

Annoying

In the Senate debate on a government bill containing increases on imports of British wool cloth, Opposition leader W. Ross MacDonald called the measure "annoying" on the eve of next month's Commonwealth Trade Conference.

"We have invited representatives of all the Commonwealth countries to come here and discuss our trade problems," said Senator MacDonald, "A few weeks before they are to meet here we set up a partial roadblock which they have to encounter in order to reach the conference. It is not good policy to invite friends to your house to work out something to your mutual advantage and then do something to annoy them."

We quite agree with Senator MacDonald's viewpoint. From a purely financial angle, the increases on British imports are probably not very important. They may not increase the price of clothing to any great extent, nor will they have a very adverse effect on the broad pattern of British exports. But they will arouse fears among British business men that Mr. Diefenbaker's pre-election suggestion that a sizable quantity of imports be diverted from the United States to the United Kingdom was just talk, with no real desire for stimulating British trade behind it.

If this is the spirit in which Canada is approaching the Commonwealth Trade Conference, the conference will fail. Each member of the Commonwealth has its own trade problems. Canada cannot expect to have everything its own way. There will have to be give and take on the part of all, if the Prime Minister's laudable intentions, as declared in the election campaign, are to be of any practical service.

It should be needless to point out that the present Federal Government is especially vulnerable to criticism of high tariff policies, because of unfortunate experiences in this field of former Conservative Governments.

A Slender Hope

It is noteworthy that Israel supported the motion at the United Nations Assembly in favor of a solution of the Middle East deadlock on Arab terms. She did so, of course, lest she should stand alone in opposition. But it must have been with grim foreboding that the Israeli spokesmen heard the speech of Mr. Ahmed Shukairy, the delegate for Saudi Arabia, who said:

"Arab nationalism will not give up a single span of territory of the Arab fatherland from the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf and from the northern extremities of the United Arab Republic down to the southern borders of the Sudan in the heart of Africa. All this is the Arab fatherland, possessed by one and only one nation—the Arab nation." This area includes Israel, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, the United Arab Republic of Syria and Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Muscat, Oman, Aden, and possibly Iran and Mauritania. The region is 27 per cent larger than the territory of the United States.

Before the vote, Mr. Eban, speaking for Israel, defined the attitude of his government to the Arab motion, with special reference to the statements made by the delegation for Saudi Arabia. "We are neighbors," he said, of the two nations, Lebanon and Jordan, whose anguish and turmoil lie at the centre of the Middle East crisis today. With each of them we share a common frontier. It is their independence and integrity were diminished, ours would be gravely imperilled." He did not indicate what Israel would do in such conditions but the resort to force in self-defense was plainly implicit in his warning and was so understood by the General Assembly.

He then proceeded to challenge the concept of "one Arab nation." The Middle East, he said, is inhabited by

54 million Arabs, taking language as the broadest criterion, and 76 million non-Arabs; by eight Arab states and at least four non-Arab states. In the light of this fact, official declarations about a continuous area between the Atlantic ocean and the Persian Gulf as the inheritance of one nation "must be regarded as an offense to international peace as well as a distortion of history, geography and law." Mr. Eban added that the world should come to terms with Arab nationalism but only if that nationalism first comes to terms with the United Nations Charter.

If not, what then? That poses the big question, which no one ventured to ask in so many words, at the General Assembly. The hope is—and it must seem to Israel a very slender one—that the Arab world will learn moderation rather than arrogance from its new status and power in world affairs.

Cost Of Tests

Recently published figures show that in the last five years nuclear tests have cost the United States more than \$200 million. This includes only the cost of the tests themselves and the construction of the necessary bases. The actual cost of the various weapons and devices would, of course, greatly increase the amount.

Britain, no doubt, has spent a similar amount, proportionate to the number of tests; while the Soviet Union has probably spent more. It is safe to say, therefore, that more than a half billion dollars has been spent on these tests since 1954, not counting the cost of the explosives.

Think of the hospitals, schools, medical research and the like that this vast sum of money might have provided; or think of the food it might have bought for the hungry millions of the world. Add to it the cost of stockpiling bombs and other weapons of war, and one has some idea of the benefits which could come to humanity if only war could be outlawed once for all.

Growing Danger

The report of the U.N. scientific committee on the effects of atomic radiation does more than point out the danger involved in nuclear tests. It emphasizes that contamination from peaceful uses of atomic energy is just as dangerous as that which arises from the testing of bombs. In this it resembles a report drawn up by the British Medical Research Council two years ago.

The bomb tests will probably be stopped as soon as an agreement can be reached by the great powers for adequate control of the ban. The use of atomic power for peaceful purposes, however, will continue and be expanded as time goes on. This is something which no nation is prepared to handle safely; although, no doubt, research into ways and means of keeping the danger at a minimum is going all the time. But there is as yet no effective way of disposing of atomic wastes.

The fact is that this new source of power, with its potentialities for good for all mankind, came too soon—before another essential branch of scientific knowledge was developed sufficiently to look after the hazards.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One of the main causes of unrest in the Middle East is population congestion. Egypt, for example, has a population of nearly 24 millions—2,370 persons to a square mile.

