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A Better Outlook

Premier Matheson's statement to the Legislature yesterday on the results of the representation made at Ottawa last week was reassuring. The Province is still in a serious financial situation, but at least some concessions have been obtained which will be of very material benefit. Ottawa will make full payment, under the old tax agreement, for the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year which had been held up on March 31, and will recover without interest the \$1,141,000 by which the Province was overpaid under the old agreement, in sixty equal installments over the five-year term of the new agreement.

Finance Minister Harris has also agreed to the establishment of a floor payment under the new agreement of \$4,165,000, which was the amount actually paid us last year. In dollars, Premier Matheson explained, this concession can mean to the Province in the next five years between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000, depending on whether the gross national product rises or falls during that period. Other proposals, he said, are under consideration, which, if agreed to, would give us further financial relief.

While these concessions are to be welcomed, they still do not afford any guarantee against recurring annual deficits. They do not take stock of our main argument for payments on a fiscal need basis. And it is worth noting that while we are now guaranteed payments equal to the amount we received last year under the old agreement, we are still far behind other provinces in the treatment meted out to us. They are receiving an average of 20 per cent more under the new agreements, and many of them are not yet satisfied. We were the only province threatened with having to take less. The removal of this threat therefore creates no embarrassing precedent so far as Ottawa is concerned. They could have given us a much better deal without complaint from other provinces, or straining the fabric of Confederation in any way.

The Premier also reported that his government is now prepared to recommend acceptance of the national hospital insurance plan, to go into operation some time in 1959. It has agreed to take over the old Post Office building at the very moderate price of \$15,000. He quoted the Prime Minister as expressing hope that the Borden-Tormentine Causeway survey, now being completed, would prove the project to be feasible. So hope we all.

On the whole, the Ottawa trip of Premier Matheson and his colleagues, Hon. Messrs Cullen and Clark, has proven well worth while, and they are to be commended upon their efforts. We judge from the Premier's remarks that he is hopeful that something more is in the offing in the way of fiscal relief. We certainly need it, and we are surely entitled to it. If we are to participate in the health insurance scheme, do something more than we are doing for education and avoid still bigger annual deficits than we have been accumulating in recent years, we shall simply have to get it!

In The Hebrides

An intriguing suggestion has been made at an official hearing in Benbecula, in the Outer Hebrides. According to the Montreal Gazette, the hearings were called to discuss the British Government's plan to build a guided missile base in South Uist, plans which have been opposed with unity and strength in South Uist, North Uist and neighboring Benbecula. The Uists are regarded as the last strongholds of a Gaelic life and language in Western Europe and the South Uist islanders have threatened to emigrate to Canada in a body rather than give up their crofting to the British Government.

The intriguing suggestion, made by Lord Gibson, chairman of the Scottish Land Court, is that the RAF recruit a Gaelic-speaking guid-

ed missile unit, dressed in distinctive Highland uniform, for the Uist base. He has a friend in South Uist, he said, who could provide the right uniforms. "I feel very strongly," said Lord Gibson, "that if the unit is designed as a Highland unit and identifies itself with the people coming here, then the future opens up bright indeed."

"The suggestion," comments The Gazette, "might prove just the marmalade required to sweeten up the negotiations. An RAF spokesman at Benbecula declared that the Government had searched everywhere and South Uist is the only appropriate site. The islanders are equally firm. There is no wish on either side to force the issue to a test of cyclamore-verses-missile (besides, the claymore might win)."

"But there are a few details that Lord Gibson would be wise to watch. Does his friend in South Uist make asbestos kilts? The blast from a guided missile could do awful things to kilted dignity. The effect might be more easily gained by changing the American names of the missiles to Scottish names and painting them in the appropriate tartans. Instead of the American 'shoot the bird' the launching order could be 'Blow gently, sweet Afton.' Unfortunately, that isn't Gaelic. But the sentiment is there."

U. N. Statistics

The 1956 issue of the United Nations' Statistical Year Book, which was published a short time ago, is notable for the information it contains concerning the Soviet Union, Red China and the Communist countries of Eastern Europe. For what they are worth—one but the governments concerned can say whether they are accurate or not—they reveal that, although the West is keeping ahead of the Communist world in quantity of goods and power produced, the latter's share of the total world volume is increasing rapidly. In some instances the increase is higher proportionately than that of the West.

