

N.B.'s Example

We trust that the members of our next legislature, when they finally get themselves sorted out, will be satisfied with having achieved this arduous goal and not be tempted into emulating the example of their counterparts in New Brunswick. There the government has introduced a bill—reportedly with opposition approval—to increase legislative emoluments on a prodigal scale.

Salaries of the government leader, of cabinet members and MLAs generally—all are to be raised; but Premier Robichaud is taking by far the biggest slice of the cake for himself. His pay is to be boosted from \$9,500 to \$20,000 a year, which with \$7,500 member's indemnity will give him a total pay check of \$27,500. This will be exceeded only by the salaries of the premiers of the rich provinces of Quebec and Ontario and that of the premier of British Columbia if the legislature of that province sits more than 40 days each year.

And of all the pay increases involved, notes the Fredericton Gleaner, only the Premier's is retroactive for a whole year, going back to May 18, 1965. The MLAs, it says, have had long sessions and heavy duties because of the government's insistence on forcing through a lot of contentious legislation. It is right that they should be recompensed for their extra duties. But the exceptional duties of the present session are likely never to be endured again. The new salary scale is imposed on a permanent basis. It is not based on extra work.

The Fredericton paper notes the coincidence of the boost in legislators' pay and a boost in sales tax rate being introduced the same day as "something that will long linger in the minds of the voter." It expresses the hope that the Opposition will resist this concept with full strength of its resources in the interest of the taxpayers. But the Moncton Transcript has its doubts on this score. It says both sides of the House are equally to blame in the matter, and notes that there has been no protest forthcoming from the Opposition.

Could be, of course, that New Brunswick has struck a bonanza of some sort and can afford now to keep up with the Jones in the bigger provinces. Come to think of it, wasn't there a rumor about New Brunswick Liberals being so well-heeled that they could afford to send \$20,000 to help their party stalwarts in this province in their recent scramble for office? When asked about this in the legislature, Premier Robichaud said the question was too crazy to answer; but that didn't satisfy the Saint John Telegraph-Journal, which ticked him off pretty sharply on the subject.

Down To Business

Parliament seems to have recovered from its prolonged bout of scuttling and rumor-mongering, and has gotten down to honest work at last. It was encouraging to note the business-like manner in which it dealt with detailed legislation to tighten up the bankruptcy law on Thursday. Justice Minister Cardin, who piloted the bill through the Commons, said the government is studying the possibility of a national court with exclusive jurisdiction over bankruptcies and suggested that the federal Exchequer Court may be transformed to handle the job. The consideration of a national court is a companion to a comprehensive study under way for some time of the whole Bankruptcy Act, last revised in 1949. The government has assigned three lawyers as a committee to draft a wholesale revision.

This is a move of prime concern to the country at this time, as indicated by recent developments in the two central provinces. Actually, the parliamentary amendments derive from

the findings of the Mercer Commission in Quebec. That commission was set up, not to investigate bankruptcy—as such so much as to discover how the Quebec revenue department was being defrauded of large sums through fraudulent bankruptcies. It was in this process that defects were discovered in the Bankruptcy Act and the Winding-up Act—both federal statutes—that allowed bankrupts, in collusion with some dishonest trustees, to defraud the government. The Mercer findings were followed with initiative by Mr. Wagner, the then attorney-general of Quebec. Departmental, along with police action, uncovered many of the cases that have since gone before the courts. Ontario, too, intensified its efforts to uncover fraud and discovered that the racket was not confined to Quebec.

It is evident, from the debate in Parliament, that there is still much to be done in delving into the ramifications of this problem. Mr. Neilson, Conservative MP for Yukon, says he has information about 52 dummy and legitimate corporations through whose activities governments have lost more than \$150 million in revenues. This says nothing of losses to creditors. Evidently he is prepared, if he has not already done so, to turn his information over to the proper authorities.

As the Montreal Star points out in this connection, there is no conflict of jurisdiction here that need cause any trouble. The acts under whose shelter the racketeers work are federal statutes, but administration is in the hands of the provinces. There is need for the closest cooperation on both sides, as well as for a revision of the law on the thorough scale which has now been proposed.

