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The Hospital Plan

Health Minister Bonnell has cleared up a misconception which should never have been permitted to arise with regard to the Provincial Hospital Insurance Plan.

There was uncertainty when the Legislature prorogued as to whether Ottawa would accept the scheme as provided for in the legislation, after the House had thrown out an amendment for compulsory collection of premiums, if necessary, from certain employee groups. This mandatory provision, it now turns out, is inherent in the plan. It can be invoked at any time if Ottawa insists, or if Islanders fail to accept the plan in sufficient numbers voluntarily. It can be extended to apply to any group, urban or rural. Dr. Bonnell is quite confident that the plan will work on a voluntary basis; but if not it is sufficiently elastic to provide for any mandatory action that may be required.

We find no fault with these provisions as such, as a means of insuring the plan's success and of satisfying federal requirements. But the Legislature did take exception in the one instance where they appeared as an amendment to the Act, and the time of the House was wasted in futile discussion on this matter. It is quite evident that members on both sides thought the Act, as it passed, provided for a purely voluntary scheme.

Actually, it provided for nothing of the sort. It empowers the Hospital Commission, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, to fix the amount of premiums, together with the manner of payment and other details relating thereto, and to collect the payments from residents of the Province. It provides penalties for contravening any provision of the Act or the regulations. Nowhere does it refer to voluntary payments—or to compulsory ones, for that matter. It provides merely for "participation" by means of payments under the plan—which may be voluntary or mandatory as the plan provides.

It is up to the Commission to make the plan work on a voluntary basis if it can. We have no doubt that it will endeavor to do so, and we trust that the Minister's optimism in this regard will be fully justified. But it would have been much better if the whole question had been presented, frankly and clearly, to the people from the start.

Misplanned Economy

If there is one thing Communist propagandists harp on more than anything else, it is the claim that their system of planned scientific economy is far more efficient than free enterprise. Many Soviet achievements have lent credence to this claim; but the fact is that while these achievements are widely publicized, little outside the Iron Curtain is known of the failures that have occurred. It is different in the free world, where the spotlight of publicity—adverse or favorable—is constantly directed upon matters of public concern.

It is odd, therefore, to learn—on the high authority of the Soviet publication, Pravda—that all is not well with state planning in Russia's oil industry. Fifty or more railway tanks are emptied each day into an artificial lake near Ufa, in the Bashkir Republic, which contains something like 12,000 tons of oil and petroleum products. And periodically the lake is set aflame by the local fire brigade in order to make room for more oil products.

According to Pravda this also happens on the railways of Kuibyshev, Tashkent, Azerbaijan and various other oil centres. The Soviet railways ship the oil to various destinations. The recipients take what they can and leave the railways with half-empty tank cars. The railways need the tanks in order to relieve the constantly growing accumulation of oil at the railheads. In order to recover the tanks, they dump the surplus oil in the lake and burn it. Sufficient storage capacity would solve this difficulty, but that, apparently,

is what the planners haven't provided.

One swallow doesn't make a summer, and one example of this kind does not necessarily damn a whole economic system. But the Communists have been so appalled by the destruction of unplanned surpluses in the western hemisphere, and so boastful of their claims about their own efficiency, that one would think they would soon put an end to this waste of precious fuel. But apparently it has been going on for a long time. Despite assurances from the Ministry last year that everything had been fixed up, the oil waste in 1958 was four times as great as in 1957.

Serious Health Problem

Why are health authorities so insistent, in the main, in their support of fluoridation of community water supplies? Is it because they are banded together in some diabolical plot to poison the populace? That is an extreme view, but some of the arguments advanced by opponents of fluoridation would leave that suspicion in the public mind. In any case, the reason for the concern of so many health authorities with the matter is not hard to explain. It is because dental disease has become so widespread as to constitute a national menace.

Addressing an audience of nearly a thousand physicians at a scientific convention in Ontario this week, Dr. C. H. M. Williams, head of the periodontics department in the University of Toronto's dental faculty, said that dental diseases are today "probably the most prevalent and persistent of all the diseases which affect the population of Canada." Sodium fluoride, he said, not only reduces dental cavities by two-thirds among children born after it is added to the water, but it also brings substantial reduction of cavities among those whose teeth had formed before fluoridation. The main causes of tooth decay were malnutrition during pregnancy and excessive consumption of carbohydrates. Fluoridation offered itself as "the most effective method of prevention."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Vice President Richard N. Nixon has made a novel suggestion regarding disputes between the Soviet Union and the West. It is that they be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the Hague. It sounds like a good idea—in theory. But a nation that does not honour its commitments on its own initiative seems hardly likely to obey a court ruling.

