

Commendable Zeal

As reported from Ottawa yesterday, a notice of motion has been placed on the House of Commons order paper by Mr. John Mullanly, Liberal member for Kings, asking that copies of all letters, telegrams and documents exchanged between the federal minister of agriculture and officers of ARDA and the government of the Island, relating to ARDA matters since the inception of the program, be tabled.

There should be no reason for procrastination in supplying the details of this correspondence. As noted in these columns on Monday, under the ARDA agreement the province agreed to publicize the projects and programs submitted, and the government of Canada agreed to provide publicity on a national basis. This unusual provision plainly commits both governments to giving the fullest co-operation in the matter of publicity. What is hard to understand is why there has been so much difficulty, heretofore, in getting this information before the public.

Mr. Mullanly showed commendable zeal in pressing the government for action on a number of other matters, notably the farm and fisheries planks in last year's Liberal platform which were not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, the pledges of extending family allowances to students aged 16 to 18, the need for higher tax equalization payments to the Atlantic Provinces, for aid through the Atlantic Development Board in financing construction of secondary roads, and for a comprehensive statement by Works Minister Deschateaux on the status of our cause-way project.

It is refreshing to note that our Kings County representative in the Commons is not content with merely lauding the policies of his party administration, and playing the political game as too many backbenchers do with an eye—as they think—to their own preferment. He has put the interests of his constituency and province first in this case, and we venture to say that in doing so he has risen in the esteem of members on both sides of the House. Keep up the good work, Mr. Mullanly!

Conference Foodbodings

Barring something very close to a "miracle of Quebec City", the federal-provincial conference of Easter Week will produce no real progress on the thorny debate over conditional grants and shared-cost programs. This is the prediction of a writer in the Financial Times of Canada, who takes the view that while the federal and provincial experts alike talk grandly about tax formulae, "mature" grants, and rational equalization of tax revenues, they have yet to face four basic questions:

- 1. How much agreement exists among the provinces to have Ottawa abandon conditional grants? At the November federal-provincial conference, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba appeared to be the main advocates with some qualified support from others. If tax abatements are to compensate the provinces for conditional grants, there will have to be a broad measure of provincial agreement. The idea of block grants has been abandoned.
2. Which grants can be appropriately commuted into tax abatements? Both Prime Minister

Person and Premier Roblin

but talk of "mature grants" but the terms has never been defined.
3. How much is Quebec prepared to give up in payments from the federal government?
4. Is the federal government prepared to abandon to a revenue-starved provincial program, those shared-cost programs which it considers essential to the national economy?

It is easy to devise tax abatements as an exercise in mathematics, but that doesn't help very much. Take health grants, for example. Even the Rowell-Strolos commission, which was less than enthusiastic about conditional grants, urged that these be continued. Ottawa expects to contribute \$51.2 million in health grants this year. It could translate its contribution into tax abatements through percentages of personal income tax or percentage points of corporation tax—but what guarantee would it have that the health program would be continued in the ten provinces?

After reviewing other federal grants, the writer concludes that only three might be appropriately replaced by "adequate compensation" in federal tax abatement. These comprise hospital insurance which will cost the federal government \$383.9 million this year, welfare grants, amounting to \$178.6 million this year, and vocational training grants, which this year will cost in the vicinity of \$156 million.

These three categories alone, if balanced off against "reasonable extra tax room," might meet Mr. Lesage's demand for 25 per cent of personal income tax, 25 per cent of corporation tax and all the estates tax. But how many provinces are ready to assume the risk that all or any of these costs could rise at a much faster rate than tax revenues. And, if any measure of agreement is finally achieved, would it not open another annual debate for more tax abatement and higher equalization payments?

The writer concludes that, in the circumstances, it may be very difficult to get rid of conditional grants and shared cost programs, objectionable as they may be from the standpoint that they put pressure on the provinces to embark on new expenditures above their means.

Which is true enough, but which leaves us wondering how much attention, if any, our problem in this Province is likely to get on any basis of fiscal need. The deal we got at the last conference was shabby enough. We shall have to holler pretty loudly at the Quebec meeting to keep from getting lost in the shuffle altogether.

Big Stake In Tobacco

We are beginning to have a stake in the tobacco industry right here in Prince Edward Island; but think of North Carolina, where tobacco accounted for 48.7 per cent of all farm commodity sales last year! If smoking slumped as a result of government warnings that smoking is a health hazard, state revenues would be cut in two. And throughout the United States generally, federal tobacco taxes brought in \$2 billion in 1963, state taxes an additional \$1.1 billion. In Wisconsin alone, cigaret taxes produced \$26,208,000. What of the future?

The growers appear to be hopeful. For one thing, based on British experience two years ago, even the most sober warnings probably won't persuade many people to stop smoking. For another, Congress is unlikely to pass any laws which might discourage tobacco consumption, now or in the immediate future. Key senate and house committees are studied with guardians from the tobacco states. The chairman of the house agriculture committee is Representative Cooley (Dem., N.C.) whose district has 10,244 tobacco farms.

Congress, predicts the Milwaukee Journal, is more likely to vote funds for stepped-up government research to isolate the hazardous element in smoking and eliminate it. The development of a "safe" cigaret, if there is such a thing, would permit the country to puff its way out of the dilemma.
Even at that, it's a rather embarrassing subject for politicians to have to deal with in an election year.

