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N.B. Plan In Effect

The New Brunswick hospital insurance scheme is now in effect, the formal agreement having been signed at Ottawa last week, thus clearing the way for the plan to become operative on the previously scheduled date, July 1.

There is hope that the Prince Edward Island scheme will be signed very shortly, in accord with federal stipulations as to mandatory collection of insurance premiums in certain cases. In the meantime, we note that in New Brunswick the plan has been pretty generally accepted, although not all adults in all municipalities have officially signed as participants. But this latter class is very much in the minority, according to Provincial Health Minister McInerney.

The scheme provides inpatient beds and meals at standard ward level, as well as necessary nursing services, etc., along the lines of the proposed plan in this Province. For outpatients also there is a broad range of services including laboratory procedure and emergency diagnosis and treatment of injuries resulting from accidents.

The provincial contribution, of about one-half the total cost, will be raised through the premium method from those enrolled. For a married couple and dependent members of their family, the annual total premium payment is slightly over \$50. For a single person, average costs are one-half of that figure, or just over \$25. It is estimated that total costs of operation in New Brunswick will run, in the first year at least, to approximately \$14,000,000. This means that provincial share of the outlay must be met through contributors' premiums totalling in the vicinity of \$7,000,000.

New Brunswick is the eighth province to adopt the scheme, leaving Quebec and Prince Edward Island as the only provinces which have not yet consummated an agreement with the federal health authority.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Drug manufacturers in recent months have developed a new group of products—energizing or "psychic shock" pills that are the opposite of tranquilizers. They are being used in treating the mentally ill, especially those suffering from depression.

As we grow in nationhood, we must be prepared to accept its responsibilities as well as its privileges. According to U.S. Senator Wayne Morse, Canada has shown too little interest in pan-American conferences and often its chair at the conferences has remained empty. He said this following the first meeting of the current session at Ottawa of the Interparliamentary Committee on Canadian-United States problems.

U.S. Secretary of State Herter, in his report to the nation on the Geneva conference, admitted the obvious—that no significant progress had been made toward solving the problems of Berlin and Germany. Toward the close, however, he said the talks had revealed "areas of agreement concerning specific arrangements for Berlin," and that it may be possible "to build on these areas" when the conference resumes on July 13.

Trade With Britain

When the Commonwealth trade conference met in Montreal last fall, it was hoped that the foundation had been laid for a large expansion in British-Canadian trade. That, indeed, was what was announced at the time. It is very disappointing, therefore, to note, on the authority of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, that in the first three months of 1959, imports from the United Kingdom into this country were down by eight percent, compared with the same period in 1958. These figures may have been in the mind of Sir David Eccles, President of the British Board of Trade, when, earlier this year, he discussed the prospects for the sale of British goods in the Canadian market. "No other country," he said bluntly, referring to Canada, "sold us so much more than it bought."

The United Kingdom does not have to wait, hat in hand, for the privilege of trading with us. Under a new agreement with the Soviet Union, it has contracted to buy and sell in the Russian market on a fairly substantial, and increasing, scale over the next five years. This may not affect us directly, but the implications are clear enough. If we want to continue to sell in the British market we must do so on a reciprocal basis, and on terms that the British can meet. There is no question as to their desire to expand their trade relations with us—they even offered to do so on a free-trade basis—but it takes two to make a bargain.



OTTAWA REPORT

P.M.'s Faithful Attendant

By Patrick Nicholson

Our Prime Minister is an early riser. He starts his morning with a routine of exercises and a shower. He then goes to his office as early as 8.30 a.m. Arriving well before that hour himself, his first act every day is to call for Champagne.

This disclosure may surprise those who know that Mr. John Diefenbaker is an abstainer. It may even surprise many who know the tanned door guardian just as "Gilbert". It was 42 years ago when Gilbert Champagne, a self-assured little French-Canadian boy, started work on Parliament Hill as a messenger; at the modest pay of \$30 per month.

Since then, he has served as confidential messenger to every prime minister except Mr. St. Laurent, and to every leader of the Conservative Party. His niche was carved early on the personal staff of the Conservative Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden. But when Mackenzie King defeated Borden, the outgoing P.M. neglected to take all his staff with him. Gilbert succinctly described that minor personal disaster in few words: "I got stranded in 1921."

