

Railway Problems

In his address at Rotary yesterday Mr. H. C. Grayston, vice president of the Canadian National Railways, made it clear that the railway has no intention of shirking its special obligations with respect to Prince Edward Island. The railway's predecessor lines, he recalled, exerted a major influence on the affairs of the Island, and had a primary role to play in its early development. The fortunes of railway and Island have been closely allied ever since. The figures for last year's operation show that the railway continues to provide an important and vital service.

The speaker cautioned, however, that railways today face two difficulties—outdated regulations and competition. By way of illustration, he pointed out that in 1944 the railways had 76 per cent of the freight business in this country; they now have 52 per cent. And the business loss consisted to a great extent of the highest-revenue-producing freight—the cream of the traffic. Today, revenue from paying operations is not large enough to cover losses on non-paying services.

Mr. Grayston hastened to add that this did not mean repudiation of the idea that some services must be maintained even if they do not pay. He argued, however, that such services should be openly recompensed from the public purse, and that payment should cover the money needed for capital expenditure and maintenance. The railway also feels that it should be granted freedom to develop an ancillary trucking arm for the purpose of feeding traffic to the main trunk. Years ago this function was performed by the branch line, but this is no longer a solution to the problem.

"We should be the first to recognize, in this Province, that the railway has serious problems. Road-rail integration is one solution of them; and we did ourselves a poor service when we turned down—some years ago—a proposal in this connection that would have been of far-reaching mutual benefit. Mr. Grayston didn't remind us of this incident in his address yesterday. He stuck to generalities in his remarks, but we can apply a good deal of what he said to our own situation.

We regard the efficient maintenance of our ferry service, of course, as a federal obligation, and the railway as merely an agent in discharging that obligation. We have often had occasion to complain of inadequacies in this regard. But there has been marked improvement in recent years. We can best insure a continuance of this trend by cooperating, in every reasonable way, with the railway in meeting its current difficulties.

Those Slow Britishers

No fairy tale, this, though it is truly as astonishing as anything recorded in the realm of magic. It concerns a new industrial technique, now being utilized in the healing art. It was tried out at Moorfields Hospital, London, last week, when a concentrated invisible shaft of light with an intensity up to six times greater than that of the sun was used in place of a surgeon's scalpel. A detached retina at the back of the eye was "spun" welded in this manner, and cured successfully.

The new technique is known as LASER (Light Amplification by Stimulated Electromagnetic Radiation) and is related to MASER, a

microwave or sound amplification which was used to magnify millions of times the television signals bounced off Telstar. Briefly LASER gives a narrow beam of light an electromagnetic "kick" which converts it into the most powerful source of heat energy known to man.

In connection with its development, rubies are used. Synthetic ones are being manufactured for the purpose by a Newcastle firm, and these must be "cooled" by immersion in liquid helium (with a boiling point at minus 269 degrees Centigrade, virtually the coldest thing known). In its turn the helium is surrounded by liquid nitrogen to prevent it from boiling away.

The end product is a light beam which instead of radiating its rays outwards is "squeezed" into one shaft so thin that it cannot be seen, but so powerful that it can penetrate the hardest of metals literally in a flash—in fact, in one-millionth of a second. It is optically focused, the light beam can be used to make lesions—hence the surgeons' interest in its power, as a replacement for the sharpest and most delicate scalpel ever made.

While surgical uses are largely confined to eye operations, the beam also has great possibilities for use in brain surgery, and for treating deep-seated malignant tumors. The results so far, however, are treated with "cautious optimism" by the experts who have been working, behind the scenes, on this fabulous gadget for the past 18 months.

India Battles Smallpox

On this continent we tend to think of smallpox as something of a hangover from the dark past, a plague which medical science has pretty well put to rout. But it is otherwise in India, where the cow is sacred and the thought of its lymph entering their bloodstream, by way of vaccination, is abhorrent to orthodox Hindus. This despite the educational campaign launched by Mr. Nehru, who has written to all his state chief ministers saying that he considers the eradication of smallpox more important than all their political problems.

India's smallpox epidemics usually come in five-year cycles. The current one seems to be heading for a serious one this winter. In Calcutta there have been more than 300 cases of smallpox and over 200 deaths in the last 14 weeks. In the little town of Jabalpur all primary schools have been closed following 600 attacks and 150 deaths within three months.

