

For Fluoridation

It is possible that we may have another vote on the water fluoridation issue in Charlottetown in the not too distant future. In any case it is interesting to note that Ottawa, which like Charlottetown turned down fluoridation a few years ago, has exercised the privilege of changing its mind. In a plebiscite accompanying the civic election last Monday, the issue was carried by an affirmative vote of 58,234 against 39,075.

Within a year—maybe three months—fluoridated water will flow into Ottawa homes unless the anti-fluoridationists are successful in a last attempt to prevent it. They claim the pro-fluoridationists contravened the Elections Act by advertising their point of view on a Sunday, only 24 hours before the election. The reference is to a telecast over a local Ottawa station Sunday afternoon. The pro-fluoridationists maintain that the 48-hour blackout on campaigning applied only to candidates for office—not to plebiscites.

The anti's charge, also, that "our doctors and dentists have been betrayed by big business and we just didn't get enough contributions to get the information to the public." The pro's reply to this complaint is that the "information" in the form of overwhelming scientific opinion, to determine the attitude of the doctors and dentists and, in the end, of the electorate. As far as they are concerned, the issue has been settled. There was a majority for fluoridation in each of the 10 civic wards, the most resounding note of approval coming, appropriately, from the home ward of Controller-elect, dentist, Dr. Murray Heit.

A side effect of the vote in Ottawa is that the townships of Eastview, Rockcliffe, Gloucester and Nepean will get fluoridated water too. The city supplies water to these four areas and contracts for supply include provisions covering the eventuality of Ottawa fluoridating its water.

The previous plebiscite on fluoridation was defeated in the 1962 civic election, 45,428 to 43,577. Monday's figures represent a striking change in public opinion. It is encouraging to those in other communities who believe that this is a health move of prime public importance, especially to the younger generation.

A Moot Question

According to Justice Edson L. Haines of the Ontario Supreme Court, breathalyzer tests for drivers suspected of drinking do not go far enough. The present law allows a driver to refuse these and other tests, thus removing, in the judge's opinion, a valuable diagnostic aid from the use of the courts. He called for a repeal of the section of the Criminal Code which permits such refusals. This would allow the police to compel a citizen to take the tests.

The Globe and Mail complains that the learned jurist has overlooked an important fact, namely that this would also permit a citizen to testify against himself. The right of a citizen not to be coerced into giving testimony, it maintains, is one of the most vital rights that he has under British common law. Better, it argues, to hire a great many more policemen and keep them so visible on the highways that drivers would not dare to drink. We are all for British justice, and for safeguarding citizens' rights under British common law, but we confess that our Toronto

contemporary's argument in this case leaves us unconvinced. If a citizen "testifies against himself" by allowing his breath to be analyzed for alcohol content, doesn't he do the same thing inadvertently, if he has over-indulged, by his conduct at the wheel and by his general condition of befuddlement?

These evidences of alcohol absorption are taken into account by every court, but they do not carry the scientific authority of the breathalyzer tests; and that, it seems, is the real objection. It may be a valid one—on the ground, namely, that these tests are not as scientific as they claim to be—but surely it is unsound to contend that they are on a par with compelling a citizen to give verbal testimony to his disadvantage.

As for policing the highways so thoroughly that no driver would "dare to drink," that would take some doing! Prohibitionists used to maintain that with enough enforcement officers they could achieve the same result; and we know how that "noble experiment" ended! One's rights, after all, are strictly circumscribed by the rights of others. With the tremendous increase in motor traffic, the driver whose drinking habits make him a menace at the wheel may expect less and less consideration under the law. This is not injustice; it is simply an application of the law of self-preservation made necessary by the society to which we all belong.

Who Said Mushrooms?

Think of a mushroom farm geared to a production of 11 million pounds a year and creating jobs for a thousand workers when peak output is reached! That's the project which has just got into operation in England to meet the growing British appetite for this delectable fungus.

