

Christmas free plantations dusted; and thousands of acres sprayed for control of flies and mosquitoes. In New Brunswick, 3,300 acres were sprayed for bush control.

The Department of Agriculture report, first of its kind, shows that indirectly World War II spurred agricultural flying, as young airmen left the R.C.A.F. to swell the ranks of flying farmers. Also the report gives credit to the Department of Transport for allowing greater scope to farmers who owned private aircraft and thus giving the mushrooming business a further shot in the arm.

Agricultural Matters

Col. John A. Macdonald, M.P. for King's, has done well to call the attention of Parliament to the inadequacy of the Federal Farm Loan Board under present conditions. The terms under which loans are granted—when they are—and the qualifications required of applicants are so rigid that only those farmers who can get along without credit are in a position to obtain it. The young farmer who is anxious to start out on his own has no chance whatsoever, under the provisions which now exist.

What is needed, as Col. Macdonald pointed out, is something on the lines of the Veterans' Land Act, a "well supervised and controlled" agency, but not one that is so rigidly controlled as to be utterly useless to the average farmer. It ought to be possible to work out a plan that would give hope and a reasonable measure of stability to young men who are anxious to stay on the farm or to acquire one of their own but who, under present conditions, are obliged to seek other employment, often not to their liking. This is one field, surely, where Federal-Provincial co-operation would pay dividends.

We are glad to note, too, that the member for King's had a word to say in behalf of our potato producers. The so-called "stabilization" price plan offered producers this year was doomed to failure from the start. It is an affront to farmers to offer them 36 cents a bushel for potatoes which cost more than a dollar a bushel to produce and to tell them that only first grade potatoes would be eligible for payment. Every farmer knows, if Federal agricultural officials do not, that there are few, if any, first grade potatoes at this time of year.

It is a strange thing that there is no standing committee of the House on our two largest-spending departments, Health and Welfare, and National Defence. There is a standing committee on External Affairs; there is one on Agriculture and Colonization; on Banking and Commerce; on Veterans Affairs. There is even a standing committee on such comparatively trivial subjects as the Library and the Restaurant.

But the Welfare State and the Warlike State have both been overlooked.

In past years, topics related to Health and Welfare have sometimes been referred to the Estimates Committee, and sometimes to the Committee on Industrial Relations. Yet, even with a national hospital insurance plan being set up as a first step towards a comprehensive national health service, Parliament has never seen fit to take advantage of the presence in it of fully qualified medical men.

Flying Farmers

Canadian farmers are taking to the air to keep pace with the times. Today airplanes are used for many things, from chasing ducks from swathed grain to making a quick trip to town for implement parts. Yet the first flight for agricultural purposes was made just 38 years ago at Lake Timiskaming, Ont., the same year as the first plane flew from Halifax to Vancouver.

Since 1920, agricultural flying has snowballed to the point where last year 203 craft logged a total of 15,435 hours, according to a study conducted by L.E. Philpotts, of the Economics Division, Marketing Service, Canada Department of Agriculture.

Mainly the airplane was used for spraying and dusting. But the story goes further—much further.

A unique mission saw planes flying low over flax, vineyards and other special crops, raising the dawn temperatures so that frost would not damage the crops. From the air, strayed and injured cattle were spotted and other cattle counted and rounded up. Fences, windmills and other facilities were checked and repaired if needed, and salt blocks dropped for grazing livestock. A check was made on watersheds, runoff conditions, flooded areas and drainage and irrigation systems. Weeds and crop growth, crop damage, pasture conditions, orientation of field layout, and general field conditions including the time for seeding and summerfallowing, came under survey. Other purposes included hunting coyotes, foxes and other predatory game, timber cruising, surveying farm land before purchasing, watching for fires, and taking photographs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Senator J.W. de Farris says he has "nothing to retract" concerning his reference to Douglas Jung, member for Vancouver Centre, as "this Chinaman". It is very difficult to make a man see the virtue of good manners at Senator Farris' time of life.

President Eisenhower made an exception to the rule when he announced his golf score after the match with Transport Minister Hees and Senate Speaker Drouin. On his home grounds when playing with visitors the score is never announced. Apparently, it has something to do with protocol, a word which these days seems to cover a multitude of inanities.

The time to have cut Nasser down to size—as the British and French wanted to do—was when the Suez crisis broke. Now, by a bloody military coup, the pro-West regime has been ousted in Iraq and a pro-Nasser government proclaimed. According to the Associated Press the coup, if successful, will be the most serious blow to the Western position since the Egyptian dictator nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956. It will also knock the keystone out of the anti-Communist Baghdad Pact in the Middle East and seriously endanger Western Europe's oil supplies.

Seven parties won seats in the Finnish elections held last week. Out of 206 seats in one-house parliament, the Finnish Communist Party won 50—a gain of seven—leaving it equal to the largest other party—the Social Democrats, who also won 50 seats, a loss of four. The remaining 106 seats were divided among the Agrarians, 48, the Conservatives, 28, the Swedish People's Party, 14, the Liberals, 13, and the Socialists, 3. A coalition regime must, of course, be formed, with the Communists in a sound position to demand representation in the new cabinet, something they have not had for ten years. With a parliamentary strength of less than a quarter of the whole House, they may even be in the dominating position. A striking illustration of the dangers inherent in multi-party systems.