Ontario's farmers are to be compensated for losses suffered from rabies. Maximum payments will be: Cattle, \$250; horses, \$100; sheep, \$40; swine, \$40; and goats, \$40. The federal and provincial governments will each contribute 40 per cent of the payments, while the county involved will make up the remainder. Payments will be retroactive to April 1, 1958.

Twenty-eight American ships will be visiting 25 Great Lakes ports between June 26 and July 27, in connection with the formal opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. It will be the first time in nearly a century and a half that warships will be seen on the Lakes of Peace, and it will involve temporary suspension of the Rush-Bagot Treaty between Canada and the United States prohibiting this traffic.

Ottawa reports that rail haulage across the country is picking up—another indication of the gathering momentum in the Canadian economy which Mr. Fleming predicted in his budget speech. Other signs noted are increases in labor income and industrial production. Taken together, they indicate that Canada is showing more strength than in 1955 when she recovered from the 1953-54 recession.

The Ontario Government has set up a Committee of Inquiry into the production and marketing of farm products in Ontario. The Committee will inquire generally into the problems and economics of packing, storage, processing, marketing, transporting and distributing agricultural products produced in the province. Particular attention will be paid to existing procedures and facilities in the light of present large scale food processing and distributing systems; the affect of this concentration of buying power on the producer; and, the most practical form of producer group action to meet this concentration.



HEY, FELLOWS, APRIL FOOL'S OVER

OTTAWA REPORT

Broadcasting Regulations

The newly-constituted Board of Broadcast Governors has just published a code of regulations governing "sound" or radio broadcasting, which must be observed by all stations operated in Canada, whether belonging to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation or to private broadcasting companies. These regulations are not in their final form; they are still subject to amendment following a public hearing to be held by the Board on 14th May, at which representations may be made by any parties who wish to suggest changes. These regulations conform closely to the regulations previously enforced by the C.B.C. The few changes deal largely with advertising. They prohibit the insertion of a commercial announcement after the reading of the news headlines; they give stations more flexibility in permitting the averaging of advertising quotas over the period of one hour. As before, certain subjects are banned or closely regulated. Board approval is needed for any program dealing with birth control or venereal diseases. Only churches, universities, charitable and cultural organizations may be the subject of any appeal for funds. Lotteries are forbidden.

may regret any paternalism in government which regulates the activities of the media of mass communication. Normally, society relies on the good taste and sound sense of the public to kill the undesirable by staying away from it. But society today seems to have a taste for the lewd, the criminal and the violent; in fiction, whether that fiction is in the printed word, over the air waves or on the cinema screen. Even the sweet simple "fairy stories" of our grandfathers' day become frightening and unsuitable for children in the modern presentation. What sort of a world is it, when parents regret having taken their little ones to see a film entitled after one of the well-known and innocent tales which their own parents had perhaps read to them at bedtime thirty years ago? If society cannot regiment itself, and government bodies have to take action to clean up our bookstores and the like, should similarly clean up our air waves? And why are our cinemas permitted to display films, and our television stations allowed to broadcast programs, which many a sane judge might well deem to be indirectly an incitement to riot? Justice Minister Davie Fulton, himself the father of three small girls, has fought a long battle to ban obscene literature. A very valid question is whether a Minister of Justice has not also got some obligation to preserve other aspects of the morals of our young.

Canada's Place Names

The awful responsibility of giving a place the name by which it will be known for all time to come seldom dismayed Canadian pioneers. Sometimes they brought the tried and traditional names of their homelands with them, but for the most part they accepted the challenge of finding new names with imaginations whetted by a new life in a strange land, with humor conscious or unconscious and on the whole with success. As a result, the roads of Canada are adorned with many signposts bearing names that are sometimes beautiful, often charmingly unique, and always concealing a story in the background. Some of our place-names came with recent arrivals from Europe—Ymir, and Ylcliffe in Ontario; Zena, Sask, and Tiell, B.C. Other go back to the earliest settlers, none of whom had more vigorous imaginations than the first Newfoundlanders, who left us Pushthrough, Cupids, Hot Scold Marshes, Bay Bulls, Joe Batt's Arm, Come-by-Chance and Seldom-Come-By. SHOW-OFF Almost a dozen place-names in Ontario are the work of Lieutenant-Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland, who wanted to make use of some of the Spanish words he had picked up during military service in Spain. Thus we have Mariposa, the Spanish for butterfly; Oro, a bear; Mono, which means monkey; Oso, Moso, Rama and several others. When the naming of three Simcoe county townships was left up to Sir Peregrine's wife, she used the names of her three pet dogs, Floss, Tiny and Tay. The history books tell us that Sir Peregrine was not a very good administrator either. Quebec names are noted for their saintly dedications. Apart from an uncounted number of rivers, mountains, lakes and valleys, almost 1,500 Quebec communities are named for saints, including St. Louis du Ha! Ha! which, surprisingly enough, means just what it says. The French influence is strong on Canadian place-names, but in areas where the population has become predominantly non-French speaking, many original names have become distorted. Thus in