How It Happened

Writing in the Winnipeg Free Press, Bruce Hutchison recalls that when the greatest of all Canadian decisions was taken, two men—John A. Macdonald and George Brown—faced each other in a shabby Quebec hotel and agreed to establish a Confederation. That's the big achievement we're preparing to celebrate next year, and it's worth being reminded of how it came about.

If they had been modern politicians, comments Hutchison, they would have decided nothing until they had set up a royal commission, or several, and waited for years until they received the experts' advice. Most likely the experts would have judged the Confederation project impossible, as it certainly was from any technical, non-political point of view.

Doubtless the commission would still be sitting and taking evidence today while the nation's birth was indefinitely postponed. Instead of a transcontinental state we would have a library of impressive reports, excellently written, leather-bound and unread.

Such men as Macdonald and Brown were not afraid to make up their own imperfect minds and take the consequence at the polls. They were too poor even to hire speech writers from the advertising agencies and said what they thought in their own unadorned words. They issued no official communique, cunningly drafted by public relations counsel to be read in opposite senses and to please everybody. No trial balloons were flown at Quebec, no secrets leaked through friendly newspapers to test the wind.

In those quaintly old-fashioned times the responsible leaders of government and opposition assumed that they had the right and obligation to act. They acted, and the nation was born.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hollywood stars are getting into American politics in a big way, which prompts a New York correspondent to write as follows in the Ottawa Journal: "The Smart People figure that Ronald Reagan is running for governor of California so that he can nominate John Wayne for president—and that President Wayne, with one gun tied behind his back, can annihilate both Russia and Red China... but the one they're not so sure about is Bobby Kennedy."

The pressing shortage of teachers to man our universities revolves around that sacred academic tradition, the PhD. Unless a graduate has struggled through to his doctorate, it is laid down he cannot earn the spurs of a full professor. Now Yale, one of the most respected universities in the world, has moved to break the logjam. It has come up with a new graduate degree, the Master of Philosophy, that is designed to end the teacher shortage. The degree will signify that the candidate has completed all PhD requirements, save the time-consuming dissertation.



"FUNNY, YOU CAN SMELL IT OVER HERE"

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Greene Discusses Economic Farm Units

An investment of about \$55,000 including 600 acres of improved land, is needed to make a net income of \$4,500 from a Saskatchewan farm today. A similar income from an eastern Ontario dairy farm requires a slightly higher investment which would set up a farm including a herd of 30 to 35 cows.

In a recent speech, Agriculture Minister J. J. Greene talked about these minimum investments required for what are considered to be economic farm units. I asked him how today's farm of this type compares with the pre-war era, a quarter of a century ago. He very kindly dug into his significant, if newly-acquired, knowledge of agriculture, to give me some fascinating contrasts.

In 1939, an average Ontario dairy farm had a herd of 19 cows. The total invested capital averaged \$12,000 per farm; the cash income during the year was \$2,700, but the net income was only \$700. Even allowing for the fact that \$1.00 then would buy what costs \$2.04 today, that was not a princely income.

MORE PRAIRIE WEALTH The prairie grain-grower was better off. With 400-480 acres of land improved, out of a total holding of three quarter-section farms in 1939 represented a total investment of \$10,000. From receipts of \$2,950 the farmer had cash outlays of \$1,350, leaving him a net income of \$1,600.

Joe Greene, just completing his first six months as Minister of Agriculture, has been termed "The Abe Lincoln of the Ottawa Valley." Deep-voiced, tall, and graying despite his mere 45 years, he has the appearance and manner of that rough-hewn statesman. Not in that character was his achievement in winning the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry in the RCAF during the war; and friend was born in Toronto. Joe Greene is the first easterner to be appointed Minister of Agriculture since Sir Wilfred Laurier picked the colourful Sydney Fisher, from Brno-Mississquoi in Quebec, in 1906.

In his first official tour of the West, Hon. J. J. Greene left the impression of a friendly man with a mind quick to grasp the farmer's problems. His family home at Arnprior is very different from the Alberta cattle ranch operated by his predecessor, Harry Hayes; yet Joe Greene has moved nearer the farmers' hearts in six months than Charlottetown's Harry did in 2 1/2 years.

