

His Second Try

Nine months ago, Finance Minister Gordon was confident that his initial budgetary effort, to reshape the economy and repatriate Canadian industry, would be a hit. It turned out to be otherwise. So unpopular did some of his measures prove that they had to be withdrawn, and with them the minister's hopes of making any progress in the direction of a balanced budget, which he maintained to be essential to economic stability.

This year Mr. Gordon was faced with an intriguing choice in drafting his budget. He could take advantage of rising revenues to initiate bold measures in the way of tax reduction, such as the United States and Britain have adopted, in the hope of stimulating the economy and producing more revenue in the years ahead. Or he could plan for a reduction in the deficit and claim thereby that he was on his way at last to his earlier objective. He chose the latter course, as might be expected.

While there are some minor—and welcome—taxation easements, in general both income and sales tax rates remain unchanged and a one-third cut in the budgetary deficit is aimed at. Critics will not be slow in pointing out that this is a poor way to plan for expansion—that the factors likely to produce higher revenue this year may prove temporary and non-recurring, and that without bold tax cuts we may find ourselves, come 1985-86, in a worse position than before.

One budgetary feature, however, should commend itself very strongly to our people in this part of Canada. That is the emphasis placed on tackling unemployment on a regional basis. Instead of continuing to use the broad, general approach, economic measures are to be applied in an "area-by-area, group-by-group" attack on the problem. Nowhere is such a policy more needed than in these Atlantic Provinces, and we shall look hopefully to the results.

An Important Step

The most anxious thing about the problem of water pollution, says the Montreal Gazette, is that it is not moving toward any real solution. We can apply this truth to the problem of rights in Prince Edward Island, about which our health authorities have been sending warnings for some years now. There has been much talk, but little progress in bettering the conditions.

Other communities, apparently, are in the same position. This gives added importance to news of the formation in Canada, for the first time, of an organization that ought to be able to encourage the sort of cooperative action that has always been needed. This is the Canadian Council of Resources Ministers, with its permanent secretariat.

As The Gazette notes, the trouble in the past has been that Canada has had no machinery for dealing with questions that extended over several jurisdictions. The Council of Resources Ministers provides this machinery. It is made up of the country's eleven ministers—the minister in Ottawa and those of the ten provinces. They meet together as equals to seek solutions to common problems. They have, taken together, the authority to meet them.

With mixed jurisdictions there can be no compulsion. But when these various authorities, each supreme in its field, meet for com-

mon interests, cooperation may yet provide the combined action that has always been lacking.

It would, however, be unrealistic to expect that the Council will be able, at its plenary session in June, to deal decisively with the pollution problem. The Council is still in the process of working out its procedures—an extremely complex and difficult matter. Until these administrative-jurisdictional problems are solved, the Council will scarcely be able to proceed effectively to the projects that await it.

But the important fact is that such a council has at last been established and that it is laying the difficult but essential groundwork for action where action has hitherto been paralyzed by the absence of any machinery for cooperation.

St. Patrick's Day

Historians still disagree as to where St. Patrick was born, but there is no doubt at all that he was a valiant champion of Christianity, and that in addition to the qualities which go to form a strong man of action he must have possessed an enthusiasm which enabled him to surmount all difficulties. Throughout his missionary efforts in what we are pleased to call the dark ages he brought Ireland into touch with western Europe, organizing the Christian societies which he found in existence there and planting the faith in regions which had not yet come under the sway of the gospel.

This is the day on which he is honored as Ireland's patron saint; and it is worth noting that it will be the 135th year in which the Benevolent Irish Society of Charlottetown will be observing the occasion. This organization is indeed one of the oldest in Canada, and it has worthily upheld the ideals for which St. Patrick's name has stood throughout the centuries.

The Society's annual parade to St. Dunstan's Basilica will take place this morning, an event to which our citizens generally are looking forward. In the evening there will be a final performance of the St. Patrick's Day play at Birchwood High School, sponsored by the society, which also is in accord with time-honored tradition and which already has drawn large and appreciative audiences.

Appreciative Comment

The Prince Edward Island 1984 Centennial Committee is doing a good job in circulating newspapers and other publicity media on the subject of our celebrations this year. Included in the committee's literature is an account of the Confederation Conference at Charlottetown, written for the occasion by Mr. Donald Creighton, the Canadian historian and biographer of Sir John A. Macdonald, which is receiving favorable attention.

