

Speech From The Throne

With one exception, to which we shall refer later, the speech from the throne at yesterday's opening of the Legislature was full and comprehensive. It runs to 51 paragraphs, 10 being devoted to agricultural matters, 12 to education and 8 to health and welfare.

Among the highlights are the legislation to introduce hospital insurance, increase teachers' salaries, construct a students' residence for Prince of Wales College, provide extra grants to school districts on a fiscal need and per pupil requirement basis, assist young people to become established on farms, extend the dairy herd improvement program and appoint a potato fieldman.

We note with approval the strong emphasis placed on the "critical and serious" situation at Borden and the need for a new icebreaking ferry for this service; also the reference to the recent freight rate increase and the efforts being made, jointly with the other Atlantic Provinces, to obtain some alleviation of this burden.

All too brief, however, is the paragraph dealing with federal-provincial fiscal relations. The speech acknowledges the receipt of the monthly payments on the adjustment grant of \$2,500,000 which was approved for each of the four fiscal years commencing April 1, 1958. It notes that we are the only Province not to benefit from the increase last year in the rate used in calculating income under the Tax Arrangement Act.

The Provincial Government has evidently agreed to this proposal, for on Monday Finance Minister Fleming announced in Parliament that eight Provinces had indicated their willingness to take part in the study. Only Newfoundland and Alberta were still to be heard from.

The joint committee to be set up for this fiscal inquiry will cover the field exhaustively. There will be "no limit" on discussions provided they fall within a reasonable scope. Mr. Fleming expressed hope that the Provincial Treasurers would be able to meet with him as soon as possible—probably after the end of the regular Legislative sessions—and set an agenda of studies to be undertaken by technical officers of the committees. In the meantime, the provincial ministers have been asked for their proposals for subjects of study by technical officers.

"The success of a conference," he emphasized, "depends on the preparatory work." A federal official will shortly tour the provincial capitals to discuss with provincial officials the groundwork for the ministerial conference.

Here, we submit, is a matter of prime importance. It may be dealt with later in the session, but the Throne Speech should have covered it in general terms, if only to indicate the Government's interest in the subject and the preparations being made to present our fiscal claims convincingly.

British-French Differences

One of the reasons why there is allied disunity—or, at least, serious differences of opinion—in matters affecting the various European problems is the dispute between Britain and France in trade affairs. Statesmen of the two countries may say that all is well politically. But politics and trade are closely related; and there is no doubt that at the moment Britain and France are engaged in an intense commercial rivalry. In fact, not for many years have relations between the two countries been so strained as they are now.

ing down the former's free trade proposal. France, on the other hand, takes the position that the British want free trade in Europe without having to curtail the preferences given Commonwealth countries. The Common Market, an organization of six nations, including France but not Britain, is expected to help the French economy. That, of course, is why the French are so enthusiastic about it. Reports say, however, that it has already hurt British industry which is finding it increasingly difficult to compete successfully with French and West German firms. The British feel, probably correctly, that the European free trade formula, which would allow Britain to retain her trade ties with the Commonwealth, would be supported by all the other Common Market signatories, were it not for French opposition to the plan.

There is evidence, too, that the United States is favouring the French-sponsored Common Market, as opposed to the wider free trade as advocated by the British. This does not do anything to improve British-French relations.

Mr. Macmillan's Trip

Prime Minister Macmillan's impending trip to the Soviet Union is, in part, an act of diplomatic courtesy. The invitation has been open since Premier Khrushchev visited Britain in the summer of 1956. In part, of course, it is an attempt to sound out the Russians on their real intentions regarding the reunification of Germany, the status of West Berlin and other European problems. While he is in Moscow, Mr. Macmillan might be able to explore the feasibility of a high level conference.

But there is little doubt that the Prime Minister's trip is tied in with British domestic politics. Sometime in the next year, probably in late spring or early fall, Mr. Macmillan will be going to the country in a general election. Anything that might help the Conservatives to win is worthy of consideration; and it is clear that any lessening of cold war tensions resulting from Mr. Macmillan's private talks with Russian leaders would increase his prestige at home considerably.

Conservative prospects at the moment are not as promising as they were a few months ago, largely because of rising unemployment and other economic difficulties. The latest public opinion polls, for what they are worth, give them about a 50-50 chance. Plainly, an imaginative and bold step in the international field is just the thing needed to give the Government a lift, provided, of course, something worthwhile and stimulating comes of it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Science Service says that skin divers who go up to a shark and grab it by the tail are inviting trouble. Not only do they "invite" it; they deserve it.

Arnold Heeney, one of Canada's top diplomats, has taken over his duties as Ambassador to the United States. This is the second time that Mr. Heeney has served in Washington.