This is an important revelation; for, of course, in the long run, barring another world war, the strength of the two opposing blocs will be gauged in economic terms. It has significant political considerations, too. There is no doubt that at the present time some of the so-called "fringe" nations are passively friendly with the West chiefly because they feel it is economically advantageous for them to be so. Whether they will continue to follow that course if and when economic power is about evenly distributed between East and West is a question. At the best, it is a precarious sort of friendship.

Meanwhile, the West is making great economic progress, according to the Year Book. It says that the non-Communist world's factories and mines in 1955 produced twice as much goods as in any pre-war year. Its railways handled more than twice as much freight; its ships carried about two-thirds more cargo, and there were twice as many motor vehicles on its roads than in 1938. The Year Book doesn't reveal how many more persons these vehicles killed. Perhaps that doesn't belong to U.N. statistical research. It is a matter of importance, nevertheless—and of tragedy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Among the inventions displayed at the annual Paris inventors' exhibition this week is a noiseless motor horn. It enables a motorist using a photo-electric beam from his headlight to sound a buzzer inside the vehicle in front of him.

Prince Edward Island will be well represented on the new Canada Cultural Council in the person of Dr. Frank MacKinnon, principal of Prince of Wales College. Leading educationists across the Dominion have been appointed, under the chairmanship of Hon. Brooke Claxton, former Minister of Defence. Their ages are given in the news report, and it is noteworthy that Dr. MacKinnon, at 37, is by far the youngest recipient of this honour. Except for the permanent directors, the Council members will receive expenses but no salaries. They will have responsible duties nevertheless. Of the \$100,000,000 allocated to the Canada Council, \$50,000,000 will be used as an endowment fund and the other \$50,000,000 to aid in university construction over the next ten years.



THERE, BOYS AND GIRLS, A REAL EASTER BUNNY!

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of "Worshipers of question of interest." The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

Sir,—We have in this Province the following organizations: Canadian National Institute for The Blind, The Cancer Society, The T. B. League, Cerebral Palsy Association, Association for Retarded Children and many others, all very necessary and worthy organizations, doing a great deal for the unfortunate victims of these diseases. However the biggest crippling disease of them all, rheumatism and arthritis does not have a provincial organization.

Being handicapped for ten years with arthritis I am very interested in seeing a society being formed here, and giving aid to new sufferers before it is too late. Two years ago I wrote the Dominion headquarters of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society and inquired when they expected to organize a society in this Province. I was told that they expected to form a society here in 1957. With this thought in mind I wrote the Society a short time ago and asked them the same question. I received the following reply: "We are very sorry but we cannot see a society being organized in P.E.I. this year. Two years ago we based our assumptions on the interest shown by the Women's Institute, but now this interest seems to have died out, and at this time there does not appear to be sufficient interest shown to warrant the organization of a Rheumatism and Arthritis Society in P.E.I."

Personally I cannot understand the lack of interest, every day you see people handicapped by these diseases.

If anyone reading this letter is interested in helping these people and forming a Rheumatism and Arthritis Society, I would appreciate hearing from them so that I can again write the Dominion headquarters and submit to them proof of interest. Thanking you Sir, for granting space for this letter.

I am Sir, etc.,
J.H. ERIC MACDONALD
254 Euston St.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

A FINE EXAMPLE

Sir,—I was privileged to attend the annual Provincial Girl Guide Meeting last Saturday and was filled with amazement at the activities of this truly wonderful group of women, all giving considerably of their time for no remuneration except that of carrying on work, that is of such benefit in the training of our girls to be good and loyal citizens, to be able housewives, and above all to live clean and healthy lives.

Indeed special emphasis could be placed on the latter these days when we read and hear of so much depravity among our young people. Watch a group of Guides or Brownies, are they not reflecting the teachings of their Leaders with their clean, shining, alert appearance? Once a Guide always a Guide. Follow the career of a girl whom you have known as a Guide and you will find her leading a happy, useful and well adjusted life, wherever she may be. Perhaps at the time of learning some particular Guide Rule or motto, it may not make a deep impression, but is never forgotten when a situation arises it will come into mind and be put to good use.

At the head of this organization we have an outstanding woman in Mrs. H. Cadmore. She took over the position when a most active year was being planned, the centennial year of the birth of Lord Baden Powell, and many were the duties demanded. She gives of her time unparagonably and is a perfect example of what a Girl Guide should be. Her interpretation of the "True Spirit of Guiding" is complete, it is just what our founder had in mind I am sure, when he and Lady Baden Powell laid the foundation of Scouting and Guiding.

