

Civic Finances

Back in the early 1930's, concern was expressed in the Legislature at the way we were drifting financially. Provincial revenue and expenditure items were running to over a million and a half dollars annually. The total debt was increasing and had reached the alarming proportions of nearly four million. It seemed that only drastic economic measures would pull us out of the hole.

How times have changed! Our civic financing now has become bigger business than the financing of the whole province was in that earlier period. The civic budget is in the two million dollar category and the net debt as of Dec. 31 last, as shown at last night's meeting of the City Council, is \$7,590,105.

This is not the whole story, of course. Against the debt figure are assets of over eleven and a half million dollars, while on current account for the past year—that is to say on the controllable items of expenditure—there was a surplus of \$3,374, which exceeded by \$2,492 the amount budgeted for at the beginning of the year.

This, it was shown, was after having allocated \$42,000 for uncollectable taxes, \$10,000 for the civic employes' pension fund and \$25,000 applied against expenses relative to Centennial Year activities.

The increase of \$401,039 in the net debt was explained as having been incurred by the Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply on necessary improvements. It was also shown that the sinking funds were in excess of actuarial requirements. Due to major revision in the property assessment there was an increase of over 25 per cent in the 1964 tax levy as compared to 1963, while tax collections increased by 22.7 per cent.

Reassuring as these figures are, there is no need to be complacent about them. Constant vigilance will be required to keep current expenditures within bounds. There is need, as the Charlottetown Board of Trade emphasized recently, of avoiding improvident spending and concentrating on a sound system of economic planning. There is need, too, of an aroused public interest in civic affairs, not only during the current election period but throughout the year.

This interest should be stimulated by the detailed reports presented last evening which appear in summary form in today's Guardian. They merit careful reading and attention, and a word of commendation on the thorough manner in which they have been prepared.

Sirenous Royal Tour

The visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to Ethiopia at this time is more than a mere formality. This is the first visit of a reigning British monarch to the oldest Christian country in Africa, and officially it is being made in return for a state visit to Britain by Emperor Haile Selassie some time ago. There are also compelling political reasons why a visit by Her Majesty to Africa at this period can prove helpful to Britain and to the West in general.

As noted in a mainland exchange, Emperor Selassie has been active in the Organization of African Unity. In the past year and under the influence of Egypt, Algeria, Ghana and others of the more truculent states the OAU has been veering more and more against the West. The recent rescue mission in the Congo whipped a number of newer African states into a frenzy against the white races. Britain as given some of the blame because the Belgian paratroopers who flew into the Congo in U.S. aircraft were allowed to assemble on a British island off the west coast of Africa.

In the broader perspective of changing Africa the Queen's tour can also prove significant. Country after country has risen from the ruins of British colonialism and it is desirable that their relations with the United Kingdom be cultivated.

The royal tour will include visits to the Commonwealth war cemetery at Addis Ababa and to the Africa Hall, birthplace of the OAU and the headquarters of the United Nations economic commission for Africa. The Queen will later make a five-day state visit to the Sudan before flying home, while the Duke will set off on a six-week air tour of eight countries, covering another 21,000 miles before returning to England. His tour will include four days in Pakistan and six days in Malaysian Federation trouble spots where British and Commonwealth troops are facing Indonesian guerrillas in the jungle.

With memories of the royal visit to Canada fresh in mind, we can appreciate what an exhausting schedule this tour involves for both the Queen and Prince Philip, and will join with Her Majesty's subjects throughout the Commonwealth in hoping that it will prove successful in every way.

The President's Cold

When U.S. President Johnson was taken to hospital by ambulance in the middle of the night there was an understandable tremor of apprehension throughout the country. As it turned out, he had nothing but a discomforting cold and a minor fever. But the incident brought to the fore again the need to make provision for a presidential disability and succession.

The President has not yet made a verbal agreement with Vice-President Humphrey as to what would be done if Mr. Johnson were unable to perform his duties. Such agreement existed between former President Eisenhower and former Vice-President Nixon, between the late President Kennedy and Vice-President Johnson and even between Mr. Johnson and Speaker McCormack, who was next in line of succession for 14 months. But this is not enough.