Calcutta's anxious health officials have revealed that only one case in ten of smallpox is ever reported to the authorities. This means that there has been an "underground" smallpox epidemic of approximately 3,000 cases and some 2,000 deaths. The officials are fighting fear and superstition as well as the disease, and they are now asking for special powers to make it an offense to avoid vaccination. This month 18 people among 145 in one district who refused to be vaccinated were given notice that they would be prosecuted, as test cases.

A nation-wide vaccination campaign was begun last October, but so far only 35 million have agreed—or less than ten per cent of the population. World Health Organization officials are cooperating in every way they can, but it is hard to change centuries-old prejudices. As their report pointed out three years ago, it is in India, Pakistan and Burma that the world's battle against smallpox must be won.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Canada Council has recently received an anonymous gift of \$425,000. The largest since the Council was created in 1957, this windfall will be used in the next few years to provide fellowships and scholarships to Canadians engaged in advanced study or research in medicine, science and engineering in Canada.

According to Social Credit Leader Thompson, it will be a tragedy for Canada if either the Progressive Conservatives or the Liberals win the April 8 election. After the going on in last Parliament, where no party had a majority, most electors feel that a decisive victory by one or other of the two major parties is about the only way to avert a tragedy.

THE DIEFFENBAKERY

ELECTION POLICES FROM THE CABINET KITCHENS



HOT OUT OF THE OVEN

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

To A Bewildered U.S.A. Pen-pal

Dear Doc — You write that your local newspaper black-out all things, including the "Canadian crisis", through a glass, darkly. General Norstad, you suggest, publicly rebuked the Canadian Prime Minister for "waxing" on specific commitments to accept tactical nuclear warheads for NATO and NORAD forces. Is this true or false? you ask. "Your question opens a can of worms," I reply. The first of Canada's eight air squadrons with the NATO forces in Europe has recently received its new aircraft. The second of the two Bomarcas in Canada has not yet been completed. Canada could not use nuclear tips on aircraft and missiles not yet in service. The tips would have to be provided by USA, who however insist upon a complete control of them. Their acceptance therefore involves a delicate international agreement and our Prime Minister told Parliament last month that these negotiations have been going on for two months or more. Norstad improperly and undiplomatically interfered in Canadian politics by publicly expressing his personal views on the matter in Canada recently.

STATE GOOFED

"I gather that our State Department 'goofed' in either the wording, the timing or the release of its note of protest; true or false, you ask further. This note, drafted in your State Department and approved by the White House, was 'released to the press in Washington.' It was in effect a challenge to the press, expressing the US government's comments upon the Canadian Prime Minister's speech to the Canadian Parliament. Such a note should of course have been made through 'diplomatic channels' rather than the efforts of newspapermen and TV news men. I sincerely hope that our government will look into this matter and that I sincerely trust that the friction raised by the preparation of the note, making it a matter of state, will be a lesson to travel farther.

PUBLIC FORUM

RETARDED CHILDREN The Ontario Department of Education is drawing the attention of your readers, particularly to members of the government, that I sincerely trust that the education of retarded children is generally neglected. These children can be taught to be useful citizens, and we parents deeply appreciate the fact that we now have schools and very efficient teachers, and that we are not a world of teaching retarded children.

REORGANIZED S.P.C.A. Sir—I am writing this letter hoping it may bring to the attention of every kind-hearted Islander the great need for a reorganization of the S.P.C.A. as conducted by S.P.C.A. Believe it or not, the S.P.C.A. is neglected and sometimes brutally treated by their masters.

WHICH BROOM? The argument extends to the brooms used in a year generally favor the "corn" broom, a streamlined version of the ordinary household broom, but the push broom, the Scotsman's broom, is making headway. The extra fee is more added to each sweep the score confirmed that sweep the broom is the push broom, but the push broom, the Scotsman's broom, is making headway.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS • WILLS • MORTGAGE LOANS • RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS • INVESTMENT SERVICES • GUARANTEED INVESTMENT SERVICES

NOTES BY THE WAY

Sex Plays Role In Heart Disease

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen SEX PLAYS AN important role in the development of heart disease and hardening of the arteries. Women prior to the menopause have a built-in protection against these conditions. Therefore, they are on their own, but because of the late start in developing arteriosclerosis, seldom catch up with men of equal age. What is this built-in protection? The glands around the heart and in the developing arteriosclerosis, sediments catch up with men of equal age. What happens when men are given female sex hormones to prevent another heart attack or lower a high blood cholesterol level? Opinions vary because the results of studies along this line are difficult to evaluate.

