

Regional Trade Problem

A resolution was passed recently in the Nova Scotia legislature, calling on the federal government to inquire into the question of regional free trade between the Atlantic region of Canada and the New England region of the United States.

Cited as an argument in favor of regional tariff adjustments is the so-called free-trade auto deal negotiated between Ottawa and Washington, which is claimed to have brought employment benefits to Windsor and a few other favored automobile centers.

Newspapers in central Canada have not been slow in pointing out the weakness in the arguments advanced in the Nova Scotia legislature on this point.

The Free Press writer is sympathetic to the Maritime predicament of being barred by tariffs from our natural market in populous New England and handicapped in competition with central Canadian industry by high shipping costs over long distances.

U.S. Farm Prices

In the United States as in Canada last February, rising food prices were held chiefly responsible for the hike in living costs. In fact, food prices in that month actually led the cost-of-living advance.

What effect this will have on Canadian prices we do not know, but it is to be alerted to the change.

short supply and high in cost. Now these shortages have been overcome. More supplies are coming to market.

This is taken as one of the reasons for President Johnson's hesitation in proposing a tax increase at this time.

It is the agriculture secretary's view that stable prices are more to be desired than "a big fluctuation upward or downward," which he regards as harmful in the long run both to producer and consumer.

Mr. Freeman puts one phase of the picture in better perspective than it appears from recent food price statistics. He recalls that when he became Secretary of Agriculture in 1960, the average amount of income devoted to the food budget was 20 per cent.

Caribbean Cruise

A news item from Halifax recently reported the return from Puerto Rico of the Canadian aircraft carrier Bonaventure with two members of the Commission on Biculturalism and Bilingualism—Royce Frith of Toronto and Jean-Louis Gagnon of Montreal.

Parliament, surely, has a right to know more about how this money is being spent. How, for instance, did Messrs. Frith and Gagnon get to Puerto Rico in the first place?

EDITORIAL NOTES

Some airlines are proposing an extra charge of \$2.50 for in-flight entertainment. Which prompts the Edmonton Journal to recall the time when enroute entertainment consisted of the travelling salesman's stories in the railway smoking car—and they were free.

An embarrassing phase of the "march of science" has been the acceleration in the output of technical publications, which are at present growing about four times as fast as the population of the world.

It seems that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police cannot record the music it will play during Canada's Centennial because the American Federation of Musicians object. The Mounties, of course, are not members of this organization.



CHINESE FORTUNE COOKIES

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

More Speculation Re Liberal Leadership

Who will be chosen to lead the Liberal Party when Prime Minister Pearson, now approaching his 69th birthday, steps down?

A recent poll of public opinion revealed that an overwhelming 57 per cent of Canadians with a specific belief favour 62 year old Paul Martin, the "Father" of the House of Commons who has spent exactly half his life as a Member of Parliament.

The next largest group, 28 per cent, favours 54 year old Finance Minister Mitchell Sharp, 11 per cent support 55 year old Bob Winters, 2 per cent back 42 year old Defence Minister Paul Hellyer and 1 per cent each is the support for Quebec Premier Jean Lesage, aged 53, and ex-Finance Minister Walter Gordon, aged 60.

It was widely reported in the press that the four front runners, Martin, Sharp, Winters and Hellyer, would attend the recent founding convention of the Quebec federal wing of the Liberal Party in Quebec City.

The facts were substantially different. Paul Hellyer had planned to take his wife to visit their 18 year old daughter Mary Elizabeth, who is a first year student at Laval's Academie de Quebec.

One might think in today's air age, that the era of railway building is past. True, the odd branch line leading to mineral developments or some special industry will still be built.

Construction methods and techniques have improved greatly since most of the great railways of the world were built.

Even so, the builders of the new railway (which will run between 600 and 1,100 miles north of the present trans-Siberian railway) expect to encounter great difficulties.

Many miles of the line will be through Russian forest and marshland which is impassable even with modern equipment; the marshy stretches will be constructed during winter when the "taiga" is frozen solid.

There are also huge Siberian rivers which must be bridged.

Out-Pharaohing Pharaoh

Less than a decade ago it appeared that a cultural catastrophe was about to occur. The magnificent Egyptian temples of Abu Simbel, which had come down to modern men from early Biblical times, seemed about to be destroyed.

But now we learn not only that Abu Simbel is rescued but that it is being saved ahead of schedule. This is good news.

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Mitch Sharp's eager executive assistant got wind of Hellyer's intention to drop into the convention whilst in Quebec, and he urged his minister not to appear disinterested in Quebec by his absence.

It so happened that the Spencer-Munster affairs had weakened Prime Minister Pearson's position just at that time, and a loyal backbencher, Vancouver's Ron Basford, got up in the Liberals' secret caucus meeting, and roundly berated these leadership candidates for appearing like vultures, hovering round the body of the not yet dead leader; he demanded that they not go to Quebec City.

Properly, Paul Hellyer said that his visit to Quebec was planned for family reasons and he was going anyhow. But later a quiet word indicated that the Prime Minister felt they should not attend.