American papers are now urging the need for legal and formal provision to handle presidential disability. It is suggested that Congress should act quickly and fill this gap. Simultaneously it should provide for selection of a new vice-president should the vice-president die, become disabled or succeed to the presidency. This seems a reasonable precaution, in view of what is at stake. The President's cold may prove a fortuitous factor in bringing the issue to a head.

Nasser's Tough Luck

President Nasser of Egypt is reported in bad temper these days, and with reason. A few weeks ago he publicly invited the United States to "go jump in the lake" with its foreign aid food deliveries to the United Arab Republic. Russian officials visiting Cairo applauded lustily. That was putting the Yankee imperialists in their place!

But now Washington has cut down grain deliveries to the U.A.R. and an appeal from Nasser to the Soviet Union to replace them has met with a firm Russian "no". Russia hasn't any grain to spare.

So Egypt has gone on food rationing, just as a bill for \$400,000 has arrived from Washington demanding recompense for the government-inspired burning of the Kennedy Library at Cairo.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Let's replace the "Dump Dief" slogan, suggests the Toronto Telegram, with "Lester Get Lost." Certainly there is a growing feeling that if a change of leadership is in order, it could well apply to both the major political parties.

There are too many districts in which farm people are only playing at farming. This is the view of Hon. I. W. Akerley, Minister of Agriculture and Marketing for Nova Scotia. He said a greater effort is required to produce the extra quarter million hog carcasses and the extra 50,000 head of beef that are required in this province.

The city of San Francisco has a new machine to befriend lost tourists. It is called the "NaviStar Aero-directory" and consists of an aerial photograph of the city studied with tiny lights. The tourist simply pushes a button and the machine lights the best way to his destination. There will be 200 NaviStar Aero-directories in the city at key points.



SCHOOL OF PARIS

SUPERSONIC AIRLINERS

Noise Factor Still A Major Problem

National Geographic Society

The sonic boom of airliners passing over at nearly 2,000 miles per hour may become as familiar in the future as the rattle of the streetcar was in the past.

But the noise factor is discouraging development of the super-jets, which might whisk passengers from Washington to Paris in about two hours. Aircraft engineers know how to build the craft, but they don't know how to keep them quiet.

The sonic boom occurs when an airplane is flying faster than sound (about 660 miles per hour). All bodies moving through air create disturbances which radiate outward at the speed of sound. However, a supersonic plane proceeds through the air faster than the disturbances it is creating, and the result is the formation of shock waves.

Like thunderclap As the plane races across the sky, a huge cone of shock waves follows like a wake. When the shock waves hit a person on the ground, he momentarily hears a sound likened to a thunderclap or a loud pistol shot.

Since it seems unavoidable, the sonic boom has considerably dampened enthusiasm for supersonic airliners. A six-month test using military supersonic planes over Oklahoma City in 1964 produced thousands of complaints. The tests seemed to confirm, however, that the low-boom intensities expected with supersonic transport operations do not cause direct physical harm to human beings or structural damage to houses.

But the boom has been blamed for causing a prize show dog to have a miscarriage and chickens to lay marble-sized eggs. One farmer was allowed \$50 damages because his chickens huddled against a wall in panic and suffocated. A Welsh farmer collected \$840 from the British Aviation Ministry because his mare died of fright after a sonic boom.

"SOUND OF PROGRESS" A series of tests in New Mexico has sought to measure precisely how windows, plaster, ceilings, and walls respond to very powerful sonic booms. Further tests will determine how people react.

Some officials believe the biggest surprise in the Oklahoma City experiments was people's tolerance of the boom; only about one person out of some 50 made a formal complaint. Candid films showed people going about their business normally during and after the noise. One woman said of the sonic booms: "They're the sound of progress." Others complained of oversleeping when the tests

ended, because they had come to rely on the 7-a.m. boom to wake them up.

The sonic boom aside, some airlines are not eager to put supersonic planes into service. Many companies want to get more use out of their present equipment before investing in faster craft. However, Britain and France have sought to combine their efforts to build the Concorde, designed to fly more than twice as fast as sound.

All in all, American officials believe the odds seem to favor eventual adoption of a supersonic airliner on the premise that it's hard not to progress where progress can be made, even if the progress is noisy—like the automobile, train, and airplane.

