

igation to conform. The Assembly is split into a number of blocs. There is the Afro-Asian bloc, the South American bloc, the Iron Curtain bloc, the members of which tend to vote together on their likes and dislikes, in accordance with instructions from their home government.

The absurdity of the constitution of the Assembly was recognized from the start by those framing the Charter of the U.N. No nation could be expected to submit without question to such a body.

To ensure this sort of executive body, the Security Council was instituted, on which the five Great Powers had permanent seats.

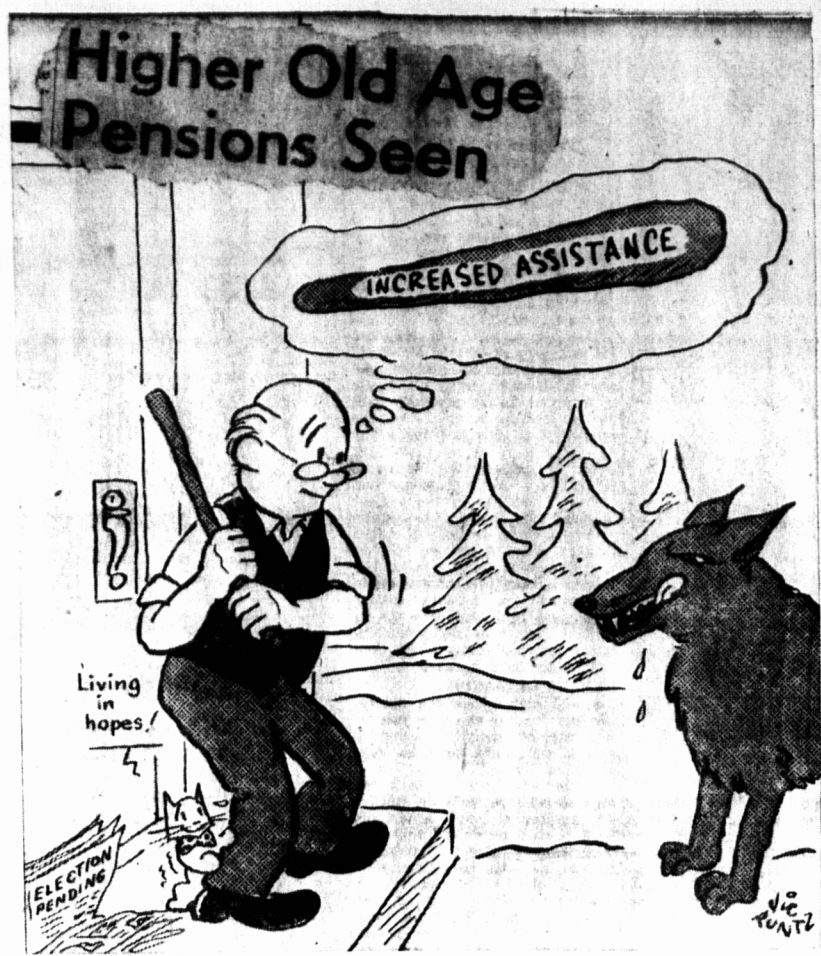
The death rate in Canada in 1956 was about the same as in 1955, which was an all-time low of 8.2 per 1,000 population. Last year was the fifth year in succession in which the death rate was under 9 per thousand.

"The Canadian people can be proud of the marked progress they have made over the years in reducing the toll of premature death," said Mr. Claxton.

Where the average span of life in Canada stands at 70 years, as is the case at present, certainly here is a tribute to collective, co-operative effort.

U.N. Anomalies
That the United Nations, in its present form, consists of anything but an impartial tribunal on world affairs has been demonstrated pretty clearly during the past few months.

It is obvious, comments the Sydney Post Record, that the Members of Parliament cannot keep their minds off the coming general election.



A STOUTER STICK TO KEEP HIM FROM THE DOOR

A Canadian Top Diplomat

By Alan Harvey
Canadian Press Staff, London

He's one of Canada's top diplomats—but he'd rather ride in a beat-up station wagon than in a half-black-long ambassadorial limousine.

He can produce a policy for abstruse international problems, delicately balancing all the right political and economic factors.

These somewhat contradictory qualities are united in Norman Robertson, a man who has done as much as any man to shape Canada's foreign service.

Washington to head the Canadian embassy, ending a five-year term as high commissioner in London.

The move completes his experience of the Ottawa-London-Washington circuit, the top-level diplomatic triangle which has largely bounded his 27 years in politics.

"Robertson is uncanny," a British government minister recently told this reporter. "He can see more sides to a question than anybody I know."

He has long been one of Canada's foremost policy-makers. As right-hand man to the late prime minister Mackenzie King in the Second World War, he was one of the secret brains behind the war effort.

The late Sir Stafford Cripps said he would as soon consult Robertson on British affairs as any of his own department heads.

Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Anthony Eden when prime minister, sought his counsel. When the high commissioner returned to Ottawa, after his first London tour in 1946-49, The Times commented: "It is remarkable how often, and with what respect, his opinions have been quoted privately by ministers and others."