Costly Nuclear Power

Earlier British estimates of the comparative costs of nuclear and conventional power have proved to be very wide of the mark. The error has been due partly to unexpected technical difficulties in the construction of nuclear plants and partly to the fact that conventional fuels have increased in cost. The result is that at this point the gap between nuclear, nuclear and conventional methods of producing power in Britain is still large and unprospected. The Manchester Guardian notes that although Britain has been building nuclear power plants, the seven plants to be put into operation within the next four years will cost 500 million pounds. The same amount of electricity is estimated to be obtained from conventional types of plant for only 140 million pounds. The point is of interest in this regard where some people have urged a quick decision in favor of power on the argument that it is a desirable investment and export markets should be seen up before it is too late. It is a large and unprospected area that the former will become competitive in the more distant future, and some distance in the future, and Canada has plenty of time to make a careful decision on a policy of major investment.

Feed And Confederation

To mention feed in the same breath as Confederation seems irreverence. It is not so. The movement of feed from Western fields to the cattle, hogs and poultry in the East is a delightful program. In a submission to the Dominion Government the other day, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture asked for continuation of the national policy of feed self-sufficiency. Where, apart from the farmers and the politicians? The government should care, if only because freight assistance on Western feed grains cost \$18,500,000 over in the present fiscal year. In the last 20 years the feed shipments from the West have assumed a familiar pattern, giving the prairie producers \$85,000,000 over in income. Eastern Canada cannot now supply all its meat requirements with a population which has jumped from 11.9 million in 1956 to 13.4 million in 1961 and is expected to be 15 million by 1975. The Eastern trend is to increase herds of feeder cattle, fattened on a limited pasturage area, home field crops and Western grain. In a recent year 400 million bushels of grain for all purposes were consumed in Eastern Canada; of that 125 million bushels came from the West. Long-range planning by the Agriculture Department anticipates increased demands and seeks larger and more constant supplies of feed from the West.

OUR YESTERDAY'S

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO February 26, 1938 Can. West Royal, has been named a Grey Molt plane from Reg. Pope, Summerside, Pilot Burke was trying out his new machine yesterday. Burke's Cirrus Moth, slightly damaged in a take-off two weeks ago is undergoing repair.

REPLY

W. M. writes: I have a nodule on one of my neck glands. It goes down in time, then becomes palpable. Should it be removed by operation? Let your physician make this decision after a thorough examination, including blood tests. Most of these nodules are not harmful; or they come and go with infection in the nose, throat or sinuses. They should not be removed in the circumstances. But there are other causes and your physician's suggestion must be followed.

REPLY

L. M. writes: I wash my hair twice a week with shampoo. I am extremely oily. I don't eat chocolate or other fatty foods. What can I do now? Shampoo your locks more often, especially if you are a teen-ager in the oily phase of life.

REPLY

DEVIL'S GRIPPE H. B. writes: How is pleurodynia treated? Aspirin and codeine ease the chest pain that is characteristic of the disease. This viral infection does not respond to antibiotics.

TEN YEARS AGO

February 26, 1953 Halifax, (CP) — The first flight of RCNCF women to proceed overseas since the end of the Second World War will sail for several years past by Swift aboard the liner Aspic. The 50 airwomen will serve with the No. 2 Fighter Wing at Gros Tanguin, France.

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN RESTAURANT

"Where Cooking Is A Work of Art"



As one of the oldest trust companies in Canada, Eastern Trust is proud of its long record of association with Prince Edward Island. Indeed, Prince Edward Island is one of the earliest links in the chain of Eastern Trust branch offices that now extends from east to west of Canada.

Established 1893 MANAGER: A. A. MacLEOD 151 RICHMOND STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN Branches Across Canada