THE CEDARS OF LEBANON

OTTAWA REPORT

Public Health And Welfare

By Patrick Nicholson
 Special Correspondent for The Guardian

There are eight doctors of medicine sitting in the House of Commons now. They could form a useful and knowledgeable kerner committee studying health matters.

DOCTORS ON OFFER

Talk in the Lobbies suggests that this long-standing oversight many soon be put right. It is especially significant that mistakes have been found in the original Health Insurance Bill, passed by Parliament rather hurriedly just before the 1957 general election. Three amendments are contained in a bill before parliament now. But it is as so often happens, a committee of the Senate which has been thoroughly combing over this matter.

Thus, some of the doctor m.p.'s in both the Conservative and the Liberal parties have been discussing this, and have made the official proposal that a Health and Welfare Committee should be set up, including some or all of their number. Hon. Paul Martin, a former Minister of National Health and Welfare, has endorsed this suggestion in talking to me. And the Liberal caucus has considered the proposal also, and in general expressed its support.

Doctors are naturally especially interested in the new Health Insurance scheme. Many of them

fear that it may be permitted to grow into something approaching the unattractive system of state medicine introduced into Britain just after the war. These hope that freedom of choice will always be retained, through the operation of the plan as an insurance proposition, which will provide in case of illness the money with which the patient may pay for such services as he wishes to select.

DIAGNOSIS IMPORTANT

In spite of the substantial increase in the number of hospital beds across Canada there is still believed to be a serious shortage in some areas. British Columbia and Saskatchewan are said to be among the better equipped provinces in this regard, while Ontario may be one of the worst.

When the hospital insurance plan is fully in effect, we will perhaps see whether or not there is any justification for the fears that the hospital facilities will be swamped.

One important aspect to this is the matter of diagnosis. As the original act stood, diagnostic services were to be provided to in-patients, but not to out-patients. Thus, in order to obtain the services free under the hospital insurance plan, a patient would have to occupy a bed. But adequate diagnosis, including laboratory facilities for patients without them occupying a scarce bed on an out-patient basis. This is one of the corrections which is typical of the advantages accruing from a Health Committee, such as these doctors are now privately proposing.

The Voice Of The Turtle

Arthur Blakely in The Montreal Gazette

The Liberals haven't yet performed up to expectations in the role of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

There are, of course, reasons. The role is one to which the Liberals had long considered their talents peculiarly unsuited and which they accepted a year ago only because the electors gave them little or no choice in the matter.

The Opposition is weak numerically. Forty-nine Liberals oppose 207 Conservatives. Or they would, if absenteeism were a thing of the past. Which, of course, it is not.

Further, these Liberals lack opposition experience after 23 un-interrupted years in office. Still further, the last two elections tended to wipe the slate clean of political issues which they would have been able to use to advantage while serving a trying and difficult period of apprenticeship.

But none of these factors, and no combination thereof, offers a complete explanation of the relatively weak showing of the Liberals in the House of Commons up to the present.

It isn't easy, of course, for a party to make an impressive showing in the Commons when it can count on the services of only 40 M.P.'s. But after the elections of 1935 and 1940, the Conservatives had to make do as best they could with only 39 elected supporters. In 1949, only 41 Conservatives won election. And the PC's entered the 1953-57 Parliament, during which they managed to outlast the huge Liberal machine on every occasion when it counted, with only 51 supporters.

SUFFERS BY COMPARISON

Today's Liberal Opposition suffers by comparison with those Conservative groups of past years. And it is now clear that the quality of opposition offered by the Conservatives during their long period in the desert, was underrated at the time.

This is all the more surprising since the Conservatives lacked frontbenchers with recent experience in the administration of Government departments—an advantage which the Liberals still possess, though not on the same lavish scale as during the last Parliament.

But it is probably unfair to measure the strengths and weaknesses of the Liberals in Opposition using as a yardstick the per-

Watch Out For Summer Pests

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

JIGGERS, the chiggers!
 Be wary of these tiny red mites during these pleasant summer days!
 Trombicula irritans, or chiggers, as you probably call them, are one of our worst summer-time pests. While they are generally found in tall grass and weeds, they also thrive in short grass.

EASY TARGET

Thus, even when you are lying on the lawn in your own back yard, you may be an easy target for these bugs.
 Chiggers do not burrow into the skin as is generally believed. Instead, they hook onto the skin. And, once attached, they feed on lymph or blood. This produces an irritation which is difficult to imagine.

Within 24 hours the itching becomes very intense. The inflamed blisters which develop make the skin appear as though it has a rash.

DON'T SCRATCH!

