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Those Tax Agreements

Prime Minister St. Laurent has assured the Dominion-Provincial Conference that his government will not make any specific proposals regarding the tax rental agreements until there has been full discussion.

The federal plan outlined a month ago was that the provinces return to the double income tax. The proposal now advanced, though in a tentative way, is to divide the taxing authority, with Ottawa doing the collecting for the provinces.

What the Central Provinces want is something different. Though of course they don't say so, they want to enjoy all they can of the tax revenue derived from a disproportionate share of Canadian wealth concentrated in those provinces.

Something better, surely, is expected from the conference now in session at Ottawa. Something much better. As John Ruskin noted a century ago, the arrangement of the laws or regulations of a country so as to leave the greatest advantage to one section, and leave the smallest advantages to others, "is not a part of the science of political economy, but merely a broad application of the science of fraud."

Beds In History

Among those things which have influenced the course of history, if one may believe a researcher in the mattress manufacturing field,—and of course one may—

Some examples: Julius Caesar's bed was so constructed that it could be reached only by a long ladder. It was, however, a bit too comfortable, with the result that its occupant became careless about his comings and goings and was killed in a moment of unwatchfulness by Brutus.

a half-reclining position so that he could reach his sword at a moment's notice. As a result, he slept poorly and was tempted by wanderlust to his eventual undoing.

On the other side of the picture, Alfred the Great had a bed just about right for reasonable comfort; he built the foundation of England's greatness. Elizabeth the First slept on a huge wood-slatted frame with no frills but enough feathers for warmth—hence the great discoveries of her reign.

Mr. Pearson In Moscow

Too much ought not to be expected from Mr. Pearson's current visit to the Soviet Union. For one thing, this country, notwithstanding its increasing influence in world councils, is not a great power in the sense in which that term is generally used.

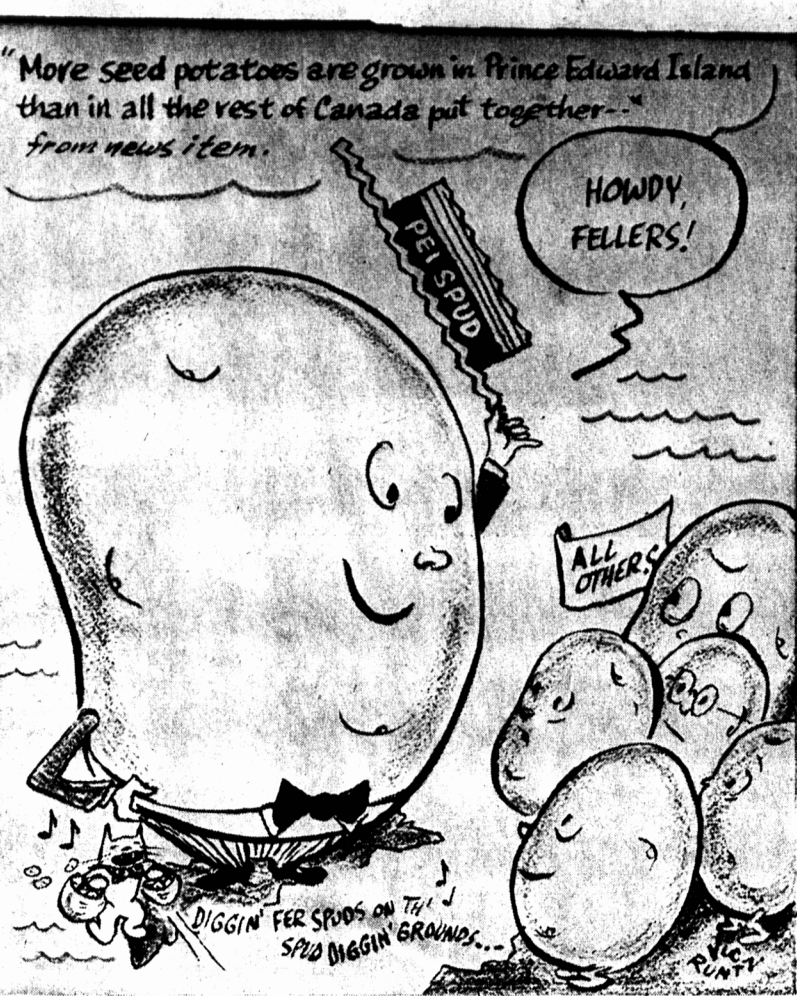
This is not to suggest, however, that the visit will be fruitless. Mr. Pearson is a man of pleasing personality. No one is better fitted to persuade the Russians that East-West friendship is not only desirable but possible.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The taxi service for "half-tight" drivers, as inaugurated in a certain American city, is a fine thing in principle, and, if patronized, should help to reduce the accident rate.

