financially weak—likely to be as successful in developing individual plans as the larger and wealthier ones. Yet that is the ones where the need is greatest.

It is unfortunate that the federal government was unable to persuade the Lesage administration that Quebec's interests could be adequately protected in a national plan, which has obvious advantages. Under our federal constitution the field is primarily provincial.

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HEATING OIL

Realistic Approach

Premier Lesage has issued a call to his party stalwarts to combat what he calls "the outdated mentality which exists in too many rural areas" in Quebec. His statement outlines a program in rehabilitation which will all the provinces, in some measure, be prepared to face. Not many politicians have had the courage to put in such blunt terms. The premier went on to warn that "progress cannot be made where it is not wanted." The spirit must be there, or it must be implanted, if improvement is to be achieved. He was speaking before the Quebec City Reform Club. Already, he noted, there were "changes of mentality" in the province which permitted Quebec to move forward, and which involved necessary changes in the whole framework of society. In some areas, the structures indispensable to initiative were completely out of date and needed to be renovated, or quite simply did not exist and needed to be created from the bottom up.

Rural economy, he emphasized, cannot be raised in terms of agricultural economy alone. This was only a limited aspect of life in the "rural milieu." It involved, as well, such things as rural sociology, industrial development, commercial development, a "rational" exploitation of basic resources, tourist promotion, the preparation of necessary migration (moving people off unworkable farms) and "humanizing" this migration.

The premier mentioned the new education department as an example of the province's renaissance, also the government's search to recruit top technical talent for the civil service. But he came back, time and again in his address, to the need for initiative at the community level—for "breathing life" into the rural economy, not trying to superimpose vitality on it.

It was a thoughtful and provocative address, made in anticipation of the annual meeting of the Quebec Liberal Federation at which the rural economy in modern Quebec will be the theme. It had, therefore, its political implications; but these, we thought in reading it, were of less importance than the down-to-earth manner in which the speaker dealt with it, which speaks a real contribution to the discussion of a grave national problem.

Economic Forecasts

An encouraging review of business prospects for the year ahead is given in the current issue of the Financial Post, in which 100 of Canada's leading executives are quoted as predicting, with more or less confidence, a substantial expansion of markets, and as backing their predictions with bigger spending on new facilities.

The forecasts of these top businessmen make it clear that the country is well along on the road to a \$50,000-million-a-year economy. Most executives are looking for an increase in Gross National Product in 1965 of about 6 per cent—enough to bring the value of national production within the halting distance of this mark.

Britain's tariff surcharges are temporarily dampening prospects for some Canadian exporters, but most producers are looking for gains in foreign markets next year. Declines in world sales are expected to be more than offset by bigger sales in other products, including daily manufactured items.

Canada's economic growth next year, to judge by this roundup of business opinion, won't be quite as

ruins of the war pushed aside to places like Insular hill. Then, in August, 1961, came the Communist-built wall, dividing the city in two, East from West.

This story the booklets tell, in its ugly meaning for people on both sides of the wall.

West Berliners, one official writer was moved to say, "are the only people in the world unable to visit the other part of their city."

From the 25th anniversary of Insular one looks across rebuilt residential districts to Marienhöhe, another "rubble hill."

Booklets published by the West Berlin city government list the stars of the moment. They describe the heroic rebuilding of the shattered city.

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Those Coalition Rumors

Toronto Telegram

Mr. Robert Thompson, leader of the Social Credit party, is rumored to be seeking a coalition with some group of Progressive Conservatives.

Well, one can't blame a politician for trying. But it seems slightly presumptuous for a leader of the fragmented Social Credit Party, which, indeed, can scarcely be termed a national party—to seek strength by an alliance with a major Canadian party.

According to the hazy Ottawa rumors, the proposed new coalition would be named the Union Party or Confederation Party and be headed by Premier Van den Broek.

It is amazing how, in the political hotbed of Ottawa—an Ottawa now pulsing with excursions and alarms—senses of proportion go askew. Even normally coolheaded politicians

and reporters become affected with the fever of the moment. Of course, there are differences within the membership of the Progressive Conservative group in Parliament. It would be of if there were no differences of thought in a party representing such a broad area of the nation. However the rumors of the coalition have occurred, they are symptomatic of mid-summer madness in December.

After all, the average Progressive Conservative has less in common with Mr. Thompson than he has with Mr. Thompson's former employer, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

Stopping The Brain Drain

Winnipeg Free Press

One of the most forward-looking university presidents in Canada today is Dr. Monte G. Ross of York University, Toronto. Perhaps as president of a new university, he has more than most of the problems besetting higher education and more anxious to find solutions.

Recently Dr. Ross undertook an experiment. On a visit to the University of California he arranged to have each of a number of students studying there, 147 in all, Over 100 came to meet him.

It's Here The New "McCulloch" CHAIN SAW

"The Woodsman's Best Friend"

Many were unaware of the job opportunities in higher education in Canada. The picture is being outlined in the picture as he outlined it to them.

It is a suggestion that has everything to commend it. Not only would it help bring a faculty personnel who might be of use to our universities; it would help reclaim Canadian "brain-power" that might be lost to the country.

REPORTERS END STRIKE

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