

Too Much Haste

With the short shrift given to the budget debate and the unseemly rush to get through important legislation in the dying days of the session, it was probably too much to expect our legislators to spend time probing into the complexities of the proposed revision of Canada's constitution. The formula, as agreed upon at a federal-provincial conference some time ago, received unanimous approval in hardly any time at all.

Yet a little more consideration of it might have been advisable, even though it had the OK of the federal government and all ten provincial premiers. For it proposes drastic amendments to the British North America Act and introduces the principle of delegation of powers by one level of government to another which could have far-reaching consequences indeed.

As the Winnipeg Free Press points out, of the 16 areas in which the provinces now have authority, only four may be delegated—by negotiation—to Ottawa. On the other hand there is no limit to the powers which the provinces, working in concert, may try to remove from the central government and place in their own hands. These even include such basic and essential federal powers as the authority to make fiscal policy, external affairs, defense, and so on. It has been argued that these powers will never be used. Why then, as we have asked before, were they included in the formula?

One would have expected from the Conservatives, at least, a measure of compunction about speeding this resolution through so hastily. Their national party leader, Mr. Diefenbaker, has been severely critical of what it represents, arguing that it would lead to balkanization of Canada into groups of semi-autonomous provincial governments and would leave the federal Parliament only unrestricted fields of action. The Conservative governments in this province as in Ontario have done their best to cut the ground from under his feet in this matter. They may have cause to regret it in the not too distant future.

Those Sugar Prices

Of interest to Canadian housewives is the fact that the Federal Government is considering whether to enter upon long-term international agreements to stabilize supplies and prices of sugar. The policy of signing firm commitments for guaranteed supplies at fixed prices has not yet been decided on, but it is under active study as a means of preventing future disruptions on the domestic sugar market.

An interdepartmental cabinet committee consisting of Trade Minister Sharp, Agriculture Minister Hays and Forestry Minister Sauve is reviewing the question and has been in contact with Canadian sugar refiners.

The basic point at issue, according to the Financial Times, is whether Canada is better off running the risk of violent price increases every few years while most of the time getting its sugar cheaper than most other countries, or regularly paying a premium for protection against unreasonably high prices by putting its supply under contract.

Ninety per cent of the world's sugar is already sold under agreement, which makes Canada an exception in buying at the going London market price. What happens in effect is that Canada gets the surplus from the agreements, which most of the time is dumped at low prices. This works out well when sugar is in oversupply, but Canadians end up paying the piper when—as in 1963—it becomes scarce. One suggestion that has been ad-

vanced to guard against this is that Canada become a full party to the Commonwealth sugar agreement. Under the agreement, Britain undertakes to buy sugar from Commonwealth countries at a guaranteed price higher than the market price, and puts a surcharge on all other sugar coming into the country equivalent to the difference between the free market price and the agreed Commonwealth price. The proceeds of the surcharge are used to subsidize consumer prices when world prices are high.

The Seal Fishery

This has been a big year for those engaged in the seal fishery, and it is gratifying to note from a Halifax dispatch the satisfaction expressed by senior fisheries officials in the Maritimes on the manner in which the new conservation regulations were conducted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The regulations, announced last fall by Mr. Robichaud, placed a limit of 50,000 on the kill of baby seals in District Two, largest area of the gulf. Restrictions were also placed on the killing of adult seals in the breeding patches and new regulations were imposed on the method of killing.

The officials emphasize the importance of conservation "if this renewable resource is to be exploited profitably each year in the future." Apparently they are less concerned about the hunting area off Newfoundland and eastern Labrador known as the "front." The season began there on March 12, and no conservation regulations are in effect. Fisheries department planes are maintaining patrols over Gulf of St. Lawrence ice to insure there is no further killing of young seals.

Meanwhile, however, Fisheries Minister Robichaud reports having received a further complaint from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with respect to methods of killing adult seals in one section of the Gulf. He made this statement in the Commons on Tuesday in reply to a question from Mr. Macquarrie, and coupled with it the warning that further restrictions may be imposed if investigation proves the complaint to have been justified.

Generous Leeway

Premier Lesage is pretty happy, as well he might be, over the generous leeway the federal government is providing for opting out of shared cost programs. On the basis of current tax revenues, Quebec stands to gain \$177.5 million by this arrangement.