CHANGES IN FARMING

"What do you see as the most significant feature in our farm picture today?" I asked Joe

Greene. "Well, perhaps it is the increasing volume of production coupled with a steadily 'force,' he told me. Since the war, our farm labour force has dwindled from 1,166,000 in 1946 to 594,000 last year. But despite this fall, increasing mechanization has enabled the physical volume of agricultural production to rise 40 per cent in that period. This is good news for a hungry world.

Matching the decline in farm population, the number of individual farms has fallen from its peak figure of 732,858 in 1941 to 480,903 in 1961, he told me. Yet the cleared land has been consolidated into larger farm units and the area of improved land has actually risen by 10 per

cent to 103 million acres in that time.

The factor enabling fewer workers to produce more has of course been mechanization, he explained. The average Canadian farm in 1941 had machinery worth \$813. Twenty years later, that average farm was using machinery worth \$5,342.

A third very significant feature, saving labour and improving efficiency, is the doubling of the farmer's purchased supplies expressed as a percentage of his larger total input. Today's farmer is not only using more machinery; he is also buying more seed and feed, more services, pesticides and even twine.

For Safer Drugs

Hamilton Spectator Ontario's pharmacists deserve full credit for spending time and money developing a child proof cap for the drugs which poison so many young ones. Now the trick will be getting the trade to use it. Fred Wilson, of Hamilton, president of the Ontario Pharmacists Association, speaks of a province-wide campaign to drum up interest in the new device. All very well, but it may not be enough.

A safe, standard, pill box has long been needed. Even the mildest nostrums can prove fatal in the curious hands of a child, who with blissful lack of comprehension will munch down the entire contents of any new-found treasure. It is needed, not just for some pills, but for all. The Windsor-produced gadget might do the trick. A reasonably hefty downward pressure of the palm, combined with a turning action, is necessary to release a series of interlocking lugs on the container and its cap.

As most parents will realize this type of manual gymnastic is not likely to be stumbled on by small children, who are more prone to tug, pry or twist. During tests, many adults were fooled before they read the instructions.

Assuming, then, that this container could do much to reduce the many thousands of accidental poisonings each year, is a campaign of friendly persuasion enough? While a lot of pills and capsules are placed in their containers by the dispensing pharmacist at the corner store, an enormous number are not. They come straight from the manufacturer, already bottled and packaged.

It is at this point, perhaps, where government action should come in. If the new container is all it is cracked up to be, surely it would be a legitimate use of authority for the federal government, working in concert with the provinces, to stipulate the use of a vial embodying the safety principle at all stages of drug preparation—in both store and factory.

What Next In The Wild West?

Calgary Alberta

Oh, Goody-Goody gumdrops. We Calgaryans are going to be allowed to drink in mixed company in beverage rooms during Stampede Week. That nice man, Mr. A.D. Elliott, who is chairman of the Alberta Liquor Control Board has promised. And he was speaking to the Alberta Hotelmen's Association convention, which was taking place in Edmonton, right under Premier Manning's nose, so he must have meant it.

Aren't we lucky? After all, Mr. Elliott is pretty careful about what promises he makes. He told the hotelmen he didn't think it would be a good idea to open beverage rooms to stay open during the supper hour, even though licensed dining lounges are permitted to operate

Simon Fraser's Grave

Ottawa Journal

Enthusiastic accounts come from British Columbia about the impressive new Simon Fraser University lately built on Burnaby Mountain outside Vancouver. Immense courtyards, mighty buildings and broad flights of steps are reported.

In the midst of this magnificent there has been small thought for the plain gravestone in the St. Andrew's West cemetery, six miles north of Cornwall, which marks the burial place of Simon Fraser. He was buried here with his journey done and the Hudson's Bay Company marked the grave of a proud servant of the pioneer fur trade. Beside him, at this Ontario crossroads, was buried John Sandfield Macdonald, the first premier of Ontario.

Few of the cars hurrying towards Ottawa or Cornwall pause in their flight and Simon Fraser would not mind a bit. A restless, daring man he sought new rivers and crossed great mountains and he would be pleased that young men and women should explore the frontiers of thought in a university with his name that they should linger near his grave.

CEREMONY BACK OTTAWA (CP)—The colorful changing of the guard ceremony returns to Parliament Hill for another summer June 24, one day earlier than previously announced. In the five years the drill has been performed, it has attracted an estimated 2,000,000 spectators.