The Ottawa Journal publishes this article in full in its issue of March 4, with due credit to the committee, and calls attention to it editorially as a matter of general interest, noting also the preparations which have been made here for the centennial observance and the historic significance of the Confederation Centre which is now nearing completion and which will be the focal point of our festival this summer.

Other newspapers are beginning to take stock of the planning that has been under way, and are saying some kind things about our traditional hospitality and the warmth of welcome visitors may expect from us on this occasion. It's a big responsibility to live up to such expectations, and a great privilege to have the opportunity of trying.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It comes as a shock to learn that the Canadian Medical Protective Association has reported 10 cases dealt with in 1982—though many arose earlier—in which drains, sponges, needles, forceps and "other foreign bodies" were left in surgery patients. E. P. Newcombe of Ottawa, general counsel for the association which has 14,000 doctors as members, mentions these cases in his annual report. He says he found it "distressing that some mistakes seem to occur with far too much regularity." Surely this is a case where the medical profession must take drastic steps to overhaul its operating-room techniques and exert greater discipline over its careless or incompetent members.



WASHINGTON AND THE CHERRY TREE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Not Just Another Huckstering Issue

Some leading MPs treat "The Quebec Question" as just another huckstering issue, out of which they hope to make a few yards politically. So Canadians in the other nine provinces can be excused for believing that the situation is not serious. No more serious than their political foibles, such as the price of tobacco in southwestern Ontario or the preservation of an aircraft maintenance base in Winnipeg.

But behind those politicians' disservice to the cause of Canadian unity lies the fundamental tragedy of the possible breakup of the Canadian Confederation—a break-up which may well end our superior and increasingly precarious now being made to celebrate our 100th birthday on Oct. 1, 1867.

We must still hope that Confederation can be saved. But this is by no means the foremost conclusion which so many Canadians presume that this mis-conception is widely held is partly due to lack of understanding of the depth of the problem. And for this the blame must be apportioned between our mass communications media, which never reported the problem in full depth, and our political leaders, who have accepted it or abused it for their own petty and selfish ends.

The problem basically centers around the 70-year-old Confederation Act which created the French-Canadian and other.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 17, 1959) The Benevolent Irish Society celebrated its 115th anniversary today, the feast of Ireland's Patron Saint with the annual parade. The parade was in charge of Chief Marshal James M. Macdonald and was headed by the League of the Cross Band under the direction of W. J. Brown.

J. M. Larabee, of the Charlottetown Branch of the Royal Bank arrived in Summerside today to take over the duties of accountant. Mr. Larabee will replace Mr. W. S. MacMillan who has been transferred to Port Hood, Nova Scotia, as manager of the bank's branch there.

TEN YEARS AGO

(March 17, 1954) D. Leo Dolan, Director of the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa, stated today that he is just as interested in industry in Canada that can bring more revenue to the agricultural industry than the tourist trade.

The suggestions that the Maritime Provinces and Maine get together to discuss the potato industry, and that a lecture hall be erected in Charlottetown were made in the Legislature today by Harvey Douglas, Liberal Second King as he spoke on the Draft Address.

ASSIGN CANADIAN

UNITED NATIONS (CP)—A Canadian economist who helped Jordan carry out its first population census last year is going to Afghanistan for the same kind of a job. Daniel Ben-Gliemann, special lecturer in economics and political sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, was assigned to Afghanistan for an initial period of one year.

Abdominal Distress

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Abdominal distress usually are not difficult to diagnose but now and then a problem arises that stumps the best physicians. The patient is in distress but the x-rays are negative and blood tests are normal. Further, delay is risky, so something must be done.

An exploratory operation may be advisable to determine the cause. The surgeon is prepared for anything, from removal of a stone or tumor to cutting an adhesion or straightening a kink. The laparotomy combines diagnosis and treatment.

The peritoneoscope is an alternate technique to major surgery. This instrument is of questionable value. Some physicians have used it successfully; it helped clear up a number of knotty problems with little discomfort and cost to the patient. Other physicians are not enthusiastic because of occasional complications.

Residual bleeding may occur, necessitating opening the abdomen to stop hemorrhage. Moreover, the outer side of the abdominal organs can be seen. In this respect, the procedure has its limitations.

The use of the peritoneoscope is not difficult. The skin is anesthetized and oxygen is introduced into the abdomen via a needle to distend the cavity. A small incision is made through the abdominal wall and the scope is passed in the direction of the organ to be investigated.