Everything, comments an exchange, has been changed by President Eisenhower's heart attack. Almost never in the history of public life has there been so swift and shattering a reminder of what shadows we are and what shadows we pursue.

It is interesting to note that this year the Young Women's Christian Association celebrates its Centennial. Founded in England in 1855 to give a home to Florence Nightingale's nurses going to and returning from the Crimean War, the Y.W.C.A. today is at work in sixty-three countries of the world.



Local Boy Makes Good

OTTAWA REPORT

National Health Insurance

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: A topic of direct interest to every Canadian is being discussed at the meeting of Dominion and Provincial Cabinet Ministers here this week.

This is the proposal to launch a nationwide scheme of health insurance. The stand of the Federal Government, repeatedly voiced by our Minister of National Health and Non-Sensence, Paul Martin, is simply this: Canada cannot have a national health insurance scheme until we have the facilities to meet the demands for medical care which such a scheme would let loose.

That of course, implies that many Canadians now in urgent need of medical care are unable to afford it. They therefore do not go to hospital now. But under a national health scheme, they could obtain the needed medical care and the insurance would meet the bills. Nobody knows how many more hospital beds and doctors and nurses would be needed to handle this pent-up flood of sick and dying Canadians. And no government or municipality will provide those costly services in excess of present need, merely to anticipate the greater demand released by the inauguration of a national health scheme.

So with the Minister who might inaugurate a nationwide plan, Paul Martin, and the lesser governmental amity. Of one thing we may all be sure: Mr. Pearson will uphold this country's honour well in any talks, political or other, he may have with Soviet leaders. He will be friendly without being unmindful of Canada's commitments to free world policies.

HEALTH NOT FEDERAL FIELD

It is of course a provincial field of responsibility to operate such a plan, so full provincial agreement would be needed to enable the Federal Government to launch a nationwide plan. And there is every indication that Quebec would have no part of such a project. However, it would require but little imagination to lay out the blueprint for a nationwide health insurance plan in which each province could co-operate or not as it chose.

NATIONAL HEALTH FOR CANADA

So much thought has been given to this welfare plan since it was accepted as part of the Liberal Party platform as long ago as definite ideas here as to the form it should take.

In the first place, it would definitely be on an insurance rather than on a service basis. This means that the beneficiary taken ill would be entitled to draw cash compensation in accordance with a fixed scale. The beneficiary could then spend his money upon hiring the services of the doctor of his choice.

The second important point would be that the monthly insurance premiums payable by each Canadian would be underwritten by the public treasury in the case of indigents. No needy Canadian would

be deprived of health care through his inability to pay his contributions.

This broad framework accords ideally with the expected pattern of free enterprise and aid for the under dog.

There remains one very important point which has been entirely overlooked in discussions which I have heard here. This is the subject of drugs.

At present, the cost of ordered drugs is not deductible from taxable income in the same way as is the cost of medical care. Nor is it foreseen that this cost would be covered by a national health plan, as has been the case in some other countries.

Yet the new drugs, especially antibiotics and antihistamines, can be even more costly than doctors' services. It is questionable whether the government should not, in line with other health care, either subsidize the cost of such drugs or else operate non-profit prescription services.

Big Ben In Splints

By Ron Evans Canadian Press, London

Big Ben, the sounding symbol of British democracy, is in splints. The 329-foot tower beside the Thames is trussed up in miles of steel tubing for repairs to its fabric, poked and scarred by German bombs and shrapnel.

Now the ministry of works will restore the ornate stone tower, which sometimes sways gently in the wind, and stop the clock two months for repairs.

It's a minor triumph for Tom. The five-ton bell rung at Westminster before Big Ben but when the tower was pulled down in 1797, Christopher Wren asked for and was given Great Tom to hang at St. Paul's.

The BBC will install two microphones beside Great Tom in a felt-lined box, similar to those which first set up in 1924 in a football bladder stuffed with cotton wool to prevent vibrations, but pigeons kept piercing the rubber to get the wool for their nests and the boxes were substituted.