Hidden underground beneath the rolling hills of Derbyshire and using a network of concrete-lined, brightly-lit tunnels once used by the RAF Bomber Command for bomb storage, the farm is equipped with modern air-conditioning to give a scientific control of temperature and environment in the raising of crops. The cost of installation and other works runs to nearly half a million pounds, the equivalent of \$1,402,500.

The mushroom-growing complex is manufactured on the spot and transferred underground where the tunnels are lined with seven-foot-long wooden boxes, stacked eight-high, in which the production cycle is completed in ten weeks. Fork-like trucks and other labor-saving aids operating 100 feet below the surface provide an outstanding illustration of the trend in British agriculture towards mechanization and mass production.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In American Opinion, the John Birch Society's monthly magazine, this explanation was offered for President Johnson's visit to the polls on Nov. 8: "All of these 42 million supposedly reasonable adults voted for scrapping the United States Constitution entirely, as an absurd and useless utility, and for replacing it with whatever modernistic pieces of legislative furniture might appeal to the taste of the Supreme Court."

The new President of the United Nations General Assembly, Alex Quaison-Sackey of Ghana, pointed in his inaugural speech last week to the increase in independent countries in Africa from eight to 36 since 1957. Actually, nine countries were independent in 1957, but the omission of South Africa was not an inadvertent slip on the speaker's part. He did not include it in his list of free African states and a number of other African states do not recognize that white-ruled nation as independent.

Southey's in London last week auctioned, for \$12,600, a collection of letters from Rudyard Kipling's parents to his headmaster when the boy was 13. In one, father Kipling, an artist who had worked in India, wrote: "I must confess from what I have seen of Ruddy it is the moral side I dread a breakout on. I don't think he has the stuff to resist temptation. Journalism seems to me especially inviting for such desultory souls." Which goes to show that politicians aren't the only ones who hold journalism to be a rather low form of life!



BRINCO MANSHIP

OTTAWA REPORT BY Patrick Nicholson

Page Boys Beat Brunt Of Long Session

The House of Commons assumed a Dickensian air of brutality and sweated child labor last week, when three little page boys fainted from exhaustion at their work there. One young lad was taken to hospital in a coma. This unreported incident, more than the MPs' orations, describes the chaos caused by this long session of Canada's "Wrong Parliament," which has worked helplessly since it opened on February 18. It passed its 200th sitting day two weeks ago, and established the record as Canada's longest Parliament in two months.

When I heard about the page boys, I checked on the sickness, attendance and stamina of the various other workers on Parliament Hill. "I hope it snows so hard that none of you can get here tomorrow," a disgusted elevator operator told two MPs.

Toys And The Killjoys

As before Christmas the de-ozeders are again on the warpath against toy weapons of war. They include a highly vocal women's group, which means well but whose members would be better employed darning their husbands' socks than in harassing themselves in passing still more unneeded resolutions against nuclear arms. They may have concluded that since Canada now has the warheads—despite all their advice of recent years (and it was excellent advice, although unworkable)—they need a new target. Since most young mothers are too busy for extramural agitation, it is assumed that the majority of them have raised their children and have time on their hands. Have they forgotten that their own sons need the play toy weapons, which probably they bought for them?

The Far Blue Yonder

Mr. Grant McConachie's predictions of the shape of air travel to come within the next 20 years are to put it mildly, imaginative. The Canadian Pacific Airlines president believes that supersonic airliners (which are now on the drawing boards) will be able to make the trip in around 2,000 miles an hour will be obsolete almost as soon as they are airborne.

Instead, global flying (if that word can still be used) will be done at a rate that makes a typical 160 passengers, take off vertically, travel at around 17,000 miles an hour, and so will reach anywhere in the world in less than an hour. All of which sounds pretty funny. Yet science and technology are advancing these days at a rate that makes today's far-off predictions obsolete. Mr. McConachie expects that the airships to be flying by 1980. That is not very far into tomorrow.

Advertisement for 'McCulloch' Chain Saw, featuring a picture of the saw and text: 'NO SMOKE, NO ODOR', 'FUEL CHIEF', 'HEATING OIL', 'Phone 4-7311 CHARLOTTETOWN Petroleum Products'.