ECONOMY DEFENCE CUTS



By Dr. Theodore R. Vaddell (Chilliwack is a period) is one of the most common manifestations of the cold in northern countries. The skin becomes red or purplish, especially over the thighs and legs. The face and ears are less sensitive to this mottling. Women are more prone to chilblains because they wear heavy and thin boots. Walking against a stiff wind in a zero weather makes it worse.

Other than weather and dress the cause is the circulation. The distal end is more prevalent in regions where there is more damp, cold air, less frequent in equable climates.

On the other hand, there may be an inherent weakness of the blood vessels which makes them react so violently to the cold. The skin becomes exposed to warm air, the involved regions burn and itch for hours. The long cold winter months to warmth as well as cold lead some authorities to believe the cold weather is the cause of the disease. Many victims of perniosis blame the cold weather on the fact that they are sitting on a hot water bag or sitting too close to the stove or fireplace. It is a common occurrence in winter months. In addition, certain farm girls develop perniosis from sitting on a cold tractor seat.

Failure to protect the skin with warm clothes and to apply a bland cream for protection may lead to the disease. The skin becomes red and itchy. The redness and itching may be relieved by the use of a bland cream. The skin becomes red and itchy. The redness and itching may be relieved by the use of a bland cream.

LOOKS LIKE HE MEANS BUSINESS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

A Waste Of Parliament's Time

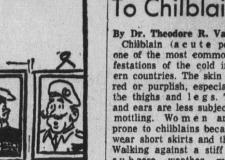
The waste of Parliament's time and of the taxpayer's money by the avalanche of frivolous or improper talk in "Question Period" in the House of Commons was mentioned in this column recently.

URGENTLY RECOGNIZED By long established practice, although not sanctified by any formal rule, MPs may address brief questions on matters considered of urgent national importance by the time of the Speaker's time of Parliament this consumed in negligible. But it takes time to go through this procedure. A simple question could be put on the Order Paper, and be replied to within a week.

AGAINST MORE OUTLETS Sir: There is a pithy saying "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." I hope that is not to be reckoned a fool, but I fully realize that I am treading on contentious ground when I join with others against more outlets for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

AGITATED Sours, P.E.I.
CBC SELLS FILM MONTEAL (P.E.I.) television rights for its film, dramatization of early Canadian history, has been sold to the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The film will be shown on ABC announced Tuesday. The half-hour films have been selected by the CBC and are available to schools. More such films are being made, the NFB said, and the CBC said the Commission had taken an option to acquire some of them.

Women Prone To Chilblains



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NOTES BY THE WAY

The last of the archaeologists who disturbed the tomb of King Tutankhamen is dead at eighty-four. These ancient curses are sure but slow—Vancouver Province.

It makes no difference what it is, a woman will buy anything, in which she thinks the store is better than any other—Guelph Mercury.

"For years" she said, "I didn't know where my husband spent his evenings. One night I came home early and there he was!"—Galt Reporter.

Back To Antimaccassars?

Osawa Journal
A few months ago, they started making plous again. The interior seemed to be completely covered plous and fassels. And now the latest in "decorator-designed" table lamps are burning out with gilded cherubs, pointing up, karavalls and their architect, the grandeur that was Rome and the mystic exultation of the age of medieval cathedrals. At first glance, the styles of the days when Victoria was the center of the British Empire seem to have little in common with the long, cold years of the Second British Empire, when a subcontinent could settle a crisis and the White Man's Burden paid good dividends. What possible echoes can the age of the antimaccassar turn in the age of the paper napkin?

East African Problem

By Rod Currie
Canadian Press Staff Writer
Now that the peace is over, East Africa seems to be gradually coming to grips with the unpleasant fact that they must rely on outside help to keep the peace.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 4, 1939)
Five acting sergeants from the Prince Edward Island Highlanders left today for Halifax to complete a course in the Royal School of Infantry and Machine Gunners at District Military Headquarters. They are: Forrest Clow, George Graham, Robert Mahan, Howard DeCoteau and Arthur Purdy.

RAILPH JOHNSON, provincial organizer for the Boy Scouts Association, was special speaker at the annual dinner and a banquet in the local YMCA. Other speakers included Judge H.L. Palmer, president of the Boy Scouts Association.

WHILE pointing out that he was not exactly criticizing the P.O.A. to Marking Board, R.R. Bell, M.P.C., seated in the Legislature today, "We must face the fact that the rest of Canada and the United States in the potato industry."

THE POETS CORNER

HAD I MY WAY
I'd rather have my neighbour boot me than before me sober faced
And point them out, or cheer
I'd rather stand inside my porch
Than search for fame and happiness
Down some far avenue.
When you have found where lies
I'll tell her where they stare.

Your Telephone Company invites you to

PLACE DES ARTS
Tonight
10:30 P.M. till 11:30 P.M.
Channel 13

THE MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Directed by ZUBIN MEHTA
...the first concert of the Montreal Symphony's 30th season... Richard Strauss' stirring "Ein Heldenleben" ("A Hero's Life") was presented in its entirety and uninterrupted.

HEADS MCGILL STUDENTS
MONTREAL (P.E.I.) McGill University's Students' Society, Mr. Mirza, who holds a master's degree in education, was presented in its entirety and uninterrupted.