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Freight Services

It would appear from the evidence and arguments before the Board of Transport Commissioners that the proposed abolition of local railway passenger services, at least during the summer months, has occasioned much less concern than the discontinuance of the daily freight train service, and the proposal to run three times weekly with such additional trains as—in the judgment of the railway—may be required. A strong case has been made out by spokesmen for our shippers and for the Government that the proposed service would endanger the business of our livestock and potato industries—both of major importance to the economy of this Province.

In the report of the Turgeon Royal Commission of 1951, it is noted that Prince Edward Island had furnished "extensive evidence that the quality of service throughout the entire Province is generally poor, that the train service is faulty, that schedules are not kept, and that very substantial delays occur in the delivery of less than carload freight." The Commission quoted in this connection Section 312 of the Railway Act, which provides that "railway companies must, according to their powers, furnish adequate and suitable accommodation for the receiving, loading and unloading of all traffic for carriage upon the railway, and without delay carry and deliver all traffic; and they are likewise obliged to furnish such other service incidental to transportation as is customary or usual in connection with the business of a railway company and as may be ordered by the Board."

Some reference was made at this week's hearings to changes effected on "other branch lines" on the mainland; but the transportation of the farm products of this agricultural Province is no "branch line" affair, and should not be treated as such. These products properly fall into the category of "trade between East and West", upon which the Turgeon Commission placed great emphasis. Indeed, that Commission recommended "that the cost of maintaining that portion of our trans-continental railway system which serves as a link between East and West be charged upon the general revenues of the country."

Senate Finance Report

Spending by all Canadian Governments during 1955 is estimated at \$6,695 million in the report of the Senate's Finance Committee, recently tabled. The committee undertook a study of this problem early in the present session. Its findings, comments the Globe and Mail, are disquieting on many points. They indicate that spending by all levels of Government continues at a deficit rate, with necessarily high taxation, thus adding an inflation factor of government origin against which our expanding economy must work out its salvation.

At approximately \$7 billion, total government expenditure amounts to 27 per cent of a Gross National Product aggregating \$26 billion this year (according to the recent estimate of Finance Minister Harris). That 27 per cent of GNP is lost to Canadian taxpayers, individual and corporate, before they can accumulate any savings for their own use. The best evidence of its disproportionate size is to be found in the fact that it involves a deficit for governments, in spite of high taxes at all levels. Their aggregate revenues are estimated at \$6,158 million, resulting in an overall deficit of well over half a billion dollars.

As the Senate committee's report re-

marks, the current trend indicates increasing public expenditures beyond the needs of the normal increase in population. . . . (Deficit spending) becomes epidemic and increasingly affects all public financing, municipal and Provincial, as well as Federal. What happens if this tendency continues and, through possible inability to find markets for our products at profitable prices, our economy slows down?"

The Senate report points out that no government has any money of its own. All its high spending must be financed either by tax revenues or by borrowing. High spending alone is inflationary. Borrowing can become dangerously inflationary. The gains are drained off before new profits are earned. They are drained off to pay for 15,000 new civil servants added in the past two years, at a cost for the current year of \$40 million above the 1954 level. That increase in the cost of Government is for salaries alone. And we cannot have 15,000 new civil servants without other expenditure increases proportionate to their activity—or inactivity—in the departments employing them.

The Senate is predominantly Liberal in composition, and its Finance Committee's report was tabled by its leading Liberal, Senator Thomas Crerar. It is thus free from partisan bias, a fact which should recommend it strongly to government consideration.

Trouble in New Iberia

No doubt Mr. Longfellow, after the fashion of poets in all ages, added a bit of fanciful exaggeration to indisputable fact in his "Evangeline, a Tale of Acadie." Yet, substantially, the eviction of the Acadians from their homes did represent an act of injustice against a defenceless community. And, if the United States Navy has its way, some of the descendants of those who were sent away from their homes 200 years ago are to experience something similar, although, of course, for a very different reason. They are owners of farm properties—4500 acres of it—in New Iberia, Louisiana, which the Navy would like to take over and use as a jet fighter training base.

Their legal representative, speaking before the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives in Washington, put the matter this way: Into this community in 1765 or thereabouts came the Acadians who married into the three original Spanish families. There is, as the committee knows, a history of hardship. These people have been raised with regard to Island complaints, stating that the matter would require full scale investigations and hearings. Undoubtedly the impression left in the Turgeon Commission report is that the freight service of this Province should be maintained on the most adequate basis.

It isn't, of course, quite as bad as it sounds; doubtless, the authorities will see that the displaced persons receive due compensation for their losses and are settled in a locality as good as or better than that to which they are accustomed. And, after all, they are by no means the first group to feel the pressure of the jet-atomic age. All the same, they will have the sympathy of a host of people in many lands who remember the pathos of Mr. Longfellow's description of the sorrows of their forbears.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Water Safety Week.