Prime Minister Pearson addressed the convention as planned, and threw in the comment that he would continue as leader "for as long as the party wants me" — which, despite Basford's protestations, has sometimes recently looked like being not very long.

Paul Hellyer, incidentally, has a fluent working ability in French and certainly never needs to "brush it up."

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Don't Get Caught There

If you should be unfortunate enough to be injured in a burning office building, it is unlikely that you could claim damages from anyone. If you were killed, your heirs probably couldn't recover even funeral expenses.

More astonishing still was the testimony that a city has no obligation to have a fire department or provide any fire protection at all!

Color Can Effect Mood

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen G.F. writes: "I am 65 years old. We have a new carpet (15 x 16) in our living room. It is an electrified royal blue. Could seeing so much of this color cause me to be nervous and irritable? My family says it is just my imagination."

Color influences mood and our reader may be right if the nervousness and irritability started soon after the rug was laid. There also is a possibility that he did not want to buy the rug or he dislikes royal blue.

We might agree if the color was red, orange, or yellow, instead of blue. Red, for example, has been classified as exciting, while soothing greens and blues are said to foster meditation.

Color preferences depend upon past experiences modified by symbolism, tradition, and slang. Blue is popular, yet few men wear blue gloves and women are rarely seen in blue shoes.

Color has been tried as a therapeutic agent with questionable results. Red, yellow, and black were thought to counteract fever, plague, and death; scarlet helped to stop bleeding, and yellow was designed to help jaundice.

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West Has Another Chance

Milwaukee Journal

Without the west having moved a hand, its three major Asian African critics have been swept from power.

Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia still bows to Communist influence and grows all the west. But he, as the Economist of London puts it, is an "unhappy victim of geography."

The new rulers of the once bitterly antiwestern nations are not opening their arms to western domination. But they have risen against Communist influence and against political and economic mismanagement resulting from refusal to recognize realities.

To Bore Niagara Peepholes

National Geographic Society

The United States Army Corps of Engineers plans to take a look inside Niagara Falls. Concerned with rockslides on the American side, the engineers will bore two peepholes 250 feet back of the precipice on each side of the American Falls.

Cameras will optically analyze the substrata to determine what measures the engineers should take against the growing problem of rockfalls.

If necessary, the engineers are prepared to build a temporary cofferdam upstream. This would divert the waters long enough for a close examination of cracks and other imperfections on the face of the Falls.

Slides have chewed the soft foundations of the Niagara River's cliffs ever since the Falls were created about 100,000 years ago, the National Geographic Society says.

The tumbling water continuously gouges out the soft shale that underlies a cap of limestone. Softened by the battering, overhanging ledges give way now and then.

Spectacular slides have occurred at the American Falls in the past 35 years. A rock wedge 300 feet wide crashed to the riverbed near the center of the Falls in 1931. A 1954 slide tore 185,000 tons of rock and earth from Prospect Point. Two years later, an even more disastrous cave-in swept part of the Niagara Mohawk hydroelectric plant into the river.

For Asian Development

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In signing legislation authorizing United States participation of \$200,000,000 in the billion-dollar 31-country Asian Development Bank, President Johnson termed the new institution "an economic Magna Carta" for Asia.

It may not be quite that but it is certainly a move in the right direction, in contrast to escalation of the Viet Nam war. And Mr. Johnson also announced a \$12,000,000 United States contribution to a major hydro-electric development on the Mekong river in Laos, an excellent project.

This is the sort of thing the United States should be doing throughout the less developed world, and it is a little disturbing to find Mr. Johnson assailing the critics of his Viet Nam policy as isolationists who presumably would oppose economic as well as military aid.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

Twenty-five years ago (April 5, 1941) Predictions that the "zero hour" in Yugoslavia's crisis with Germany had arrived were voiced early this day as the Cabinet ended an extraordinary 4 1/2 hour session in Belgrade and thousands of troops rushed to the frontiers. It was estimated 1,500,000 men had been called to the army by a Royal decree disclosed that night.

Ten years ago (April 5, 1956) A Naval veteran and member of the local Naval Reserve, Chief Petty Officer Reginald MacMillan, Mount Edward Rd., transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy on March 29 at HMCS Queen Charlottetown. He was transferred to the permanent force with the rank of Petty Officer First Class Engineering Mechanic.

The regular meeting of the Charlottetown Kinsmen was held at the Charlottetown Hotel Mr. George Croskey, National Secretary of the Canadian Teacher's Federation was guest speaker. Mr. Clive Stewart was chairman.

London (AP) — Scotland Yard's forgery squad detectives inquiring into currency counterfeiting in Britain and abroad have seized a number of printing plates in a series of raids. Two men were arrested. Samples of notes and equipment seized from a house in London's Mayfair district were taken to the Bank of England for examination.

Spring Check up Time Ignition Carburetor Wiring ROBINSON'S IRVING Richmond St. Ch'town

Advertisement for Rex Stout's latest and best mystery, 'The Door Bell Rang', featuring a woman's face and promotional text for Star Weekly.