Now I have already warned you about the danger of scratching vigorously to relieve an itch. Scratching the irritation caused by a chigger can easily produce a secondary infection.
 Calamine lotion might help ease the itching. If it doesn't, better see your doctor and follow his recommendations. He has a lot of anti-itching medications available and can give you one specifically designed to aid such cases.

Usually, the itching reaches its peak on the second or third day. Then, it begins to subside, and in a day or two you can forget about it.

ACT QUICKLY

You might alleviate the itching somewhat by acting quickly once you are bitten. Get into the bathtub right away and cover your entire body, particularly the area that was bitten, with a heavy soapy lather.

That should get rid of the pesky little bug and any of his comrades which might have joined in the attack.

If you know you are entering a chigger-infested area, it will pay to take a few precautions. Sprinkle your stockings, and a perhaps your underclothing, too, with flour of sulphur. Then the little fellows will avoid you like the plague.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

T.C.: Is there any value in eye exercises of the muscles of the eye in cases of nearsightedness?
Answer: Although certain eye exercises can train a person who is nearsighted to see a little better, the actual deformity in focusing is not corrected.

The Age Old Story

For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed unto Him against that day.

GORDON TO STAY

OTTAWA (CP) — Donald Gordon said Monday he has no plans to leave the residency of the C.N.R. Before the Commons railway committee, Douglas Fisher (C.C.F. — Port Arthur) asked whether "the president expects to be with the railway through the next year." "I have no plans to the contrary at the moment," Mr. Gordon replied.

television interview. Mr. Pearson's handling of the issue was hesitant, maladroit and ineffective. There can be little doubt that had the positions of Mr. Pearson and Mr. Diefenbaker been reversed, the latter would have pursued the matter in his best prosecuting attorney fashion until Mr. Pearson emerged as a ruthless meddler with the news most 15 years in which to do it—and on their success or failure and views presented by this delicate and sensitive Crown company.

Mr. Pearson's questions and criticism have been neither sharp nor provocative. Perhaps they haven't been intended to be at this early stage of the new Parliament. It may be that the Liberals are biding their time.



NOTES BY THE WAY

Telephony recently cropped up in a science course. The teacher asked: "Can anyone tell me what nitrates are?" A long pause followed. "I'm not sure," he said. "but I know they're cheaper than day heat. It is a brass tube container."
 —Illinois Bell News

The proposal, widely regarded as fanciful, that man will have to find an unoccupied planet to which to emigrate because of population pressure, may turn out not to be so fanciful after all. A report, The Future Growth of World Population, by the Population Branch of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, says that if population continues at its present rate, each person 600 years from now would have only one square meter (39.37 inches square) of ground to live on. This would include Arctic wastes, deserts and mountaintops.—Washington Post

The mayor of one of the largest cities on this continent wears, so Dr. Eric W. Martin of Washington, avers, a "villium" tube pinned to the clothing just above his heart. It is a brass tube containing a minute amount of barium chloride and is supposed, in this case, to prove a valuable curative agent for the mayor's ailing heart. Dr. Martin, editor of The American Pharmaceutical Association magazine, speaking in Victoria, B.C., offered this example of how a man who is a leader of the community, could be gullible. He said medical quacks in the United States bilk the public to the tune of \$120,000,000 a year, and regretted that there exists no way of stopping their clinics from operating.—London Free Press

Canadian cigarettes are the same as American in not being healthful. There are differences; our cigarettes are mainly straight "Virginia" tobacco, not blends; they contain no humectants (moisteners) and no arsenic (fortunately); and they are made in this country under different conditions from American. There should be full investigation and study, and reports to the public, independent of tobacco companies and their publicity.—Toronto Star

OUR YESTERDAYS
 (From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
 (July 15, 1933)
 Approximately forty Prince Edward Island Practitioners attended the annual meeting of the P.E.I. Medical Society held in the Board of Trade rooms yesterday. Officers elected included Dr. L. W. Jardine, president; vice-presidents, Dr. Simpson, Summerside; Dr. L. B. McKenna, Charlottetown; Dr. Ross, Souris; treasurer, Dr. I. J. Yeo and secretary, Dr. J. W. MacKenzie.

A large and representative meeting of the lobster fishermen of the North Shore from St. Peter's to East Point was held in Elmira Hall on Monday evening for the purpose of obtaining a Fall season of one month from August 15 to September 15. It was decided to call a further meeting at Charlottetown to which delegates from all centres would be invited.

TEN YEARS AGO
 (July 15, 1948)
 M. F. Schurman Co. Ltd., contractors, have started excavating the cellar of the new Polycine Building on Fitzroy Street. The new offices will occupy the site of the Government Garage which burned down several years ago. It will be a two storey building, with twenty rooms which will be used for office space.

A group of 22 scouts went under canvas yesterday at Camp Buchan for a 10-day part, two Gilwell Leader's Training Course. Eli Boyaner, Saint John, N.B., Provincial Commissioner, is camp chief. The Candidates from this province attending the course are George Anderson, Charlottetown, and Eric Duvar, Montague.

MAXIMS

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