Everyone knows what a busy woman Mrs. Cadmore is, how wide her interests, yet she makes time to visit Companies, attend meetings which inspire children

OTTAWA REPORT

Unclaimed War Gratitudes

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: Many veterans have never troubled to claim their war medals or cash gratuities. The Department of Veterans Affairs Ottawa has 1,294,200 medals and \$22,000,000 in cash still awaiting claimants.

These bonanzas of solid metal medals and solid paper dollars rightfully belong to veterans who served in the Canadian armed forces in World War I or in the Korean War. "Old Contemptibles" and other vets from World War I no longer have any cash remaining to be claimed. And of

course veterans who served in the armed forces of other countries have no claim on these Canadian medals or gratuities, even though they have since become Canadian citizens. Such immigrant vets must claim their entitlements from the government of the country in whose forces they served.

Letters have reached me from many readers asking for information or assistance in obtaining medals or gratuity to which they are entitled. I have written to most of these correspondents, to suggest that they should apply to The Minister of Veterans Affairs, House of Commons, Ottawa. No postage stamp is needed, of course, on a letter addressed to him while Parliament is meeting here, or within ten days of the opening or closing of a session. This applies not only to that Minister, Hon. "Bobby" L'Abatte, but also to all members of Parliament.

IF IN DOUBT

In one or two cases where there seemed to be some difficulty, I have passed the enquiring letter over to the writer's own M.P. Woodstock's Wally Nesbitt, the hard-working Conservative member who is a vet himself, was a very pleased when I dumped one such letter on his desk, and asked him if he could help in what appeared to be a deserving case.

But the honey of all those letters comes from Jack Manning, of Guelph, an ex-corporal of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. "The millions of dollars the government still has unclaimed is not surprising to the single men as it is nearly impossible for them to collect it," declares that vet with some bitterness. And he goes on to justify his bitterness. "Funny country, Pat, I have tried twice in eleven years to get some of my money, which is \$610.00".

The purpose of the re-establishment credits, which make up all the unclaimed \$22,000,000, is to assist each vet to re-establish himself in civil life. The money may be approved for such expenses as buying, repairing or modernizing a home; buying furniture or household equipment; assistance in setting up in business, such as buying tools or stock-in-trade; or payments on insurance or pension plans operated by the government.

Jack Manning judged that his re-establishment credit would be available for the purchase of a radio set. "What? Are you a cripple? Or a shut-in?" was the brush-off he got for that one, from the D.V.A. official he approached in Guelph. Then he tried to get a refrigerator. As he himself lives in a rented room, he said that he needed this for his widowed mother, but as he no longer lives with his mother, that request was turned down.

Perhaps Jack should try renting an unfurnished room, and then ask his D.V.A. man to spend all this \$610 on filling it up with frig, radio, tv and furniture. I shall send his letter to his M.P., Henry Hosking; and I am sure that Henry—another vet—will do all he can for Jack as soon as he recovers from his recent sickness.

MAXIMS

Money and time are the heaviest burdens of life, and the unhappiest of all mortals are those who have more of either than they know how to use.

FINE DISPLAY
NEW YORK (AP)—The Rockefeller Centre promenade leading from Fifth Avenue to the sunken ice-skating rink has blossomed out in its spring flower display—more than 3,200 blue, pink and white hyacinths appearing overnight in the flower beds.

PUBLIC FORUM

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NEWFOUNDLAND GRIEVANCE

Sir,—I have just read with interest your editorial of April 15th on Newfoundland prosperity and its relationship to union with Canada. One phase of the subject is in my mind as I write, and I will quote a phrase of your editorial which raises the point: "It is going to be some time before the people of Newfoundland's capital city are going to take enthusiastically to the fact that, for good or ill, they are now Canadians..."

The answer is that many thoughtful Newfoundlanders are well aware of the fact that Newfoundland was accepted into the United Kingdom back in 1906, and that through a winding passage-way well padded with political trickery condoned by the Governments of both England and Canada. It suited the purpose of the British Government and the Canadian Government in 1949 to suit a desire to take an instrument of law, the British North America Act, and convert it to a scrap of paper.

Because the Newfoundland people know and understand the political trick of the above-mentioned governments, they therefore know that legally they have never entered the union with Canada. This is the fact that is not known and understood by Canadian citizens, for whom Newfoundlanders have every respect individually.

About Newfoundland's present prosperity: it stems from the same source as the present Western Hemisphere prosperity, and not from Confederation (sic) with Canada.

The economic factors in the case are and are recited as follows: (1) Canada does not buy Newfoundland products now and did not before the coup. (2) Mr. Smallwood could not get any worthwhile Canadian capital to build up Newfoundland industries.