No doubt the shade of Mackenzie King would quiver at the thought, but it is now clear that the Commonwealth is about to get a permanent secretariat established and functioning before mid-summer.

King long resisted such a development, suspecting that Britain would use it as a backdoor method of centralizing policy. He was always on guard to ensure that the dominions had complete independence in foreign as well as domestic policy.

Today, however, there can be no question of common policies being forced on member nations by London—or, for that matter, by Ottawa Commonwealth membership has increased through a proliferation beyond all expectations of a quarter century ago. In March, when Gambia joins there will be 21 members. A permanent secretariat is obviously needed, if only to update members on what is going on among the rest. Sensibly, the Commonwealth prime ministers approved the idea in principle at their meeting last year. With a more than a sign for the memory of King, who might have changed his mind anyway, Canada's present Prime Minister went along with the rest.

London reports suggest that the secretary-general of the new body may be a Canadian, Arnold Smith, who is now an assistant undersecretary of state. Mr. Smith, who was formerly ambassador to Egypt and later to USSR, is a highly competent diplomatist. He should be a good man in the tough job of bringing some sort of consensus out of an increasingly disparate community of nations.

A select committee on standards and conduct was authorized by the U.S. Senate last year to consider problems of conflict of interest. So far, however, it has no members. Majority Leader Mansfield says that he is about ready to name three Democrats.

Minority Leader Dirksen has not indicated that he plans naming three Republicans—and in view of his opposition to financial disclosure by senators it may not be soon.

Senator Javits (Rep., N.Y.) wants the committee named and out to work. He would have the senate order it to adopt an interim code of ethics for senators and to report on a permanent code within a year.

The interim code, he suggests, should provide that all senators disclose their financial holdings, just as they often require executive department employees to do.

Devoles of oriental mystery after the style of Sax Rohmer's Dr. Fu Manchu will be intrigued by the announcement of the defection to Peking of a high-ranking Formosa intelligence officer. The story reached an international audience through a leak in Peking via Tokyo.

The Peking report said that Nationalist agents all over South China are compromised by the defection of such a high-ranking officer. In leaving the comfort of Macao—where it is possible to live a luxurious existence—the Kuomintang spy took with him besides intelligence documents of great importance, a wireless radio set, codes, hand guns, cartridges, fuses, a magnetic mine, 30 pounds of explosives and two poison needles for purposes of assassination.

Peking might have frightened the life out of genuine spies for Chiang Kai-shek if the bare announcement had been made. However, anyone conversant with the curious ways of Chinese propaganda—Communists and non-Communists alike—will know that a really big whopper

Blisterly Eruptions

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Pemphigus is a serious skin disease that is difficult to understand and treat. Some forms are fatal. For no apparent reason, blisters form in crops on perfectly normal skin. They rupture and crusts cover the surface shortly thereafter. The open lesions are extremely painful.

The blisters (bullae) vary in size from that of a pea to an egg and appear on any part of the body. The face, neck, mouth and genitals are favorite sites, and occasionally the lesions are generalized in the early stages of the disorder, the victim is up and about but becomes more disabled as the eruption spreads. Fever and weakness occur and the open lesions in the mouth make eating and drinking unpleasant.

Bullae arise in crops and often remain months after rupturing, during which time they show no tendency to heal. They disappear finally and the individual has long periods of comparative freedom from the outbreak. Recurrences are common.

The cause is not known. In the normal individual, a sort of cement holds together the upper and lower layers of skin. This does not work in pemphigus and the upper layer is easily peeled away from the surface. Large pieces of skin can be pulled off by pinching with the thumb and index finger.

The corticosteroids changed the outlook of this disease. They are used indefinitely by many victims. The signs of the disease may disappear for so long a period, cure is considered. The antibiotics are needed when the lesions become infected.

Sprays containing an anesthetic solution (two per cent procaine hydrochloride) or steroids help relieve the pain of open or raw lesions. Several gargles are available to relieve mouth distress. Baths are recommended to soften and remove the crusts so ointments can be applied. Hexachlorophene frequently is added to the water. In many instances, bathing minimizes the odor originating in the lesions.

NOT CONTAGIOUS Mrs. R. writes: My daughter has acne. Can she pass on this condition by using the towels of other members of the family.