The Perth, Australia, City Council has advertised for a pigeon shooter. One qualification for the job is a liking for pigeon pie, since the wages amount to about \$1.00 a day and the birds which fall to the shooter's gun.

Two old letters of great interest to Scots were sold recently at Sotheby's in London. The first, sold for £190, was written by Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns in 1789. The other, fetching £120, was written by Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1568.

Pity loyal Minnesotans who would like to fly their State flag on appropriate occasions but are prevented from doing so because it is too heavy for the ordinary person to hoist. People must have been much more robust when the flag's weight and dimensions were decided upon by legislators in 1893. A new one is being planned for 1958, the State's centennial year.

Anyone having friends or relatives in Mauch Chunk, Pa., should take note that the name has been changed to Jim Thorpe in honour of the great Indian athlete who attended school there as a boy. Hot Springs, N. M. has become Truth and Consequences, while Hangtown in California will in future go by the name of Placerville. Frog Level in South Carolina is now Prosperity.



Something For The Girls

Operation Antarctica

By J. C. Graham Canadian Press, Auckland, New Zealand

The prospect of spending 15 months fighting the blizzards of the Antarctic is vastly appealing to hundreds of young New Zealanders. Long before applications were called for places in next year's New Zealand expedition to the Antarctic, enthusiasts were scrambling to get their names on the list. By the time the organizers were ready to consider the make-up of the party, 400 men had beaten the gun and made unofficial applications.

The New Zealand party will set up a base in the Ross sea late next year and after spending the Antarctic winter in scientific observations will seek a trail through the glaciers and across the icecap towards the South Pole. The object is to lay depots and find a route for the British party which hopes to make the first crossing of the Antarctic from the opposite side of the continent.

LED BY HILLARY The New Zealand team will be led by Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Everest, and will consist of 12 to 15 men, about a third of them scientists. Applications have been sought from surveyors, geologists, doctors, photographers, radio operators, mechanics, meteorologists, pilots and tradesmen, preferably with experience as skiers or mountaineers, and able to cook. Those who have already applied have far more varied qualifications. They include mountain sheep musters, professional deer stalkers, a parachutist, a boxer, sailors and scientists. One listed as a useful talent ability to play a guitar, and another mentioned that he was a collector of beer bottle tops.

Organization is in the hands of the Ross sea committee, which consists of government members together with representatives of scientific, exploring and mountaineering interests. It is pressing on with the preparations with great vigor and it is at present seeking a suitable vessel to transport the party to and from the Antarctic.

Out Of The Sea

Martin Chisholm In The Navy (London) "Anything," once said an experienced marine biologist to me, "absolutely anything can come out of the sea. I don't think I should be surprised whatever turned up."

Not long after that conversation there turned-up off the coast of Madagascar a fish which is known to science as the coelacanth, or "hollow spine," a creature thought, until a few years ago to have been extinct for 30 million years. It will take a long time before experts are able to unravel all the secrets that this strange creature has to tell, secrets which go back to the incredibly dim past when life first began to appear on the earth.

But the finding of this oldest of fishes, however great its interest and importance, is only one highlight in the story of marine research. Living comfortably on dry land, or travelling the sea on comparative comfort in ships, one is apt to forget that over two-thirds of our whole earth is covered by water, and after deducting the comparatively shallow areas near shore and the scattered banks and shoals, half of the world has a covering of water miles deep which has lain in utter darkness since the beginning of time. The abyss of the ocean holds secrets some of which we are only just beginning to glimpse.

It is only comparatively recently, for instance, that science has begun to establish with confidence the depths of the open ocean. Depths of water are only one of the hundreds of problems connected with the ocean that modern science is setting out to solve. There is, for instance, the question of the sea bed, the depth of the deposits formed over millions of years by the bodies of countless millions of tiny dead sea creatures, and the nature and thickness of the rocks that underlie that deposit.

Then there is the temperature of the ocean bottom. Modern equipment is beginning to throw more light on these things. Small depth-charges, for instance, are slung below a survey ship and exploded.

Agricultural Aviation

Associated Press, Washington

The air-plane is rapidly becoming a major implement of agriculture. It is finding wide and expanding use in fertilizing crops, planting seeds, spraying for insects and plant diseases and killing weeds. The number of aircraft used in farming in the U. S. now exceeds 7,000, or nearly five times the size of the commercial plane fleet. One cultivated acre out of every six in the United States is being treated by aircraft with dust, spray, fertilizer or other chemicals.

Government agencies estimate that aerial pest control, weed control and fertilizing add more than \$3,000,000,000 annually to farm income. Officials say that aerial crop control work is done on more than 200 types of crops. DUSTED TREES Agricultural aviation is 36 years old. Its infancy can be traced back to 1919 when the Ohio agricultural experiment station dusted trees infested with a catalpa insect.