After Great Tom was removed, there was no clock at Westminster for more than 100 years. When the houses of Parliament were rebuilt after a fire in 1834, a new clock tower was erected and the London firm of E.J. Dent and Company

The Poet's Corn

IMPRINT OF PERMANENCE

All passing flight is a wingprint on the air. All crawling life leaves its print upon the earth. The child discharged, put forth on his outer path. Moves onward, making his imprint everywhere.

The print of the worm in loam, the worn footfall of the plow, and the paw, the animal imprint. These are now printing their coming and going, and are all

One with earth's history, with print of rain. Of snow pressing down today to melt tomorrow. By earth absorbed. But the old impress of sorrow has been burnt too deep in us, and must remain.

—Carleton Drewry.

WARTIME SYMBOL

Legend says Big Ben won its name during a lengthy debate in the House of Commons. Sir Benjamin Hall, first commissioner of works and an extremely large man, had just concluded a long speech on the subject when someone called out: "Let's call it Big Ben and have done with it."

During the Second World War, Big Ben continued to strike and it became a symbol of London's indestructibility. Large crowds along the banks of the Thames cheered when the clock was re-lighted in 1945.

Despite its faithful accuracy—to within four-tenths of a second—Big Ben has had its troubles.

When Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, was dying, the bell mysteriously tolled 100 times and it is said when Prime Minister Gladstone tried to introduce Irish home rule in the House of Commons it failed to strike at all.

Snow froze the 14-foot minute hands once and a loose tarpaulin jammed the works on other occasions. On Aug. 12, 1949, a small army of starlings roosted on the hands, slowing them by five minutes, and last July a cable broke and Big Ben tolled 10 times at 4 p.m.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Buidesens, M. D.

TIPS ON HAND CARE AND COFFEE-DRINKING

If you have brittle nails, it might be a good idea to add gelatin to your diet, according to a report made by two doctors in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Wearing Rubber Gloves

Rubber gloves protect hands that are busy around the house or in the shop. However, if you have hand eczema, chances are you might not be able to wear them with comfort.

For many persons, even wearing cotton gloves under the rubber ones does not help. Apparently the chief cause of this irritation is accumulated perspiration coupled with the moist cloth.

Here's a tip: Dust oatmeal powder on your hands before donning the gloves. Tests indicate that this makes them more comfortable to wear.

Like coffee? Well, go ahead; drink as much as you want. If you're in good health, excessive coffee drinking probably won't harm you.

Generally, minor difficulties caused by caffeine, such as headache, insomnia and nervousness, disappear when you stop drinking coffee. But these effects may prove harmful if you're suffering from nerve, heart or intestinal disorders.

And excessive use of coffee is bad for anyone suffering from peptic ulcers, since caffeine stimulates increased gastric acidity. Ulcer victims want to avoid that condition at all costs.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

F.T.P.: I am sixteen years of age and have had difficulty gaining weight, although I eat heartily at mealtime. Would that be I smoke a great deal interfere with my gaining weight?

Answer: Insulin has been used quite successfully in many cases as an aid in increasing weight. These injections must, of course, be administered by a physician.

It is possible that if you reduced the amount of smoking you do, or eliminated it entirely, you might gain some weight.

Mr. Dolan On Tourists

(Ottawa Journal)

Recently a national magazine carried a piece criticizing our tourist industry. In the way some Canadians deal with tourists, where upon a lot of people catering to tourists shouted they were being "maligned".

Last week D. Leo Dolan, head of the Canadian Travel Bureau, met these people at a tourist convention and gave them a piece of his mind.

In straight-from-the-shoulder talk he told them that instead of crying over their critics they should be engaged in trying to find out whether a lot of the criticism wasn't justified and, if so, what they ought to do about it.

A good many Canadians will be disposed to agree with Dolan. They will feel especially like going along with him when he said: "If I were in the business of catering to tourists I would want to know that American tourists don't come to Canada to find a carbon copy of the United States."

"I might not be able, in my establishment, to compete with the posh establishments of Miami Beach, but I would be sure my American had a good mattress to sleep on, a simple light at the head of his bed and well-prepared food."

"When I bought a good mattress I would know I was going to sleep on it over and over again at a fair profit, but that if I bought a lumpy mattress I would not deserve to sell it very often."

The day of the "quick killing" of the tourist industry was over. It might be a good idea if Canadians catering to tourists got away from such things as juke boxes and so much chrome and glass brick and got back to things more in character with Canada and the Canadian scene.

The Age Old Story

How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in the light shall we see light.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In the news was an item about collision of two big lake freighters, not serious in its results, but interesting because there are few such accidents in recent years.