It has been discovered that in Britain the cigarette butts that are thrown away are 65 per cent shorter than those discarded by American smokers. This, of course, applies to Britain as a whole. In Scotland the percentage is somewhat higher.

It is reported that U.S. Secretary of State Dulles and President de Gaulle of France have agreed on a "firm stand" on the future of Germany in face of Russian threats regarding West Berlin. "Taking a firm stand" is one of those diplomatic phrases that have various shades of meaning. What is considered firmness in Paris might conceivably be considered rashness in Washington. It has happened before.

An interesting ruling has been given by Speaker Roland Mitchener in the House of Commons. Members, he said, can't insist on answers to their questions. "A question usually calls for a reply, but not necessarily for an answer." Our legislators will duly note this distinction. It was applied when Hon. Paul Martin attempted, unsuccessfully, to draw Prime Minister Diefenbaker out on the subject of convening a new federal-provincial tax conference.



JACK THE GIANT-KILLER

OTTAWA REPORT

Those CBC Press Conferences

By Patrick Nicholson

The mounting pile of letters, which readers of this column are writing to me about the CBC, suggests that a dilution of the one-sided viewpoint on current affairs on the CBC is a topic near and dear to the hearts of many of you.

It would be unreasonable for me to make this charge of partiality on the part of the CBC without ample evidence to support it. So today I will back up earlier criticisms by taking you behind the scenes on one of the best-known CBC programs on current affairs. I will tell you secrets, which have never before been made public, and you can form your own opinion.

"Press Conference" had its origin as a radio program. In those days the chairman used to select four or five of his regular "birds of a feather" and one or two guests, to form the panel of inquisitors with him.

A genuine press conference is intended to enable newspapermen to report the pros and cons on current topics with a well-informed background. A prominent public personage makes a statement on some subject or set of circumstances; he is asked unheeded questions seeking clarification or amplification; and he faces further questions on a topic which his audience of newspapermen may consider of interest to their readers.

C. B. C. BULL-BAITING But the undisclosed purpose of the CBC program is evidently not that it should be a genuine press conference. It is frankly a verbal bull-fight, in which the chairman

Insect Extraordinary

Armed World Magazine Publication of Arabian American Oil Co.

Before you grind your next cockroach under your heel, spare a thought for this astonishing little fellow who is indeed one of the most remarkable creatures alive.

Of all creatures who lived 20 million years ago, during the carboniferous age, only the cockroach has survived virtually unchanged. While the dinosaurs perished and all other creatures had to undergo considerable changes in order to survive, the cockroach went on living as it had always done. This most primitive of all winged insects was, right from the start, perfectly fitted for its particular and peculiar way of life.

It came triumphantly through eons of time during which most of the earth was disconcertingly

Island Centenaries

P. E. Island Historical Society

Did you know that our soil is supposed to contribute to long life?

We pride ourselves on the number of our citizens who have lived beyond the century mark, and we recall such centenarians as Ronald Neil MacDonald of St. Peters who died in 1953, aged 104; Mrs. Hannah Rogerson of Coleman whose dates were January 20, 1852-January 3, 1956; Mrs. Steel of Gaspeaux who died January 8, 1842, aged 106; and Mrs. Donald Graham of Margate who probably holds the provincial record for longevity and whose history we shall now relate.

The ship "Falmouth," bearing settlers for Covehead, sailed from Perth, Scotland, in 1770. Among the company was a Jamieson family in which there was a comely maiden named Jean who caught the fancy of a young settler named Laurence Brown. Now in those days it took a long time to cross the Atlantic, and youths and maidens had plenty of time to fall in and out of love several

How Alcohol Dims Vision

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. I HAVE written a lot about alcohol and a lot about vision problems. Now I would like to combine these two subjects into a single article.

All of you, I am sure, realize that you should not drink a d then drive. Alcohol slows your reactions, it numbs your senses. It also hampers your vision. FAR FROM ROSEY Despite the popular belief, a few cocktails will not make the world look rosy to the drinker. In fact, alcohol is much more likely to give it a grayish coat, according to the Better Vision Institute.

The Institute, which has made a study of such things, reports that a few drinks of liquor create the same effect as placing a gray glass in front of your eyes. This means that you need stronger light to clearly distinguish objects after you have been drinking. And if these objects are only dimly lit, you may not even see many of them at all.

Your ability to differentiate between tones is likely to deteriorate, too. TEMPORARY TROUBLES These troubles, of course, are only temporary. But even temporary visual problems can be disastrous to a motorist.