(3) English, European, and not Canadian capital have come in to develop Newfoundland's great Labrador resources. (4) By the pressure of present day customs barriers Newfoundland people are forced to buy Canadian products at home prices—away above the export prices at which they bought prior to 1949. (5) Every dollar paid in social services to Newfoundland citizens is collected in taxes of various kinds from the Newfoundland public and a considerable balance remains in the credit column at Ottawa.

Newfoundlanders hold no resentment against Canadian citizens, but some of us think that a little more ink should be used in the Canadian press to make the facts of the case known to Canadians. References mostly smack of: "Oh, well! Newfoundlanders are sore-heads, and in time they will arise out of their darkness and come into the enlightenment of glorious, up-right and superior mainland beings..." Said, but longable.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H. HERMAN ARCHIBALD
Visiting Charlottetown
April 15th, 1957.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

EVEN PERFECT VISION HAS ITS BLIND SPOT
Even though you may have 20-20 vision, you've got a blind spot. Everyone has.

Don't let it worry you, though. It's so small that it will never bother you. In fact, hardly anyone is aware that it even exists. BLIND SPOT TEST
Let me show you how you can get an idea of where your own blind spot is.

Mark a small dot on a piece of paper. Then, about an inch or two away, mark a cross.
Close one eye. With the other eye look at the dot. Then move the paper slowly to and from your eye. You'll find that at some point the cross will disappear.

Another surprising thing about the eyes is that good readers blink more frequently than do poor readers. The more you blink actually account for their being good readers. The blink, you see, makes it possible for them to ignore non-essential objects, such as punctuation marks and other gaps in the text.

AVERAGE PERSON
The average person generally blinks about 25 times per minute. Incidentally, most of you, dare say, are "right-eyed."

Statistics show that in some 80 per cent of the population the right eye does more work than the left. The left eye dominates in 25 per cent of the cases. And in the remaining cases, the eyes alternate with first one doing most of the work and then the other taking over.

CLOSE-UP WORK
This doesn't occur at birth. We start out giving both eyes the same workout. As we grow older, however, we begin to read and do other close-up work.

As a result of this, the images of both eyes generally aren't fused as we suspect they are. Instead, we are inclined to lean upon one more than the other.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
M. L.: What would cause a man's breast to swell and shoulder and arm on the left side to pain?

Answer: Swelling of the breast may come from a variety of causes, such as an infection or a tumor. Pressure on nerves could produce the pain in the shoulder and arms.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(April 17, 1932)
The fifteenth in a series of courses for fishermen was held at the Fisheries Experimental Station at Halifax, during the past two months. Among those attending were seven representatives from Prince Edward Island. Instruction was given in putting up pickled herring and mackerel, dried and boneless cod, practical course on navigation and engines and brine freezing bait and storage.

The S.S. Hillsboro is now practically ready to take up her summer's route from Charlottetown to Rocky Point. Considerable work has been done on the boat, and the ferry dock was extensively repaired last fall. It is understood

NOTES BY THE WAY

Perfume is what wins men, says a writer. We'll bet that the kind that comes from the kitchen stove is still the most frequent winner.—Sherbrooke Daily Record

The silliest expression of the season is worn by the bird which has been around all winter but is trying to give the other birds the impression that he wintered in Florida.—Hamilton Spectator

TEN YEARS AGO
(April 17, 1947)
The existence of a "serious condition" with regard to water supply, sanitation and housing in areas contiguous to Charlottetown is confirmed in a report presented to the Legislature yesterday by a special committee appointed last week to inquire into the matter.

In the Legislature yesterday Mr. R.R. Bell called attention to the recent press announcement that the P.E.I. Postal Division is to be abolished and that this province is to be subject to New Brunswick. Mr. Bell pointed out that this service was agreed on at the time of Confederation and that this service should not be changed without the consent of the Government.

The woman who arranges a match for her daughter often expects to be referee too.—Guelph Mercury

There are many ways to serve potatoes, a home economist enthuses. Alongside a good steak, for example?—Hamilton Spectator

All this lunatic bother and bother about proving you are a man. All that is essential is to be one—so men know. It's the deflating bantams strutting and preening their feathers, and cock-a-doodling their challenge, who cause more than a peck of trouble for themselves and others throughout the world.—Cape Breton Post

A forester in Canada can do an accurate job of counting the age of a tree. He takes out a core from the trunk and then counts the rings in a ring each year's growth. In Sweden scientists have gone further. They have invented an instrument that not only determines the age of the tree, but the relative growth each year.—Fort William Times-Journal

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