Those engaged in agricultural aviation usually hire out their services to farmers. Few farmers themselves engage in the work. But agriculture is finding uses for the airplane other than caring for crops. The airplane is being used to count cattle in western range areas, for patrolling fences and for planning erosion control work.

In some regions, operators of big tree farms use airplanes to drop new tree seed into cut-over areas. Planes are widely used to help fight forest fires. Those engaged in agricultural aviation generally agree that their industry's greatest need is an airplane designed specially for the work. Virtually every plane used was designed for other purposes—then converted.

Like a human diver, whose air pressure is gradually built up as he descends, the whale dives on one breath—the sperm whale may go to a depth of as much as 750 feet or even more, and stay there on that one breath for a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes. During his dive, it is thought possible that some of the blood from his surface muscles may be forced by the pressure into his shunt circulation system.

The baleen, or whalebone whale is a plankton eater, living on the "krill" or small shrimp-like creatures that form part of the plankton population. The food of the plankton.

At one time, it was believed that there was a limit of depth below which no life could exist. Today we know differently. The Danish Galathea expedition, in 1951, succeeded in getting a grab down to a depth of six miles in the Pacific, and among the stones and sludge it brought back on deck were living things, a white nemertean, some clams and some sea cucumbers.

That was not the whole of the treasure, for a meticulous examination of the haul revealed there were bacteria, and despite the tremendous change in pressure which the bacteria had gone through in coming to the surface it was possible to put them into a pressure chamber and get them to go on reproducing! This discovery may one day have important sequels in the treatment of disease.

But life, even at the greatest depths, ultimately depends on the surface waters, for it is there that the plankton is found, the floating mass of tiny plants and animals, some of them microscopic in size, which depend on sunlight for life and which form the food, either directly or indirectly, of everything that lives in the ocean.

Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundeses, M.D. KEEP BABY COMFORTABLE DESPITE HOT WEATHER Prickly heat is likely to make your baby very restless and irritable. Dressing your youngster properly in hot weather will help to keep this rash of small raised red spots from breaking out. While the water blisters—they're usually about the size of a pin point—may break out just about anywhere, they most often appear on a baby's neck, shoulders, chest or face.

Mild Lotion After the sponging, pat his skin dry with a soft towel. Then, if your doctor advises it, you can apply a mild lotion such as calamine lotion. Or, if there is itching, you can lightly apply baby powder, corn starch or baking soda. Don't use so much powder that it becomes caked in the creases of his arms, legs or neck. Exposing the creases of your baby's neck to the air by frequently changing his position probably will help prevent the rash.

QUESTION AND ANSWER B. B.: Is it possible for a virus infection to remain in the system for a period of over a year? If so, what can be done about it? Answer: It would not seem likely that a virus infection would remain in the body for a period over a year. However, the after-effects of such infections may persist for a long period of time.

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So the nature and distribution of plankton forms one of the most important branches of marine research, and recently a new instrument has been perfected to

NOTES BY THE WAY

A recent Fort Arthur visitor to Chicago, came home with a revision of the old saying "See Naples and Die." He says "See Chicago and Die Poor."—Fort Arthur News-Chronicle.

Statistics disclose that in the United States, 1,000 tin cans are opened every second. This, of course, is the average. The figure zooms much higher than that at dinner time on days when the bridge club meets.—Detroit Free Press.

Author Hugh MacLennan has taken another blast at the publishers of paperback fiction, and claims that it is impossible for a writer to make a living from the returns of these publications. He cited his own example of a book which sold about 50,000 copies, and brought a total of \$250 for three years' work. We agree with his comment that "no novelist can buy three years of groceries on this kind of money."—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Canadians learn about government by serving on councils and boards and commissions. In Canada there are 40,000 who at one time are members of such groups. That is a large body learning the mechanics and principles of democratic government, and it is an admirable thing because these people develop an interest in the processes that mean so much to us, as well as experience in the important fundamentals—Nelson News.

A New York drama historian is going to open the tomb of Sir Thomas Walsingham, the Elizabethan nobleman, in England. He fully expects to find in it a lead box containing the 36 manuscripts of the first folio of "Shakespeare's plays." That blessed name is put in quotes here because the drama historian is one of those who don't believe that Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare. Christopher Marlowe is his nominee, and he thinks Marlowe died the first folio was written. Walsingham, most of the heat has gone out of the Shakespeare controversy, and nobody much cares now who write them plays so long as we have them to enjoy. It's cruel to revive it now and even crueler to discover that Marlowe did after all write Shakespeare. Think of the shock that would be to the Baconians.—Montreal Daily Star.

The Age Old Story Harken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity. For the work of a man shall render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways. Yes, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

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