In the interests of armed forces unification the deck swab will become a mop after Oct. 1. But we have a hunch that decks will continue to be "swabbed" even though the operation is done with a mop.

A Munich store owner, who caters mainly to rural customers, puts on his outgoing packages a sticker with this inscription: "This wrapping is edible. In packing the merchandise we have replaced the wood-fibre, the paper, etc., with fresh straw. Offer it to your horse on my behalf. Above all, do not burn the cardboard case of this package. If you look well, you will notice it isn't cardboard at all, but a very hard biscuit, especially made for canine consumption. Give it to your dog, who'll like it very much."—Pueblo (Madrid)

Modesty is commendable but can reach the point where reticence almost becomes boastful. In Norwich, England, a man is claiming the world's record for the smallest fish ever hooked. In Canada we like to boast of doing things in a big way and a familiar sight is the fisherman posing with his huge catch. The smaller ones are thrown back into the water or hidden away. But the chappie in Norwich landed a flatfish which weighed two and one-half grains, which is about 6-1000ths of an ounce. The race will now be on for each person to catch a smaller one.—Vancouver Record.

Correcting a report that it would be possible to drive across Newfoundland early next year, the Minister of Public Works has said that the earliest conceivable date is December of next year, and he is not sure of that. We are sure that it will not be possible to drive from St. John's to Gander by December, 1956. We hope it may be feasible by the end of 1957. But the prevailing rate of progress is not conducive to high hopes in this respect. The fault lies in the failure of the Government five years ago to view the Trans-Canada as a major contribution to economic development and give it top priority.—St. John's News.

The nonchalance with which pedestrians will pass directly behind standing vehicles is something to wonder at. Most of those persons will proceed warily when passing in front of a standing car, although they know the one in the driver's seat has an unobstructed view of them. But where his view is obscured they take chances. Motor vehicles often move in reverse as well as forward, and for perfectly valid reasons. It's granted that drivers are expected to look where they're going when they back up. In their own interests pedestrians should be even more cautious, but many are not. Don't take any chances with a car that might back up suddenly. It has the weight and power, without the driver visibility, of a vehicle going forward.—Windsor Star.

The following heads of states and prime ministers, who were invited to visit India have accepted the invitation: The Crown Prince of Laos, the Prime Minister of Thailand, the King of Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister of USSR, and the King of Ethiopia.—Indian Information.

Upsetting an old and almost sacred tradition, London's board of education has decreed in its infinite wisdom that an apple for teacher is forbidden fruit from now on. No gift shall be made to any teacher until he retires. Thirty years is a long time to wait for an apple. What this will do to the established order of things is hard to predict. We are not suggesting that teachers are any more vulnerable to bribery than any other class, but apple-polishing is as old as mankind itself, and the gift of a shining red McIntosh has been known to soften the flinty heart of many an A l e b r a instructor.—London Free Press.

Many duties have devolved upon the Princess Royal inseparable from her high position, more and more it would seem with the later years. She has been a far busier woman than is generally realized, largely because what she has done has been without that "fuss" which she pointedly asked should be avoided when she left home the other day to come here. We hope she will like us. We hope she will find Canada worthy of her anticipations. We hope she will realize how much in earnest we are when we try to tell her how glad we are to see her. She will not be able to stay here nearly as long as we wish to have her stay, but we hope that she will be so happy on this short visit that she will come back again very soon.—Montreal Star.

Professor G. F. Townsend, of the Ontario Agricultural College, reminds farmers of a point about bee-keeping which everyone growing any kind of crops requiring pollination should remember: The presence and activities of bees increase the yield. He was speaking in Toronto to a meeting of farmers and apiculturists. It is a matter of experience not only with farmers but with gardeners that bees are profitable—apart from their honey. It is regrettable, for this reason, that there are fewer bee colonies in Ontario today than there were years ago. It is regrettable also that so much honey is imported from the United States. By protecting our own honey industry we would at the same time be protecting a fundamental industry, agriculture.—London Free Press.

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BRING IN WAGE BILLS NEW DELHI (Reuters) — The Indian government Wednesday introduced a bill establishing minimum wages for journalists and setting out rules for their working conditions. It also provides for an annual bonus system for senior employees, with fines for employers who violate it. Journalists' maximum working hours should be 160 hours in any consecutive four weeks. RED CROSS The Canadian Red Cross society was organized in 1896, then the first overseas branch of the British Red Cross.