A new college of science at Cambridge University, called "Churchill College" in honor of Sir Winston Churchill, is expected to cost around \$10 million. Already, more than \$7 million have been raised. A sizable amount came from American admirers of the war time leader.

In Smethwick, Eng. members of an angling club stocked a pool with 7,000 trout. That was 5 years ago. Not one was caught. Recently, divers were sent down to see what the trouble was. They reported that the fish had found an outlet to the pool and escaped, apparently soon after they were put in. There was not the right kind of food to keep them contented.

The massive growth of motor vehicles in Canada is dramatically shown in a timely report issued by the Canadian Good Roads Association. It calculates that local expenditure on roads and bridges in Canada this year will for the first time exceed a billion dollars. Only two categories of government expenditure—national defence and social welfare—are more costly than roads and streets.



HOW TO GET IT OUT

Spotlight On Polymer

By Patrick Nicholson, Special Correspondent for The Guardian

Polymer Corporation has long been the stormy petrel among the flock of Crown Corporations, which represent the taxpayers' venture as investors into big business under government management.

J.W. Murphy, Conservative M.P. for Polymer's home town of Sarnia, is in a better position than anyone else in Parliament to know the good and the bad about the corporation through local talk. Through the years, Mr. Murphy has repeatedly shown his uneasiness about the handling of the taxpayers' money at Polymer, and has fired repeated questions at the government.

When the Liberal Government was in power, its specialist in business management was industrial-millionaire C.D. Howe. He collected Cabinet portfolios and supervisory posts as enthusiastically and as numerous as my children collect postage stamps. But whatever Mr. Howe's Cabinet title was, he always had Polymer under his wing. And as long as the corporation was in that position, Mr. Howe would have no part of Mr. J.W. "Get-that-man-off-my-back" Murphy's curiosity.

But times have changed. Curiosity is welcomed now, and questions are receiving the most full and often the most surprising answers under the Diefenbaker open-book policy.

RUBBER WAR-BABY So the turn of Polymer has come. Mr. Murphy has had to wait a long time, but now he will get his watchdog questions answered. His pertinacity may well save the taxpayers many millions in future expenditure.

Mr. E. Rowzee, President and

Managing Director of Polymer, was called to give evidence before the House of Commons Estimates Committee recently. He described how Polymer was set up after Pearl Harbour, to manufacture synthetic rubber and thus help to meet the urgent wartime needs of the Western allies after Japan's advance had cut off our major sources of natural rubber in Malaya.

The taxpayers' investment in Polymer during the war reached \$48 million. In the decade since the war, the cost of plant used at Polymer has doubled to \$92 million and working capital has likewise nearly doubled. In the same time, the production of synthetic rubber has almost trebled, to 130,000 tons per year. One-third of Polymer's output is used in Canada, meeting 55 per cent of our total need for rubber. The remaining two-thirds of Polymer's production has been sold in foreign markets.

So good did Polymer's prospects look, that further expansion was planned. More raw materials would be needed, especially a substance called Butadiene which is obtained from natural gas. So land was bought near Red Deer, Alberta, and plans were formulated to build a plant there to make Butadiene for Polymer. The plant would cost the taxpayers about \$18 million.

MURPHY'S INSPECTION

But now the Murphy searchlight is on Polymer. Some of his pertinent questions concern the granting of contracts. Why, he has asked, has a certain labour contract been given every year to Curran and Herdridge, when acceptance of this tender by the well-known Sar-

nia Company of R.W. McKay Construction could have saved the taxpayers "many thousands of dollars a year"? Mr. Murphy pointed out that profits had slumped by one quarter over the last business year; why, he asked, was retiring President Barrington given a bonus of three months salary amounting to \$12,500?

And what about Red Deer? Imperial Oil of Sarnia now supply Polymer's present needs of Butadiene at 15 cents per cubic foot. Could not adequate supplies at a more favourable price be negotiated with Imperial? Is that \$18 million investment really necessary?

And what about our export sales? Are our foreign markets secure?

Mr. Rowzee has been overseas recently. The Hon. Raymond O'Hurley, Conservative Minister in charge of Polymer, tells me that Mr. Rowzee reports that the picture is not very glowing. Germany, one of Polymer's best customers, is building her own synthetic rubber plant. We may lose the French market. Stronger competition can be expected from the U.S.A. where there is now surplus production, and three private companies are planning to set up overseas plants.

Mr. Rowzee has said that Polymer has not obtained any increase in its prices during the past five years, although the costs of labor and materials have risen; this makes Polymer match our gold mines as about the only commercial enterprises which have not been able to increase their prices to match inflation during the past years.