Formulating policy is a special gift. "Give Norman a problem and that wonderful mind swings into action," said a man who knows him.

"Of one mental compartment come all the relevant historical facts, out of another the economic patterns, and so on. As you watch him at work, your horizons widen, and everything falls into perspective."

For all his brainpower, Robertson is reticent and shy in society. He lacks public-relations touch. Recently he travelled from a London airport in a station wagon carrying diplomatic mail rather than ride in the big ambassadorial car which takes him, especially, in these days of gasoline rationing.

He is interested in people, remembers their names and can reel off their family backgrounds. His staff worships him. He hates formality and won't use new-fangled things like push buttons.

Eleanor Fleming of Lethbridge, Alberta, his secretary nearly eight years, says this sometimes means "lots of running back and forth" but makes plain she wouldn't want it any other way.

It is a bold, original bridge player, but in city of high-stake card experts he limits himself to an odd sixpenny session at the Saville Club. He is informed on Canadian paintings but lacks a sensitive ear for music.

Norman Alexander Robertson was born in Vancouver March 4, 1904, with a double dose of highland Scots blood. His father, Lennox, was a classics teacher in Vancouver and his mother was a Macleod from the Isle of Skye.

He graduated at 19 from the University of British Columbia, won a Rhodes Scholarship and went to Balliol, Oxford. Later, studying at Brookings Graduate School, Washington, he met a Netherlands girl there on scholarship, Jette Welling. They were married in 1928 and have two daughters, Alex, 25, and Judith, 14. Alex now is with a Toronto department store.

Robertson entered government service in 1929 and stayed, except for a depression-years interlude at Harvard as a lecturer. His big break came in 1941 when he was appointed external affairs under-secretary and became behind-the-scenes mastermind of the war effort.

He has stood at the centre of some great political events but his role may never be disclosed fully. "I don't keep a diary and I don't write private letters," he says, shrugging off a suggestion about memoirs.

Newspaper men are kept at arm's length. A reporter has to content himself with hints that during the recent Suez crisis, Canadian diplomacy played a major part, even toning down some of the phrases in British speeches.

Higher College Pensions Seen

INCREASED ASSISTANCE



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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sudesea, M. D.

UNNEEDED TRANSFUSION MAY SOMETIMES BE FATAL
CERTAIN routine blood transfusions given in hospitals throughout the nation might be unnecessary. In some cases, injection of unneeded blood can be extremely harmful—even fatal.

In fact, not long ago at a meeting in Chicago of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Dr. William Freeman said that tests indicated that certain patients who normally would have been given additional blood by transfusion had more than enough to start with. However, these cases are the exception to the rule.

Until quite recently, doctors have had no accurate method of measuring the total blood quantity of a patient. Instead, we have had to estimate the amount of blood circulating through the system by time-consuming analyses of elements of the blood, plasma and cells.

But now, by injecting radio-active iodine into the blood stream, and with the aid of the laboratory, doctors can come up with a pretty accurate measurement. With a sensitized geiger-counting machine, they can tell where this iodine is in the blood stream, where it is going and how much it has been diluted.

The extent of the dilution reveals the total amount of circulation blood. Using this method of determining the need for blood, Dr. Freeman checked 300 seriously ill or post-operative patients who might have been given routine blood transfusions on the basis of usual tests.

Transfusions, he reports, would have been wasted on 75 per cent of them. In cases of arteriosclerosis or impaired heart, addition of superfluous amounts of blood can even at times cause death by exerting excessive pressure on the artery walls. This might overstrain the heart.

INADEQUATE SUPPLY
Generally, it is believed that loss of blood during operations or childbirth frequently leaves a patient with an inadequate supply of blood which can be restored through transfusions.

However, Dr. Freeman says, his studies show that a number of patients actually have over-supplies of blood and blood fractions. All of which certainly seems to indicate that tests of the total blood volume should be made whenever possible before giving a transfusion. That is just what most doctors are doing today.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
D. B.: I have been losing weight and coughing up blood. Could these be tuberculosis symptoms?
Answer: One of the first symptoms of tuberculosis are fatigue and loss of weight. There is a loss of appetite, which is followed by coughing, expectoration, more loss of weight, fever and night sweats.

EGG PRICES
Sir.—Recently a friend of mine from home sent me a clipping of a letter written to the press by Leonard Macdonald complaining of the very low price of eggs at that time. I drew the matter to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, Honourable J.G. Gardiner, and asked for his comment.

Mr. Gardiner has replied, and I suggest it may be of interest to your readers. I hope that the suggestion he makes may prove workable and that they may be helped.

Since the Department has agreed to purchase the eggs outright at a price of 38 cents per dozen, plus one cent extra to cover oiling, it would seem that if Mr. Gardiner's suggestion is followed, it would result in a higher price for eggs to our producers at home.

It should be explained, however, that this would probably net about 30 to 31 cents to the producer. At least that is the opinion of people in the Agricultural Prices Support Board with whom I discussed the problem here. It costs about eight cents to grade, candle and pack the eggs. An oiling vat, I was told, is not expensive.