REPLY No. The disorder is not contagious, even though many of the pimples contain staphylococci. Acne is caused by enlargement and overactivity of the oil secreting glands, along with thickening of the upper layers of the skin.

OPEN SPINE H. W. writes: What is spina bifida? My daughter was born with this disease and had a spinal operation right after birth.

REPLY This birth defect is caused by the failure of one or more vertebral arches to close during development of the fetus. The opening allows a part of the spinal cord to protrude under the skin of the lower back.

COUGH AFTER A COLD H. L. writes: I have a bronchial cough which developed after a cold. One of my friends says the next step is tuberculosis. Is this likely?

REPLY No, but get a chest X-ray to determine whether your cough is caused by tuberculosis.

CLENCHED JAWS R. W. writes: What would cause periodic clenching of the jaws during waking hours?

REPLY Habit, tic, or a response to tension. The person may be unaware of this tightening until he makes a conscious attempt to relax.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—See your dentist regularly. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO (February 2, 1946)

The Russian army struck unexpectedly at the Manchester Line (located in the north) by a new offensive technique involving a swarm of 130 airplanes. The attack began last night as Finland's President was issuing an appeal for an "honourable peace."

At the regular Kinsmen meeting held at the Charlottetown last evening Jack Keefe of Moncton, District Governor of the Kinsmen Clubs in the Maritimes was the speaker.

TEN YEARS AGO

(February 2, 1956) The Summerside Town Hall, a two-storey brick building was completely gutted yesterday by a spectacular pre-dawn fire which left only the walls standing.

Foreign Secretary Eden and Lady Eden gave a lunch Tuesday for Prime Ministers St. Laurent of Canada and Jawahar Lal Nehru of India dubbed the "key figures" of the Commonwealth conference.

REVIEW CONVICT'S CASE OTTAWA (CP)—Cornwall hero Ronald Lapensee, 27, serving a 12-month jail sentence here for forgery, will have his case reviewed by the national parole board by April—probably before he will receive the "key figure" award for bravery for his unsuccessful attempt to rescue fireman Rolland La-Rochelle who fell through ice on the St. Lawrence River last March.

NO VISAS NEEDED MOSCOW (Reuters)—Foreign tourists arriving in Russia by cruise ship or charter plane no longer require visas, the Russian news agency Tass reported Saturday.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Novel idea for those whose cars won't start these cold mornings: try walking. — Windsor Star.

Just about the time you teach your children that you can't put more in a container than it will hold, along comes a big girl in slacks. — Blair Press.

Winter is that peculiar time of the year when we try to keep our house as hot as it was last summer when we were complaining about the heat and wishing we had air conditioning. — Sparta Herald.

Children shouldn't be "subjected to the will of adults," says advice from Moscov. Even when ideas of freedom begin to creep in, they seem to be the wrong sort of ideas. — Windsor Star.

A local mother took her small son along on a shopping trip. In a department store he wandered off and was finally discovered by a clerk standing by the escalator watching it with much concern. The clerk asked, "Are you afraid of it, sonny?" "Nope," said the lad, "just waiting for my chewing gum to come back." — Mid - County Times.

Those Sleigh Bells

Do you remember? Remembers when sleigh bells made tinkling music in crackling winter air and steel runners squeaked and crunched on hard-packed snow?

Time was half a century and more ago when farmers and villagers were particular about their sleigh bells. Some preferred sets of pole chimes attached to the shafts; some favored long sets of body bells. A few were partial to the neck strap.

In the days when snow rollers pressed down the snow after a storm had blown out, you could tell who was coming along the road before the sleigh came in sight around the bend. Bell sets have their individual songs and melodies, even when all were jingling briskly as the mare sped along smooth, slippery tracks.

Some chose the Swiss Pole Chimes. The catalogue was definite in its praise. "Made of high grade cast iron metal; open bell with iron knockers. Each bell has a distinct tone in itself and each bell chimes with the others. The best six bell pole chimes you can buy. Price for six bells on one strap, \$1.45."

No longer does one hear the music of the bells; no longer do sleek roads whisk along country roads. A snow-covered road does not fit with a rubber-wheel economy. But there are some who look out on a snow-covered countryside and remember those days of long ago. Listen. Perhaps you can hear them—hear the soft, sweet echoes of the sleigh bells of yesteryear.