Mr. Ray O'Hurley plans to visit Polymer himself as soon as Parliament rises. And, he told me, Mr. Murphy is invited to join him, to see for himself and to ask any questions. Whatever the answers may be, this new attitude is more satisfactory.

ately, it seems that Ottawa has learned from the lessons of the past.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Sept. 2, 1933)

The members of the Royal Commission on Banking were taken on a tour to view Island scenery yesterday en route to the Borden Ferry, and were given the opportunity to see Island farmlands at their best. Accompanying the party to the boat were Hon. Dr. W.J.P. MacMillan, Acting Premier; Mr. J. W. Boulter, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mr. S.R. Finlayson, Manager of the Bank of Montreal.

Word has been received from Ottawa that the military officers from this province who attended the practical portion of the Militia Staff Course this summer were successful in their examination. These include Major P.S. Fielding, Capt. J.S. Morris, Cpt. W.A. Smith, Cpt. W.H. Worth, Cpt. D.N. Bell, Major T.B. Rogers, Cpt. Sylvère DesRoches.

TEN YEARS AGO

(Sept. 2, 1948)

M.F. Schurman Co. Ltd. have been awarded the contract for the construction of the new Bank of Nova Scotia building in Summerside and work will commence immediately. The new building will be erected on a site that has been obtained on the west side of the present bank building on Water Street. This property was purchased last spring from Miss Adeline Green and the building on it was demolished.

STEADY GROWTH

Between 1951 and 1956 Canada's population growth averaged 2.6 per cent annually.

Chain Smoking My Blur Vision

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. ALL OF YOU are well aware that it is dangerous to drive after drinking alcohol. Well, it may be dangerous to drive while smoking excessively, too.

At least that is the opinion of a British publication, "The Optician."

WHAT HAPPENS

The blood stream, you see, absorbs carbon monoxide from incomplete combustion of tobacco 210 times faster than it takes in oxygen. Heavy smoking can produce as much as 10 per cent saturation of hemoglobin with carbon monoxide instead of oxygen. Tests have shown that only three per cent carbon monoxide saturation can measurably impair sharpness of vision and depth perception.

All of this, "The Optician" says, seems to indicate that smoking at the wheel hampers the eyesight. And certainly good eyesight is a driving essential.

ONE-EYED DRIVING

Speaking of depth perception, have you ever realized how difficult it would be to drive, or to do almost anything, for that matter, with only one eye?

Here's a little demonstration that will show you just how valuable your three-dimensional sight is. But I don't want you to try it while driving.

Close one eye. Then point to an object about eight to ten feet away.

You will notice that your finger appears to be almost touching the object. Right? Then open both eyes and look again.

PROPER PERSPECTIVE

Now you see both your finger and the distant object in the proper perspective. You can see that your finger really is a considerable distance from the object, not almost touching it as it first appeared.

You've heard a lot about stereoscopic sound lately. Well, your two eyes, operating together, give you stereoscopic vision.

These all-important eyes of yours are very sensitive organs. Better take good care of them. That means a visit to the eye doctor at least every two years whether you wear glasses or not.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

J.M.: I find myself getting short of breath and sometimes find it difficult to catch my breath.

What do you think is the matter?

Answer: Shortness of breath may be due to heart or lung disease and asthma is a frequent cause. Why not check with your doctor?

The Age Old Story

When a man begins to understand himself he begins to live. When he begins to live he begins to understand his fellow men.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There is a rigidity in prices which has been characteristic of our economy ever since the end of the war. The last thing considered is lowering factory prices. Anything but that. There is no more "free enterprise" because every producer expects to be protected—by somebody else. This is at the bottom of our present troubles.—Kingston Whig-Standard

Brooklyn sells more to Canada than Canada buys from Argentina. Louisville sells more to the Dominion than does New Zealand. Detroit more than Brazil. C.I. ago's sales to Canada just about equal everything the Dominion buys from Brazil. U.S. sales to Canada are several times larger than U.S. sales to the nited Kingdom. U.S. exports to Canada equal all U.S. sales to Western Europe.—Winnipeg Tribune

Cheers for that bold Conservative member of Parliament, Mr. Frank Lennard of Wentworth, for serving notice that he, for one, will oppose the wasting of public money on buying crude "modernistic" paintings to be hung in Canadian embassies abroad. He explains that, several years ago, he went to an exhibition of modern art and was unable to make head or tail of some of the pieces shown. He wasn't the only one, but he was one of the comparative few who had the intellectual honesty to admit it!—Brantford Expositor

While forest fires in recent weeks have painted a grim picture for British Columbia this year, one bright spot seems to be emerging from the generally depressing outlook. From fragmentary reports at hand, few of the fires have been caused by human carelessness, specifically the heedlessness, specifically the throwing matches, cigar or cigarette stubs from travelling cars. Public education is paying off.—Vancouver Province.



ATLANTIS Was it water's swelling wave That doomed Atlantis to the grave? Was it the groaning earth that heaved And left astonished seas bereaved? With white gulls circling in search Of vanished nest and wanted perch? Could we but see behind the veil Of ancient myth and fabled tale, Might we not hear the white birds crying Grief eternal for the dying Of a fair land and a brave. Drowned beneath an evil wave, Not of rivers nor of sea, But of inhumanity? S. Omar Barker In the New York Times

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