ach, which reached Nova Scotia from the Outer Hebrides in the early 19th century. There are place-names in Canada to suit every taste. There is a Sober Island near Halifax, a Wine Harbour not far away, and a Wine River near Chatham, N.B. There is a Whisky Jack near Norway House in Manitoba, a Whisky Gap on the CPR line near Cardston, Alta., and a Soda Creek in B.C. There is a Garden of Eden in Nova Scotia, a Tranquillity in Brant county, Ont., and Traveler's Rest in Prince Edward Island. There are no fewer than three Paradises in Canada—one, of course, in B.C., one in Newfoundland, and one in Nova Scotia, which also has a Bible Hill near Vancouver are a Lulu and a Lulu Island, both named by Colonel Moody of the Royal Engineers, after an actress, Lulu Sweet, who was much admired in the 1860s we are told, "for her good manners and graceful bearings." Several of our place-names have come straight from books; Gravenhurst and Bracebridge, in Ontario, are from a Washington Irving story, Bracebridge Hall, Norval, Ont., was taken from a pretentious narrative poem by an obscure poet, John Home. Pocatonas, Alta, is out of the wide field of American legend. And Iago, B.C. was named by a reader of Shakespeare. There is a theory that Fin Flon comes from a character in the Sunless City by Preston Muddock, called Professor Flintabbatey Flonatin. A copy of this book, it is said, was kicking around in this outpost and was read by some of the prospectors, who used to joke about the name. This story sounds implausible to anyone who has ever heard the kind of things prospectors joke about. A more believable theory links this name with the French expression "fin-flon" which occurs in the chorus of many French songs, especially the kind that would be heard in a booming gold town.

OUR YESTERDAYS

CHRIST also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 24, 1934) News has been received of the winning of a Fellowship in Greek Archaeology in the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece, by Mr. Cedric G. Boulter, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Boulter, Charlottetown. Mr. Boulter who is not yet 22 years of age, is an honour graduate of Prince of Wales College having led his class for the three years of his attendance. Quite a little excitement was caused in Summerside yesterday afternoon when the fire department responded to a call for a fire in the heart of the business section on Water Street. The alarm was for a roof fire in the block containing the Martha Ann Tea Rooms and Lawrence Gallant's tailoring shop.

TEN YEARS AGO

Architects are busy completing plans for the new Federal Building at Charlottetown, and it is expected that tenders for the work will be called shortly. All the properties on the site, bounded by Queen, Richmond, Pownall and Sydney Streets, have been appraised and a number of tenants have already found premises elsewhere. The residents of Crapaud and surrounding districts are making a combined effort to erect a library building in Crapaud. There has been a free lending library in Crapaud since 1934. The Carnegie Foundation supplies books and pays the librarian. The community must supply the space. A joint effort by Crapaud, Tryon, Hampton and Kelly's Cross will be undertaken to provide the necessary funds. AWARDED PLAQUE HALIFAX (CP)—William Purcell, a longtime ferry operator, received a bronze plaque Saturday from Lieutenant-Governor E. C. Flow for rescuing 32 persons from area waters in 40 years. Mr. Purcell said in an interview he made his first rescue in 1919 when he pulled two soldiers from the harbor. His last feat was in 1958 when he saved two boys. FAMOUS REGIMENT The first regiment of Britain's Grenadier Guards was formed in 1656 as a personal bodyguard to Charles II. Those who are greedy of praise prove that they are poor in merit.