Medical Oddities

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Barosinusitis deals with the sinuses and the barometer. At high altitudes the atmospheric pressure is less than at sea level. Air trapped within an obstructed cavity expands at high altitudes leading to excruciating pain. Barosinusitis occurs when the opening of a sinus is blocked. A minute amount of air under a tooth cavity leads to unbearable pain (aerodontalgia). When severe, the pilot is forced to land because of the distress.

Those who work under water or ground where the atmospheric pressure is increased, are subject to the "chokes." When the individual ascends too rapidly, the nitrogen in the blood becomes a gas and the ensuing bubbles obstruct the small vessels. Bubbles plug the capillaries of the lung leading to choking and is regarded as a severe form of decompression sickness or caisson disease.

Orf was another newcomer to me. This world-wide viral infection of sheep and goats is transmitted occasionally to the skin of shepherders and shearers, butchers, veterinarians, and those manufacturing vaccines. The outcome is a localized rash lasting six weeks.

Now that we are at war: Battle's sign is a bluish discoloration behind the ear that occurs when the base of the skull is fractured. Cannon sounds occur when the chambers of the heart are not synchronous. Blood from the auricle strikes that of the ventricle with a big boom.

War fever is typhus, so named because the louse-transmitted disease was so common during hostilities. It is also nicknamed jail or camp fever. We also noted that Fort Bragg fever was listed among the 64 different "fevers." It is a serious liver infection so named because it was first observed among soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1942.

PHYSICIAN'S NIGHT OUT Z. writes: My husband is a physician. Whenever we attend a social gathering the ladies ascend upon him like the proverbial locusts for medical advice. If this continues we may become hermits. How about a few ideas to solve this annoyance?

REPLY It is better to accept the "annoyance" as a sign of confidence in his ability than to say that the advice is worth just exactly what it costs these ladies. Some physicians solve his problem by telling them that an examination is required. I tell them, with tongue in cheek, that their symptoms suggest leprosy.

PROLONGED ULCER M.E.A. writes: Is it possible for a duodenal ulcer to continue for 15 years or more?

REPLY Yes, but when the lesion persists over this length of time some thought should be given to surgery. After all, we live only once, and why spend the best years of our life in pain?

WHICH ORGAN? O. L. writes: Does the spleen or the pancreas take care of the carbohydrates we eat?

REPLY The pancreas manufactures insulin and enzymes that digest certain sugars and starches. The spleen is more concerned with immunity.

COUNT IT B. F. writes: Can a diabetic eat grapefruit?

REPLY Yes. When grapefruit is eaten it should be calculated with the carbohydrate and caloric intake of the rest of the diet.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Overprotectiveness makes a child more insecure. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

PLAN DE-SALTING PLANT. BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—The use of nuclear power for extracting fresh water from the sea appears to be economically feasible, says the chairman of the New York State Atomic and Space Development Authority Oliver Townsend, speaking at the State University here Tuesday.

plan-proposed would be a \$94,000,000, 50,000-gallon-a-day one near Los Angeles. An other would be a \$45-million plant at Riverhead, N.Y.

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Romania's Initiative

By Boris Miskew Canadian Press Staff Writer

Romania's growing independence will give Premier Chou En-lai an important opportunity to present China's case to the Eastern European nations. Chou's eight-day state visit to Bucharest comes at a time when the Romanian government is striving for greater independence for the European nations—both in the NATO and Warsaw Pact blocs—and the rift between Peking and Moscow is as wide as ever.

The Romanian initiative, no doubt was stimulated by the military stalemate in Europe since the creation of North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact, the Eastern European answer to NATO.

TENSIONS REDUCED Tensions steadily have diminished in Europe, despite the unsettled question of divided Germany, and Europeans gradually have accepted the status quo although occasional crises are raised for German reunification.

French President de Gaulle paved the way toward greater European self-determination by his refusal to march any farther with NATO's integrated military command, and this was followed in recent weeks by Romanian Communist party chief Nicolai Ceausescu's call for a loosening of Moscow's hold on the Warsaw Pact members.

Ceausescu went so far as to urge the abolition of all military blocs and his appeal apparently was behind a sudden trip to Bucharest by Soviet Communist party chairman Leonid Brezhnev. Ceausescu later modified his plea to say that the Warsaw Pact must exist so long as does the Atlantic alliance.