This is equivalent to 20 per cent of personal income tax, which the federal government will surrender to Quebec in connection with programs involving hospital insurance, old age assistance, blind and disabled allowances, vocation training, health grants, cancer control, etc.

Quebec will also get a cash grant of \$8.5 million for opting out of less important programs such as hospital construction, roads to resources and forestry and agriculture. Total cost of the programs which Ottawa is ready to surrender to the provinces amounts to \$651.6 million, and of this \$408.5 million is being spent in Quebec. Also involved is a cash payment running into millions.

Under the legislation, provinces have until Oct. 31 to decide. But no province apart from Quebec has shown any interest in opting out. Most of them are expected to wait at least until the federal-provincial tax structure committee advises on those programs from which the federal government should withdraw and those in which it should continue to participate. This it will do by 1966.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Financial Post concedes that Canada's B and B Commission has scored one victory anyway with its first report. It is a best seller by Queen's Printer standards. Some 5,000 copies in English and 3,000 in French were sold or ordered at a dollar apiece within 10 days of publication.

We regret having attributed to the Canadian Press an Ottawa dispatch in Wednesday's Guardian referring to expenditures for the car ferry services and causeway planning activities as a Prince Edward Island allotment in the federal estimates. This was not a CP dispatch, but it was cited as indicative of the loose manner in which, in too many reports from Ottawa, funds for these purposes are listed. They are expenditures, as we said yesterday, for maintaining interprovincial services and should be clearly identified as such in the estimates.



THE OTTAWA SYMPHONY

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Parliamentary Debacle Narrowly Avoided

Canada's mismanaged and quarrelsome Parliament came within a hair's breadth of precipitating a stupid election over a non-issue, with most parties trapped on the wrong side and split. Could you picture Couette's Creditists, backed by John Diefenbaker and French-Canadian Liberals and English-speaking socialists, battling to uphold Quebec's language rights against Prime Minister Pearson and Bob Thompson? Sir Galahad Diefenbaker could expect a rousing welcome as his campaign train pulled into deepest Habitant-land, and he uttered in English—a spirited defence of French parity. But Tommy Douglas, who had fragmented from his own party, would have a different welcome when he explained to B.C. workers that he had voted to postpone their pension plans because they conflicted with Quebec's interests. And "Gentleman Mike" Pearson, speaking on behalf of the United Empire Loyalist stronghold in Ontario, could say: "I might have torn down your old flag, but I have thrust your language down French throats in defiance of the constitution."

AN IRISH PARADOX That was the probability faced by the House of Commons, when it reassembled at 5 p.m. after dinner on the eve of St. Patrick's Day. As Liberal Ministers tumbled from an emergency Cabinet meeting into a full assembly of the House—three very rare happenings at that hour—the word was quickly passed that the expected vote would be treated as a measure of confidence: if defeated, Mr. Pearson would ask for the dissolution of Parliament and an immediate election. The air was electric. The storm had dramatically blown up out of a clear blue sky. The dragged-out debate on the Canada Pension Plan ("a colossal fraud on all Canadians") it has been called by a distinguished expert) was in its 17th day. Mr. Perron, a portly but obscure Creditist, interrupted the debate on a question of privilege: Why had the proceedings of the 51 meetings of the special committee of senators and MPs examining the Pension Bill not been translated into French and distributed in printed form? It was constitutionally improper for the Government to ask the House to debate this matter, until this facility had been made available to French-speaking MPs, he correctly asserted. The can of worms thus opened contained some peculiar situations. Two weeks earlier, Mr. Perron had raised the same point; Mr. Pearson had courteously promised to "look into the matter"—but had effected nothing. Two days later, it was reported that just one of the 51 proceedings had been translated and printed in French: seven more were ready for printing; some had not yet even been sent to the translation staff. "I am shocked that we cannot have reports of proceedings in December available in translation by March," commented the N.D.P. authority Stanley Knowles. WHO IS BILINGUAL? The delay was attributed to the shortage of translation staff. It would take four weeks to complete the work, and to defer the Pension Bill for this period would prevent it being passed this session. Having failed to recruit 60 translators, the Government had to start a school to train them! Yet the B and B Commission alleges that there are 1,036,478 Quebecois and 302,400 others in Quebec alone who are bilingual. A vote would certainly see the Government defeated that evening. Liberal MPs were lined up to keep talking, if necessary, to postpone the vote; but in the event French-Canadian protests absorbed the time. The next day tempers had cooled, and Pearson backed down on his timetable for the Pension Bill, and ordered the translators to work 24 hours a day through the weekend, to have the translations available the following Monday. The Creditists accepted this. But it had been a near thing.