A Cloudy Policy

The re-organization which is taking place in the Immigration Department should include not only the elimination of inefficiency and malpractices, but also a close look at general Canadian immigration policy.

Immigration policy is always a touchy subject. This is so not only in Canada, but in other countries as well. In Britain, as a result of massive colored immigration, a Commonwealth immigration act was brought in, which resulted in controversy that has not yet died down. In the United States, President Johnson proposed to reform American immigration laws, in order to deal more fairly with countries which, in the past, have had a less-favored status.

Immigration policy always involves tension for a government. The Canadian government, in order to uphold its good name and maintain a good image, likes to make it appear

that this country does not have a discriminatory policy. I would like the world to believe that anyone may come here, regardless of race, color or creed, provided only that they have sufficient skills to be employable.

In fact, there is discrimination, especially against non-European peoples. This might be merely a case of built-in discrimination, due to the fact that non-Europeans, coming from a different culture, are less able to fit into Canadian life. But it is discrimination all the same.

Perhaps there might be a virtue in facing problems like these frankly in Canadian immigration policy. In this way, the result might be a fairer and more liberal policy. If the image and the reality are too far out of step, the impression of hypocrisy is likely to spread.

"The Will To Learn"

The standards continue to rise. The lad with university training increasingly has an advantage in getting, holding and advancing in his job. But what of the boy or girl who just cannot continue on to university, who has to go to work when high school ends or, in emergencies, even earlier?

There is no need to apologize for lack of formal education, contends G.A. Lascelles, Metropolitan Toronto's treasurer, who is retiring from office. "More important by far is the will to learn and the love of work you are doing."

That "will to learn" can if applied extend the horizons where formal schooling had to stop. In his case, he had to leave school after one year of high school but he took night courses. He did it the hard way but he reached his goal; as has many another.

Increasingly, however, as the pace of business and industry quickens, higher education assumes greater values. More and more, senior matriculation in minimum and university training where it is at all possible, will prove short-cuts to job permanency and promotion.

Back in the early days of the West an 18-year-old boy who had had to leave school at Grade eight to work in a factory came to Canada. He had no friends and no money. He took up a homestead, built himself a sod shack and spent the winters studying.

At 29 he was premier of Saskatchewan. He went on to become federal minister of finance and chancellor of a university. His name was Charles Avery Dunning.

Syria Heard From

It was noted here the other day with some sense of satisfaction that the Arab states had stopped strutting to drive the Israelis into the sea. No sooner was this written than Syria returned to the earlier Arab mood. President Amin el-Rafez denounced the heads of 13 other Arab states for talking but not acting against Israel.

With the extravagance that so often accompanies Arab statements he said that "if Israel attacked Syria they will have not just one Wailing Wall but another stretching all the way from Damascus to Tel Aviv."

The statement throws further light on the position of Syria within the Arab League. She is a dissenting member and Israel is less a problem for her than are Egypt and Iraq. These two only recently announced a "unified political command" and Syria strongly suspects, and with good reason, that this astonishing alliance is directed against her and not against Israel.

There is good reason for suspicion because ever since Syria threw the Egyptians out and dissolved the United Arab Republic, Egypt and Iraq have come close to one another.

Last September Egypt went the length of sending troops to Iraq to help suppress the dissident Baathists in order, Syria took this to be a move directed against her, because practically all Syrian propaganda these days is directed against what it calls Iraq's fascist regime.

Just to keep the record straight, Israel hasn't even got the one Wailing Wall, Syria credits her with. The ancient Wailing Wall is in the Jordanian sector, not the Israeli sector, of Jerusalem and Jews have no access to it.)

TRAIN FOR LEADERSHIP INCREASE YOUR INCOME! DALE CARNEGIE COURSE In Effective Speaking and Human Relations! Free Explanation Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 2 7:30 P.M. Charlottetown Hotel 10 THINGS THIS COURSE WILL HELP YOU DO: 1. Develop Poise, Confidence 2. Speak Effectively Before Groups 3. Get Along With People 4. Communicate Ideas Clearly 5. Control Worry 6. Improve Your Memory 7. Think On Your Feet 8. Prepare For Leadership 9. Increase Your Income 10. Conduct A Meeting Presented By Leadership Training Services