For a further 14 years, Gilbert worked for changing Conservative and Liberal Prime Ministers until in 1935 he moved out into the office of the Leader of the Opposition with Mr. R.B. Bennett. That began what he calls gloomily "22 years of obscurity" with each of the off-changed Tory leaders.

Agitation For "Little Summit"

By Joseph MacSwain Canadian Press Staff Writer

France and Italy have added weight to the idea that there should be some kind of a meeting of Western statesmen to precede the reopening of the East-West conference at Geneva July 13.

Suggestions to this effect have been floating around since before the Geneva foreign ministers' talks went into recess, bringing a distinctly cool reaction in Washington. But pressures for a high-level Western get-together seem to be increasing.

President de Gaulle of France and President Gronchi of Italy—in a communique marking the end of de Gaulle's official visit to Rome—said a meeting should comprise the foreign ministers of their countries along with the United States and Britain. "Chance" for Konrad Adenauer of West Germany wants a "little summit" meeting of the Western powers and, before the de Gaulle visit, Italy had joined Belgium in proposing a meeting of the NATO council to map out strategy for the coming year tussle with the Russians.

President Eisenhower and State Secretary Christian Herter are reported to feel there is a danger that a hurried meeting would give an impression of disarray in the Western ranks, when actually they are aligned on essential points.

But de Gaulle, particularly, has long pressed for more consultation and a greater hearing for France not only in NATO but on all issues dividing East and West. His determination has led to some rude shocks for NATO.

While such questions as a possible summit meeting with Russian Premier Khrushchev would have top priority at a Western conference, some diplomats believe de Gaulle would use it also to clarify his stand regarding NATO's nuclear defence. Last fall the French leader made a bid for full participation in Western decisions on a global scale along with Eisenhower and Prime Minister Macmillan of Britain.

Talking With Larynx Removed

By Herman N. Busness, M.D. SOME persons have to learn to be deaf. Unfortunately, the only way we can cure cancer of the larynx (voice box) is to remove the larynx and the surrounding cartilage, or Adam's apple. At the same time the surgeon closes off the windpipe substituting an outlet between the windpipe and the patient's neck.

Now this makes a pathway for the air to reach the lungs. This is fine for breathing, but speech is very difficult, not only because the larynx is removed, but also because the needed air current through the mouth is missing. This is where learning to bech proves to be very handy. Many patients can be taught to swallow air into their stomachs. By expelling it again as in a belch, the air it produces a sound when it strikes the back of the throat. This sound can be used for speech.

NOT ALL PROFICIENT Only about 80 per cent though, become very proficient at this type of esophageal speaking. Now a New York surgeon has developed a new surgical procedure which enables patients to learn to speak again after only a few minutes of instruction.

The procedure involves the creation of an opening from the patient's neck into his esophagus. Then a small section of vein, taken from another spot in the patient's body is used to construct a tunnel from the neck into the esophagus.

FORMS SOUNDS Air taken in through this opening can be expelled through the mouth and used to form sounds. According to the Bell Telephone Laboratories, the speech of such patients attains a high degree of intelligibility.

The operation may be performed at the time of the removal of the cancerous larynx or as a separate procedure any time afterward.

SAFE AND PRACTICAL Dr. John H. Conley of New York's St. Vincent Hospital reports his new operation has been carried out on 15 patients and has been found both safe and practical.

The quality of the voice following the operation is essentially the same as that of esophageal speech, but because there is a better air supply control it is easier to produce.

QUESTION AND ANSWER Mrs. C. L.V. Can you tell me what causes a burning sensation in my mouth and on my lips? I have been to many doctors, including dermatologists, without obtaining relief.

Answer: A burning sensation in the mouth may be due to a number of conditions, including allergy, reaction to dental fillings in the teeth, vitamin deficiency, blood disorder, stomach disturbance or nervousness. The exact cause is often difficult to determine.

Persist with your doctor in the effort to obtain relief eventually.

least of all calculating machines—an ordinary pair of scales. Our problem is to add 127 and 254; you count out 127 marbles and put them on the scales; then you count another 254; you weigh the whole lot together and you have the result. (Obviously, to simplify matters, big marbles are used which count for 10, and even bigger ones which count for 100.)

Now if, instead of marbles, we think in terms of electrical pulses, we have an electrical calculating machine in which, for example, each pulse turns a wheel with ten cogs by one degree.