The visit by the Chinese premier will allow Chou to give Peking's side of the ideological argument with Moscow, with the hope of convincing other Communist states that Soviet policies are too soft toward the West.

ALBANIA IN FOLD At the moment only little Albania supports Peking solidly among all the European Communist countries, and Chou no doubt will try to sway Romania away from Moscow.

"The people of Romania defend the independence of their country," Chou said on his arrival in Bucharest. He added that his talks with Romanian officials "will strengthen the relations between our countries and give us an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in the world socialist movement."

But it is doubtful that the Chinese will succeed in aligning Bucharest with Albania against the Soviet Union.

Romania's invitation to Chou appears to be more of an effort to bring about a reconciliation between the East and the West and between Moscow and Peking than an attempt to attain a greater measure of independence at Moscow's expense.

Ontario Farm Plan

London Free Press

Another step toward farm resurgence in Ontario was taken when the provincial and federal governments agreed to support takeover of uneconomic land and its transfer to larger more profitable farms. Fortunately the program—at least at the start—will be a voluntary plan operated under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Administration.

Proof is at hand that profitable farms must be of size to justify purchase of modern equipment otherwise there is danger of the farm slum. Yet it must be recalled that many of the rural residents like their country life and continue to live on possibly productive land although scarcely making a living through lack of capital or sufficient farm acreage.

The program will encompass \$7,200,000 outlay if fully extended with each government paying alike. Retraining of farmers who are willing to quit their farms is provided. If the farmer wants to remain in the farm the government will purchase the land and lease it to adjacent owners who want to expand, leaving the house to the owner.

Other terms make the scheme a most generous one with easy terms for the departing farmer. It is wise that the voluntary basis exists now. Yet it may not be long before the need for farm land to supply a burgeoning Ontario population will demand that the plan be made compulsory; fertile farm acres cannot be left idle indefinitely just at the whim of the owner.

It is expected that the plan will engender a new farm trend, if benefits are readily available to the dispossessed farmer and his family will be willing and possibly anxious to leave their way of life.

Mechanization makes size an essential for farm success and this fact is now well established. The government's responsibility will be to educate the unwilling that there are real gains for them in a transfer—and this may take real public relations skill.

It is a harsh thought but government "plowing under" of un-economic farmers is daily becoming a necessity.

Without A Price Tag

Toronto Telegram

Instead of examining the virtues of free university education, and setting it as a goal which should be achieved as fast as possible, too many people—professors among them—have a negative attitude.

They magnify the problems. Dr. Gordon Shrum, chancellor of the new Simon Fraser university in Vancouver, is one whose fears about it loom as large as his prejudices against it.

Speaking to learned societies meeting in Sherbrooke, Que., Dr. Shrum said the abolition of tuition fees would lead to large classes of mediocre students and reduce university standards—unless admission requirements were increased considerably.

Undoubtedly the universities would have to be more selective. They could, for instance, replace some of the barely competent people who scrape in with borderline marks and little enthusiasm for learning, by better students who don't enter now because of price-tag.

It could happen that there would no longer be room for those whose brains are more noble than their brains. The athletic "scholarships" that Dr. Shrum approved for Simon Fraser might have to go by the boards.

The problem of numbers—too-large classes, too few well-qualified professors faces almost every Canadian university whether or not tuition is free. The abolition of fees would probably require them to refine their admission procedures still further, until expansion caught up with the acceptable demand.

But at the same time, as Dr. Shrum advocates, every government should be creating other institutions of further education, to provide for the great majority of secondary school pupils for whom university is not the right avenue.

Universities' fears of being swamped if fees are abolished are hollow. They control—and should continue to control—their own admission standards. Dutch universities, which are free, are far more selective than Canadian.

MOUNT ETNA ERUPTS

CATANIA, Sicily (AP)—Mount Etna, Europe's tallest and most active volcano, blasted molten rock into the skies Wednesday, a month after it calmed down from its longest continuous outbreak in recent years.

The eruption burst open a new crater on the northeast slope of the 10,705-foot volcano, but there was no immediate danger for the 5,000 people living several miles down the mountainside.

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