Fallout Falls

Regular government samplings have shown that radioactive fallout in Canada decreased remarkably last year. It was as much as six to eight times lower than the figures for 1963. This is very welcome news. It shows that the massive amounts of fallout from the last Russian and American test series have now been almost exhausted. Further, it is clear that the Chinese and French tests have had little effect. Fallout, of course, is not going to disappear suddenly. The fact that it is decreasing does not mean it is about to vanish. But it can now be certain that the worst is over, unless the test-ban agreement should be broken, or unless there is a major war. It has often been said that the amounts of fallout released by all the nuclear tests has not been enough to hurt human health significantly. But this is a field in which it is difficult to be certain of anything. The public will definitely welcome the news that the worst is probably over. Now that something has been done about fallout, through the ending of the massive nuclear test series, and by the passing of the test-ban treaty, it is important to see that everything is done to prevent a return to the situation of several years ago. No doubt there will be a few further French and Chinese tests. But mankind deserves to be spared another bout of indiscriminate poisoning of the air.

PUBLIC FORUM

GREAT DANGER

Sir,—This is the time of year when many a people begin to clean up around their premises. But they should be careful to exercise their God-given wisdom. For many homes have been burned to the ground, due to the lack of good judgment. They think that they must burn off all the old grass on their plots and fields. According to the best authorities on the subject, it is better to leave the old grass where it is, and let it rot and fertilize the soil that produced it, and thus avoid destroying valuable property. The Almighty, when He created man, placed an organ under his skull, and we are under obligation to see that organ put to good advantage. So be careful, lest you burn yourself out of house. Be careful with that cigarette butt, and keep matches away from the reach of children, for an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I am, Sir, etc., W.D. JOHNSTON Montague, P.E.I.

RED CROSS

Sir,—At this time as another call is going out from the Red Cross for blood donors, and as I have been one of the many, for whom the Red Cross answered the call for blood since the last public clinic, I feel that I would be very thoughtful indeed, if I did not add my voice to this appeal. During the latter days of November I was taken to the Charlottetown Hospital, in urgent need of blood transfusions; my blood type, O.Rh. Negative, of which there was none at that time on P.E.I. Some hours later the blood arrived for Sir for

Causes Hard To Determine

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A New Orleans, La., reader writes: "I was especially interested in your excellent column to my doctor, I'm one. Now let's be honest and do a column directed to doctors who treat such patients. Over the last few years, because I insisted, my doctor agreed to have me take certain tests and X-rays. All reports were negative. The problem is that he tells me they're negative, but never shows me the reports or pictures. This helps me little as I grow progressively worse. He says if I would quit worrying, my health would improve. If it would improve, I'd quit worrying. Every day we read and hear about close friends or relatives who waited too long. You can see from this letter that I no longer have confidence in my doctor. As a result, there appears but one out and that is to start from scratch with a new one who may assure me that my fears are unfounded or who might tell me I waited 'too long.' This reader signed the letter 'Hypochondriac,' indicating that he accepts the diagnosis. The entire letter is included because it demonstrates the extent of his anxiety. Blood tests and X-rays fail to uncover a cause for the symptoms. This disturbs some individuals because they know that the pain, palpitation, fatigue, or indigestion, heart trouble, cancer, or anemia are not responsible, what is the cause of the distress? In the past, 'nerves' were blamed, but hypochondriacs and neurotics will not accept this explanation. Many physicians are willing to run the gamut of tests and X-rays and dismiss the problems with 'everything is normal, stop worrying, and spend more time living and less time dying.' The reason for this attitude is that the real cause of hypochondriasis is difficult to determine because it goes back to childhood experiences. Most victims are emotionally insecure and anxiety ridden. The emotions are capable of causing symptoms that mimic a variety of diseases. This concept must be accepted before it is possible to relieve the discomfort.