I am Sir, etc.,
NEIL A. MATHESON, M.P.
OTTAWA.

The Minister's letter is as follows:
"Dear Mr. Matheson:
This will acknowledge your letter of January 31st in which you enclosed a copy of Mr. L. McDonald's letter to the Charlottetown press.

"Since 1950 until this year the plan of price support for eggs has been to offer to purchase any eggs left, at an appropriate period during the year, if the eggs were oiled and stored to the Board's specifications. This left the trade the maximum opportunity to merchandise their eggs.

"This year it was proposed to again use this plan since with some variation in regulations from time to time it had worked reasonably well. However, due to a variety of reasons, among which the extra heavy production of Grade A Large eggs in December and January as well as the smaller than usual export market for Grade A Medium eggs, the Board has in addition offered to purchase Grade A Large eggs outright on the basis of 38 cents per dozen plus one cent allowance for oiling, at approved storage points across Canada, in not less than minimum cartons. Any organization or group of producers may take advantage of this offer. It would seem to me that producers in your province should have no difficulty in obtaining this support when necessary.

"I would also suggest that prices of eggs are usually much higher in the Newfoundland market and that your producers' organizations might give more attention to selling in this market, if there are extra quantities of eggs available in Prince Edward Island.

"Yours very truly,
"JAMES G. GARDINER."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The fellow who gets sore about the obscure house number on other people residences doesn't worry about marking his own, since he knows where it is.—Brandon Sun

For some reason, a man who is modernizing an old house is always either going into or coming out of a bank.—Stratford Beacon Herald

In December, the cost of living declined by one-tenth of a point—but so indistinguishable in the household bills that we hear no rousing cheers from the populace.—Ottawa Journal

Very few readers of the Alberta have ever heard of an ashan. In this land of cheap and abundant natural gas and fuel oil, the ashan is as extinct as the ox or the buggy.—Calgary Alberta

The don't fool with drunken drivers in Natal, South Africa, under a law that went into effect January 1. The new maximum penalty is a fine of \$1,120 or two years' imprisonment of both. In reporting the new legislation, Reuters agency, with the understanding, comments that it has had a "sobering influence."—Milwaukee Journal

According to present knowledge it is the Middle East that will decide the future of the world, since the world more and more is moving on oil. Inasmuch as Russia has always planned the domination of the world what better, or quicker, way to attain that objective than to extend influence among the Middle East nations?—Montreal Gazette

There are times when an old grouch smiles that he is merely resting his face.—St. Catharines Standard

A good waiter will tolerate the poor soul who orders his steak well done as long as he makes up for it by over-tipping.—Hamilton Spectator

The weaving of wigs is described by a wigmaker as a lost art. But bald heads remain, so the change must be in acceptance of the theory that baldness is a sign of brains.—Ottawa Journal

The La Printemps department store in Paris estimated was victimized by some 50,000 shop-lifters last year. This seems to be carrying the "Serve-yourself" idea a bit too far.—St. Catharines Standard

It's back to the natural waist-line for spring, says the New York fashion designer. And where, pray, is the natural waistline? For countless people over forty the waistline is an imaginary definition, like the equator. But unlike geographic symbol, which is constant, the waistline rises and falls by the dictates of the fashion designer.—Victoria Times

The first World's Fair since before the war is to open in Brussels in April of next year. It will be a great event, and it will make history, as such exhibitions always have. The last was our own, here in New York in 1939. Its theme was: "Building the World of Tomorrow", and just as the fair ended we all set about tearing the world apart with the greatest war in history.—New York Times

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Rebuilding Roads To Mecca

National Geographic Society

King Saud's state visit to the United States coincided, appropriately enough, with a program for improving travel facilities within his own faraway land, Saudi Arabia. In that vast desert region of the Arabian Peninsula, paved roads are few. Yet over the relatively short stretches, and over the long, dusty trails that cross the country and rim its coasts, hundreds of thousands of Moslem pilgrims travel each year to the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina. The current road-building program is focused on Mecca, birthplace of the prophet Mohammed and Islam's foremost shrine. Old roads leading to the city are to be reconstructed and new ones added. FROM ALL SIDES Present routes reach Mecca from all directions. Shortest is the asphalt highway via the Red Sea port of Jidda, less than 50 miles to the west. One of the longest will be the renovated 1,000 mile road from An Najaf, deep inside Iraq on the northeast. Little used for centuries, the track from Iraq is said to have been built by the Arabian Nights caliph, Harun-al-Rashid, so that his wife, Zubaydah, might make the traditional hadj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca. All Moslems feel that at least once during their life on earth it is their duty and privilege to go on the great hadj, held during the 12th month of the Moslem year. "Verily," says the Koran, Islam's bible, "the first house founded for mankind to worship in is surely at Mecca, a blessing and a guidance to the worlds." The pilgrims come from cold, lofty highlands of Asia's heartlands and hot plains of India and