The physician is able to get a good look at the underside of the diaphragm, parts of the liver and intestine, the top surface of the stomach, the gall bladder, duodenum, appendix, bladder, ovaries, tubes, uterus, a small spleen. This scope is most useful in liver and polyp diseases and in detecting the spread of cancer.

LINGERING ANGE

C. V. writes: I am 25 years old and still have acne. Why does this condition linger on with me when my friends have cleared their skins?

REPLY This happens occasionally to adults who continue to pick at pimples and blackheads. Others develop these lesions because of an inherited tendency toward oily skin. In still others, the condition represents an allergic reaction, often to iodine.

HEARING AND SMELLING

J. F. M. writes: I'm losing my hearing and ability to smell. Is it true that the five senses are associated and that what affects one will affect the others?

REPLY Not all five now. And then, congestion in the nose and throat will affect smell and taste. Hearing may be distorted if the eustachian tubes behind the nose are blocked.

BLADES AND INFECTIONS

A. B. J. writes: Granted that the new long-lasting stainless steel razor blades are good, do you see any strong danger of infection from normal small cuts incurred during shaving because of the almost immediate rusting of all types of these long-lasting blades?

REPLY

Infections are caused by micro-organisms, not rust. In addition, stainless steel does not rust.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A financially harassed acquaintance says he is just pretending he is a government.—Edmonton Journal.

A pharmacist's cat in Geneva insists upon spending its days sleeping soundly in the window of his master's drug store. Since the pharmacist cannot reform the cat, he has made the habit pay off. Over the cat he has advertised for a sleeping pill. The pharmacist has been leaving pills and other remedies for insomnia.—Lauranne Gazette.

You think you have troubles? A Sparta teacher complained that the worst behavior in his room has a perfect attendance record.—Sparta Herald.

"Do you have any references, Maude?" inquired the woman of the applicant for a position of maid. "Yes, ma'am, here it is," Maude said, showing a letter from her former employer, the bearer, Maude Joseph: "My employer is most satisfied. I am quite satisfied."—Gait Reporter.

Amazing New Devices

London Free Press

Science fiction writers, most of whose apparently improbable notions have come true in recent years, will have to reach even further into their imaginations. The American Army now has that most dreaded of weapons, the death-ray, and the Russians have perfected an artificial sun.

What the Americans have known as a laser, a rifle-like device capable of emitting a high-intensity beam of light dazzling enough to burn the eyes of a man up to a mile away. It can also set fires or ignite explosive fuels.

But this is only the beginning of the developing more horrid weapons while American scientists are working toward realization of the crippled. What is needed now is a trade deal—so many lasers are working toward realization of the crippled. What is needed now is a trade deal—so many lasers are working toward realization of the crippled. What is needed now is a trade deal—so many lasers are working toward realization of the crippled.

What About The Manx?

Ottawa Citizen

The designers of a new Canadian silver dollar are in trouble with the Welsh, and little wonder.

They have incorporated the French fleur-de-lis, the English rose, the Irish shamrock and the Scottish thistle—but no Welsh daffodil.

In consequence, John Hughes, president of the St. David's Society of Montreal, has lodged a protest with Prime Minister J. Pearson, calling attention to the "grave and intolerable affront to every Canadian of Welsh origin."

Outlanders who are a little hazy about Welsh history, a lot of whose schoolboy memories relate little but the opening lines of Thomas Gray's poem "The Bard" ("Ruin seest thou ruthless, King!—Confusion on thy hammer wait"), may have supposed the national emblem is the leek, a sort of onion.

But a few authorities, of whom Mr. Hughes is evidently one, insist that the leek has been mixed up with the daffodil.

At all events, it is a bad business leaving out the daffodil. This omission may encourage other national elements to look more closely.

What of the Manxmen? Are they not to be represented on a Canadian coin? After all, the Isle of Man is not bound by statutes of the Imperial Parliament unless specially mentioned in them.

Claims might also be advanced on behalf of Cornwall and their ancient Celtic lineage, and of the Bretons, whose forerunners helped settle Canada and whose descendants at home are showing a strong bent for independence.

And there are Highland Scots, who would argue that the thistle has no sentimental associations for them: Lowlanders, no claimant from beyond the Grampians, were saved from surprise on that night when an army of Danes advanced barefoot across a field of thistles.

Highlanders would prefer the heather. Perhaps it is too late to recall the offending dollar, and have it melted down. But at least the designers of the Canadian flag: to be well aware of the pitfalls, and govern themselves accordingly.

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