ODD CRAVINGS

M. T. writes: Are cravings for certain foods during pregnancy of emotional origin or do they indicate a deficiency of some food element? REPLY Emotional, in my opinion. There are many reasons why some women do this but, in the majority, it is a "custom" handed down from mother to daughter. The women who eat starch, for example, do not lack starch or any of its ingredients. L. B. writes: Why does a man of 50 lack pep? I am listless and do not sleep well, which leaves me tired all the time. REPLY Anyone with your symptoms needs a complete examination to determine whether a physical or emotional disturbance is responsible. Today, men of 50 are young and there is no reason why you cannot be helped.

DEGENERATIVE CHANGES

L. S. writes: What is meant by myocardial degeneration? REPLY Like the old gray mare, the Degenerative changes usually heart ain't what it used to be, are part of the aging process but they may not interfere with cardiac function. BEST METHOD Mrs. V.E. writes: What is the most accurate way to take a temperature? REPLY Rectally. A pleasant atmosphere at mealtime is important. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Forgotten Armies

Guelph Mercury An Ottawa report says that the government, again without consulting Parliament, is about to consent to a fifth three-month tour of duty for Canada's 1,300-man contingent with the UN force in Cyprus. Again at heavy expense to the Canadian taxpayer one body of soldiers now there will be brought back to Canada and another sent out. It is curious that each time one of the three-month hitchers nears its end, the Cypriot Greeks and Turks make new faces at each other and UN Secretary-General U. Thant talks darkly of new crises. Presence of the Canada-paid troops may help the Cypriot economy and cater to the ego of our external affairs department. The dispatches from Nicosia, New York and Ottawa are strangely reminiscent of those which appeared three months ago and three months before that. The Canadians in Cyprus have become almost forgotten by their countrymen. With attention now on globally dangerous "escalation" of the trouble in Viet Nam; more than one Canadian now sweating over his income tax return which will carry with it his cheque to pay for the excursion to Cyprus could not care less what happens to old Makarios and his enemies. These world adventures by Ottawa's East Block have a habit of perpetuating themselves. The classic is the Canadian Army

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NOTES BY THE WAY

One of the most successful men in the neighborhood was a drop-out. He dropped out of high school, and into his father's bank.—Calgary Herald. Employee: "What do you want?" Boss: "May I use your phone a moment? My wife told me to ask for a raise but she forgot to tell me how much." —Financial Post.

Elderly gentleman: It says here in the paper that a man in New York is run over every half-hour. Old Lady: Tak, tak! Poor fellows. —Galt Reporter.

From Russia comes word of a wolf which has been trained to guard a flock of sheep. As for instance, here's a farewell note from a nine-year-old home-leaver: "Good-bye family. You all hate me. I love you all very much. God bless you." On the bottom of the page she had written "over," and on the other side "In case of air raid, I'm in the attic."—Galt Reporter.

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Broken Promises

Montreal Gazette Once upon a time, promises were given that the construction of Expo 67 would not require any encroachments on St. Helen's Island Park. The artificial islands were to be adequate for all the pavilions and other structures. St. Helen's Island itself was to be spared. These promises were found reassuring by a worried public. But now it is announced that the Drapeau-Saulnier administration has given Expo the right to make no fewer than four encroachments on the island. In one playground area, the Japanese pavilion, and perhaps others, will be built. South of the Helene de Champlain restaurant, the United States pavilion will arise. On a parking lot, a police and fire building will be constructed. And south of the swimming pool will be the subway station, bus areas and service roads. Now it may be argued that these encroachments will not really hurt St. Helen's Island. And this may be true, in the sense that the central core of the island, with its trees and hilly areas, will remain untouched. But it is impossible not to be apprehensive. Do these encroachments mean, for example, that Expo is running out of usable space? If so further encroachments could make further encroachments necessary. And these would be far more serious than the present ones. It is important that St. Helen's Island be preserved. This was recognized by the authorities when the original plans were announced. It is unfortunate that the promises have been broken. A new assurance from the administration that no further encroachments will be tolerated is necessary.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 25, 1940) "The Family Doctor," a three act comedy drama was presented at the Prince Edward Theatre under the direction of J. Austin Trainor, CDA, sponsored by the Charlottetown Hospital and the St. Charles Auxiliary Society. Members of the cast were: Fred L. MacMillan, Connie LeClair, Dorothy Hughes, Betty Mitchell, Ida Peters, Herbert Oatway, Fred Coady and Howard McInnis.

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