Sane Safety Traffic Rules

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. THE weather is getting nicer in most sections of the country and it won't be long before many of you take off on vacations or on long weekend drives. HOME SAFETY Since all of us abhor the tragic waste of lives on the nation's highways, I'd like to pass along a few driving tips that could help you get back home again—safely. These suggestions have been recommended by the Institute of Driver Behavior in Detroit, the Texas Optometric Association, and other worthwhile responsible agencies. Their value has been tested and proven, time and time again. The first rule is to "aim high." By this, I mean you should point your car toward the center of your lane while looking as far down the road as you can see. Don't use the left edge of your lane or a car parked on the right side of you as a guide. In other words, you should guide your car by looking far ahead, not by squinting just a few yards in front or to the left or to the right. SECOND RULE This brings us to the second rule: "Keep your eyes moving." Just as it is important to look far ahead, it is also important not to fix your gaze there permanently. Look to the left, to the right, glance into the rear-view mirror. This way you can take in the whole picture. If you know someone is approaching from the rear, you won't be unduly startled by the blast of his horn as he starts to pass you. Moreover, glancing around frequently will help keep you alert. Constantly staring at the long road ahead can lead to highway hypnosis, a subject which we have discussed in previous columns. Another rule, which many of you drivers either forget or ignore, is to make the fellow in the other car see you. If you had a brightly painted red and yellow striped car, other motorists could hardly avoid noticing it. BE CAUTIOUS I suppose you don't have a car with such a startling color combination. So, use your horn in passing, creep cautiously into an intersection after a red light turns to green, and don't pull out of a parking space suddenly without first making sure no other cars are immediately approaching. None of this advice is going to do you any good if you can't see properly to begin with. If you don't wear glasses, maybe you need them. If you do wear them, perhaps you can use a stronger prescription. So, right now, before you take off on any long drives, see your eye specialist. Give your eyes and body the care you give your new car. QUESTION AND ANSWER R. P.: Is there a cure for labyrinthitis I have been to six doctors and am no better. Answer: Labyrinthitis can be treated but it often requires a long period of time and careful care before response is obtained.

The Age Old Story

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NOTES BY THE WAY

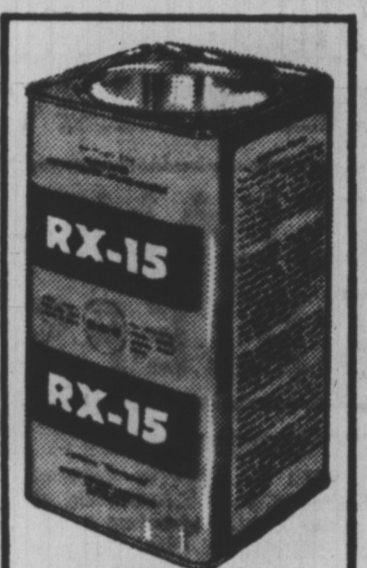
British Columbians are richer and stinger than the people of any other Canadian province.—Vancouver Sun As Ottawa correspondent recently turned up a secret report to the Prime Minister in the files of the Parliamentary Library. Judging by some library files we would have thought this was the safest place for secret documents.—Hamilton Spectator Going to the office with Browns every morning, Smith noticed that he raised his hat to Dr. Blunt, the family doctor, whom they met on his rounds. "Why do you raise your hat?" asked Smith. "Because my wife always does what he tells her," replied Brown.—Hamilton Spectator Down in Windsor, a Crown attorney told a court that the fact that a man is hungry doesn't justify him stealing a loaf of bread. But we've never heard a stronger excuse.—Ottawa Journal A television program on bullfighting was taken off the air in Copenhagen because there were so many complaints against showing cruelty to animals. The program was replaced by films of naval battles.—Ekstrabladet Copenhagen Spring tidings sound an optimistic note: Following a bitter Winter of storm, ice and fierce seas, the Atlantic fish catches are the best in months. Fish plants are hoping to keep up with Nova Scotia fishermen unloading catches of cod, haddock, flounders and halibut, caught during the last two weeks on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.—Cape Breton Post Canadian labor is going to demand more and more freedom to run its own affairs in its own way. It can probably be trusted, the long run, to find a formula which will provide it with the desired autonomy and, at the same time, a useful measure of liaison with the American unions which have so far kept it in various degrees of thralldom.—Kingston Whig-Standard

The Poets Corner

APRIL WAS IN THE WEATHER April was in the weather, as I watched you go, And April was, despite us, everywhere. And all we were, and all we were to know I find still echoed on the April air. I sense it in the flashing swallow's wing And in the gypsy wind that stirs the trees; I hear it in the thrush's melodies, I feel it when the rain-wet blossoms swing. Sometimes the heart's a slow student for the mind To teach the patient wisdom of the sun; And on each lesson this is lost and left behind: That some soft spring I'll find you at my door. —John L. Warren in the Spokane Daily Chronicle

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