Diabetes In The Aged

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Several months ago we wrote an article on juvenile diabetes, saying the younger a person is when the disease develops, the more serious it is likely to be. This does not mean that the condition of the aged helps but that the younger people have large doses of insulin and a strict diet. These children do not get checked thoroughly in the management of diabetes, because they must live with it the rest of their lives.

We received an unsigned note from a nurse asking: "Can you write anything optimistic in your column about diabetes after the age of 60 years?" This question was made to order because the disease usually is mild when it appears after age 60.

Some overweight victims may be able to keep the disorder under control by losing weight and remaining slim. Others get pills daily. Insulin injections may be required initially but the majority are able to get along without the hormone as soon as the ailment is brought under control.

We might add to this optimistic information that diabetes at this age does not necessarily affect longevity. Some people become depressed when mistaking diabetes for a life-threatening condition. They should blame themselves, they are not responsible. They should blame the doctor who has not checked carefully. Since diabetes affects circulation, meticulous care of the feet is in order. This involves cleanliness, softening the skin with cold creams, and avoiding injury.

J. K. writes: "What is the difference between a sterilizing operation and a hysterectomy?" REPLY: Hysterectomy is removal of the uterus, a surgical procedure that prevents pregnancy thereafter. The operation is not done for this purpose, as there are many simpler procedures that include sterilizing. Tying off or cutting the spermatic cords or the Fallopian tubes are examples.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

British Tax Rates

By Harold Morrison, President, Taxpayers' Federation of Canada. Britain is taking new steps to battle inflation with a blunt warning there won't be any big expansion in the money supply to meet the increasing clamor by borrowers for more credit. Britons pay more for their loans as a result of the big boost in the Central Bank rate to the peak seven per cent two weeks ago. But still the demand for faster loans goes on.

Borrowers who increase the money supply, the Bank of England has warned banks to be more selective in their lending operations; to give priority to exporters and manufacturers rather than those who build houses and apartments and finance on-the-buff purchases of consumer goods.

Some newspapers immediately described this as a new credit squeeze, another step away from the Labor government's pre-election promises to de-inflate the British economy. But the Central Bank said it was a "selective restraint" and a squeeze on houses and apartments and finance on-the-buff purchases of consumer goods.

Alternatively, borrowers may start competing among themselves more sharply for existing credit, thereby pushing interest rates higher, adding to a higher rate.

The Central Bank's restraint, seen as a deflationary move, also may help to stabilize the British pound which currently appears to be holding its own.

Expensive Incentive

Winnipeg Free Press. One of the few seemingly constructive items which survived the wreckage of Mr. Walter Gordon's first budget was a plan of offering tax incentives to new industries which located in communities designated by the government to be areas of slow growth and unemployment. The concessions to companies willing to build in these designated areas are generous: an exemption from income taxes on the new plant's earnings for three years; a write-off of new machinery and equipment in as little as five years. If these proposals do not stimulate very marked activity, Mr. Gordon said, "I don't know what will be already apparent. It is at the minister's plan has materially increased capital investment in some of the designated areas, though at what cost to other communities and to the federal treasury in lost tax revenues remain open to question. The problem is illustrated by what has happened in a St. Lawrence valley community designated by the government to be one of slower than average growth. One of the town's principal industries, a paper manufacturer, has announced that it will install additional production facilities at a cost of \$11 million to take advantage of tax and depreciation concessions available to it. The new plant, though it will cost the government several hundred thousand dollars in lost tax revenue and will give the company a substantial advantage over its competitors, will employ only 30 men.



Hockey—An Old Man's Game

While youth still counts in the N.H.L., hockey is an old man's game too. A Weekend Magazine feature by Trent Frayne lists an impressive array of statistics and names—all pointing to the fact that the older players are invaluable team members.

Large advertisement for 'BEER The Evening Patriot' featuring a picture of a beer bottle and text: 'NO SMOKE, NO ODOR', 'FUEL CHIEF', 'HEATING OIL', 'Phone 4-7311 CHARLOTTETOWN Petroleum Products'.