As a group, bus drivers probably are among the best drivers in the nation. Yet tests applied to a group of experienced bus drivers showed that, after a couple of drinks, some of them were ready to try to drive through a gap which was 14 inches narrower than their buses.

A DEPRESSANT It was not that the alcohol made them more willing to take risks; it was that its depressant effect on the central nervous system made them fail to see the danger involved. The conclusion of this study is that a man's judgment of his own driving ability is impaired when the alcohol concentration in his blood is less than 0.5 milligram per milliliter.

Now that is not very much alcohol. When you are driving, however, it is too much, far too much. QUESTION AND ANSWER M.N.: My husband takes about 100 aspirins a week. Also, he drinks liquor frequently. What effect will this have on his health? Answer: Excessive indulgence in both alcohol and aspirin is not conducive to good health.

MAXIMS

The greater the difficulty, the more glory in surmounting it. Skillful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempests.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Feb. 11, 1934)

With the thermometer registering just a few degrees above zero the Victoria Driving Club carried on their program of ice races Saturday afternoon, but it was somewhat abbreviated by the absence of a number of starters who preferred comfort at home to being partially frozen on the harbour ice. There were, however, over one hundred spectators watching the races.

The deciding game between the O'Leary Maroons and Wellington Battlers for a right to play in the playoffs for the MacLean Cup was played at O'Leary on Thursday evening and ended in a 3-3 tie. This gave the section to O'Leary with a standing of 8 to Wellington 6. O'Leary will now play off with Summerside.

TEN YEARS AGO

(Feb. 11, 1949) A resolution "to proceed to form a co-operative" with a proposed share capital of \$20,000, "to handle surplus milk, feeds and groceries and any other lines which subscribed share capital will warrant" was adopted at a representative meeting of the Milk Producers of the Charlottetown area in the Co-operative Union offices last night.

Mr. B. L. Stewart was elected.

Early in its career the cockroach acquired remarkable eyesight. Its eyes combine the best features of infrared and radar. Each eye has 1,800 lenses that can pierce the deepest gloom and (in human terms) spot a morsel of food two miles off.

Another talent that has allowed the cockroach to good stead is its ability to compress its bulk into the tiniest holes and the narrowest cracks. If they should get into a really tight spot, moreover, many—but not all—can rev up and become airborne. In some species, the females are wingless.

The only thing that worries the cockroach much is climate. It prefers the tropics, and its ideal temperature is from 70 to 80 degrees. When the mercury drops to 35 degrees, today's cockroach becomes uncomfortable, and around 20 degrees it curls up its toes and dies.

Long sea voyages don't upset it: Travelling as a stowaway the cockroach has established itself as an unwelcome citizen in every country of the world. When the Phoenicians explored the Mediterranean the cockroach stowed away in their galleys. It almost certainly went to the new world with Columbus or shortly afterward. America today has 53 species of cockroaches, but only a handful of these members of the family Blattella are natives. The rest introduced themselves.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Curbside mailing is a forward step but it's not much use to the husband who puts his wife's letters in his pocket and lets them hibernate there.—Ottawa Journal

One difficulty about carrying out the suggestion of industrialist Cyrus Eaton that U.S. State Secretary Dulles be fired is that he never stays anywhere long enough for a count-down.—Bramford Express

Eisenhower was the first president criticized for golf? In 1908 ex-President Teddy Roosevelt wrote Taft: I am convinced the prominence given to your golf playing has not been wise; I hope your people prevent one word being sent out about it.—Toronto Telegram

Shades of the wild and woolly West! There's rustlers in them Manitoba hills and cattlemen in the province are banding together to stamp the varmints together. Last week some 350 cattlemen, quite properly riled about the disappearance of good fat beef from their corrals, held meetings in various parts of the province.—Winnipeg Free Press

Admiral Doenitz, Hitler's successor for 20 days as Chancellor of the Reich, says in his memoirs that he cannot understand how "errors such as Buchenwald" could have existed in Germany without his knowledge. Someday, somewhere, there may be found a former Nazi who admits knowing there were concentration camps.—Ottawa Journal

MAKE IRON CHEAPER LONDON (Reuters) — Russian experts are designing the world's biggest blast furnaces, able to produce iron five per cent cheaper than normal, the Soviet news agency Tass said Monday. Several of the furnaces will have a capacity of 2,615 cubic yards and one will reach 2,985 cubic yards—614 cubic yards more than the biggest one in the United States, the agency claimed.

president of the Eastern King's Board of Trade at the annual meeting held last night in the Twon Hall. Other officers include Art Peters, vice-president; R. A. Leard, secretary-treasurer; executive committee, Walter Macdonald, L. W. Roper, J. H. M. Dalziel, W. A. Acorn and James Brennan.

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