But the decimal system with its ten digits is not really suited to the enormous machines now being built. It is well-adapted to a mechanism which uses cogs and gears—such as an electricity or gas meter—but not to electronic techniques. The tremendous strides in information processing in recent years are due to the adoption of the binary system of notation has ten symbols or digits, and that the standard unit is expressed by tens, hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, etc. Ten units of any given order equal one unit of the higher order, and so on.

THE BINARY SYSTEM CAN In the binary system there are only two symbols—0 and 1—a each binary number being expressed in terms of pairs, pairs of pairs, etc. In other words, in units using the base two. Two units of any given order equal one unit of the higher order and so on. Thus, in binary notation, 0 is expressed as 0, and 1 as 1, but there the similarity with the decimal system ceases. The decimal 2 is written 10 in binary notation, and 3 is written 11; while the decimal 4 is 100 in binary language, 5 is 101, and so on.

A simple demonstration may help to illustrate the difference between the two systems. First the decimal system, taking as a basis our 10 fingers: we count all ten fingers and when there are none left, we have one unit, and we begin counting again. With the binary system, the basis is no longer the ten fingers, but the two hands, the pair of them forming one unit.

This system is obviously admirably suited to electrical techniques where there are only two possible alternatives: the current is either off, in which case the effect is 0, or it is on and the effect is 1. In fact, it has been said that electricity expresses itself naturally in binary language. There are no complexities; the current is either off or on.

Once you grasp this, you begin to understand the amazing short cuts a machine can take in relation to man's laborious calculations. All it has to do is to add, and to add—in the binary system!

The human brain could never do this. To understand how easy it is, let's take simple multiplication, every schoolboy knows that it is simply a sequence of additions; while division is a sequence of subtractions. In other words, to calculate, all you have to do is to add.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A youth unable to hear has graduated from Bishop's University with high marks and we feel less sympathy for those, sound in wind and limb and ear, who teeter on the edge of failure and call their examinations hard.—Ottawa Journal

A confectioner, G.P. Bour, is credited with inventing the ice cream soda in 1871, when he urged a customer suffering from dyspepsia to try ice cream and a bit of flavoring with his seltzer water. Since then, millions of children and adults have embraced this treatment with scarcely a cry of "mass medication".—Hamilton Spectator

Henri Milowski of Poitiers has been drafted into the French army and is causing more trouble than 10 other draftees. Milowski is the smallest conscript in France and stands four feet two inches in his stocking feet. It is not only impossible to find a uniform to fit him but also a rifle that he can manage. Officers say the draft board made a mistake.—Paris Journal

One out of every four paid workers in Canada is a woman. Further, according to a recent publication of the federal department of labor called 'Women at Work in Canada, last September, for the first time since the department began keeping such statistics, the number of married women gainfully employed outnumbered the spinsters.—Saturday Night

Some years ago a woman we know was taking a driving test when she was given this bit of advice, "Just remember," the examiner told her, "that every other driver on the road is a bit crazy." The advice was taken to heart and to date the driver concerned has had no accident record.—Woodstock-Ingersoll Sentinel-Review

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (July 2, 1934) Dr. H.T. Colvin, Ophthalmologist, Summerside, will attend the 37th annual Congress and Convention of the American Ophthalmic Association being held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Important business sessions, lectures and clinics will be the main items on the program.

An eleven-year-old lad, Alvin Hastings, son of Mr. Waller Hastings, Oribeau Street, was struck by a car on Euston Street about 9.30 last evening and received painful injuries about the head and face. The accident occurred when the boy dashed out on the pavement behind a moving car, failing to see the second car which was following.

MAXIMS

If things do not turn out as we wish, we should wish for them as they turn out.

The Poet's Corner

LONG GRASS This grass is trying to tell me something, in such places, I have felt the grass had important words—long, worthwhile soliloquies, not understood, even by the listening trees.

I can pass quickly over clipped grass, non-committal or shot of ideas. It has little to tell save what I know—the sound of the mower, the press of my feet on the ground, perhaps a very small snake or toad. But this tall grass that the wind waves has its mysteries—

not the least of which is the way it keeps trying to speak as though it needed to, as though I must seize its meaning, or it would go on week after week—maybe forever!—telling, telling to the trees, telling to the skies what it needs to tell me. I sit here—put my ear to it, listening. Long, murmuring grass, oh, what do you say that I so need to know?

—Helen Harrington in the Christian Science Monitor

The Age Old Story

He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

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