

Not Very Illuminating

The announcement that three engineering firms had been hired by the Federal Public Works Department to study the task of constructing a causeway between Prince Edward Island and the mainland was featured in our Ottawa news yesterday—not because it was new but because it represents all we have heard from official sources about this project since before the last federal election.

On June 11, under the heading "Reassuring News", we commented on this announcement when it was first made, noting that the three firms mentioned had headquarters in Ontario and Quebec, with offices in the Maritimes, which we interpreted as meaning that the work would be distributed pretty widely throughout Eastern Canada.

At that time, the announcement indicated that definite action had been taken in launching this great undertaking. We construed it as a guarantee that the Conservative causeway pledge would be redeemed—not some time in the indefinite future, but without further loss of time. Otherwise, we suggested, this action in engaging engineering firms would be a piece of political trickery that our electors would not easily forgive.

NOT MUCH PROGRESS—Monday's statement in the House of Commons indicated that while the engineering firms have combined to form a company called Northumberland Consultants Limited, no reports have yet been submitted to the minister. It is time, we submit, that they get busy.

In the pre-election statement last June we were assured that "the plans should be completed, ready for construction to start in two years," and that the project itself would take a further six or seven years to complete. This was something of a letdown from Prime Minister Diefenbaker's earlier statement in Charlottetown in which confidence was expressed that the causeway would be completed in 1967—the Confederation centennial year. We discounted that at the time, however, as a piece of campaign oratory, since it appeared to have no support from the government's engineers. But we did accept as valid the pledge that the work would start within two years, and we mean to keep this assurance in the forefront of discussing the matter from now on.

HOPE DEFERRED—When t a speech from the Throne came out at the opening of the new session of Parliament, we scanned it hopefully for some evidence of the Government's concern about the pledge that had played such an important part in re-electing four Conservatives in this Province. There was none. Then we waited until the receipt, yesterday, of the Hansard record of the speech given in the debate, on Oct. 11, by our junior member for Queens, Mr. Heath Macquarrie. There saw a few lines there about the causeway, all right, but the reference was disappointingly vague. Someone had mentioned the causeway and the speaker evidently felt he should reply.

"We have," said Mr. Macquarrie, "our commitment in that connection." He had mentioned it himself a good many times, he recalled. The House records showed "how long it will require for the studies which must precede the eventual construction." Mr. Macquarrie then went on to express the hope that "all hon. members in this House will come across that causeway before too long." There was all there was from our representative on the subject. In a speech occupying six and a half columns of Hansard, there wasn't any more!

We are hoping, however, that something more tangible will come out during the current session. We are hoping that our Island members will be responsible for bringing it out, and that we can give them credit for their zeal in this connection. But they haven't made a very auspicious start, and they will have themselves to blame if the public gets the idea that we are in for another political runaround on this issue. It requires to be kept before the House as a matter of major importance to the whole Atlantic area. Nor should there be any excuse for Opposition spokesmen getting up from time to time, as in the past, to request the information we want and are entitled to get as to the progress that is being made.

The 87th Congress

The longest Congressional session since 1951 is now over at Washington. With adjournment, the members who have chafed to get to the hustings will be free at last to campaign for the November elections. Of the 536 members of the 87th Congress, 422 are seeking re-election and six House members are bidding for the Senate. On the elector's judgment of the record—embracing issues of both national and local concern—will depend how many of those 428 legislators will be back when the next Congress convenes on January 8.

According to the New York Times, the one outstanding accomplishment of Congress this year was its approval of the President's bold program for expansion of foreign commerce; but even this was hedged with protectionist devices and a particularly harmful change of policy toward trade with Poland and Yugoslavia. The most glaring deficiencies in the record were in the rejection of virtually all bills that entailed any element of originality or experimentation in coping with urgent domestic problems.

It was a session that had long since completed its major work, but lingered on in an unconvincing over issues of special concern to individual members. Among the issues were appropriations and the "pork barrel." This latter issue involved two bills—one a \$2.2 billion measure authorizing federal construction projects in a number of Congressional districts, the other an appropriation bill for some previously authorized "pork barrel" projects.

A Congressman's salary is \$22,500 a year, and there are a lot of "extras" that go with the job. The cost to the taxpayer of Congress and the agencies that provide services for the lawmakers will exceed \$147 million this year, which is at the rate of almost \$275,000 for each of the 437 representatives and 100 senators. This may explain much of the difficulty the President experienced in getting his reform measures through.

As one Washington commentator put it, "The first rule of a Congressman is to get re-elected. And once a lawmaker tastes the rich broth of economic and social security in the most elaborately and expensively appointed parliamentary body in the history of the world, not a Kennedy can make him break that rule."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Premier Shaw is back on the job, with the best wishes of all our citizens for the continued enjoyment of his lively vigorous and buoyant good health.

The facts about the military buildup in Cuba were put on a U.S. congressional committee record the other day by Mr. George Ball, Undersecretary of State. Contrary to what some political spinners have been saying they showed, conclusively, that this buildup is not only not capable of offensive action, but also it is not capable of defensive action against the United States. The United States, using only conventional weapons, could dispose of Cuba in a few hours if it had



WALKING ON EGGS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Over \$50 Million A Year Turkey Business

The appetizing odours (traditionally associated with kitchen preparations on the second Monday in October aroused my curiosity. Our standards are slightly higher than U.S., but they accept birds carrying more fat than our standards will permit. So that is how the European export, fat, finishing and processing. Our standards are slightly higher than U.S., but they accept birds carrying more fat than our standards will permit.

Further Squeeze On Berlin

By Carman Cumming Canadian Press Staff Writer

It's autumn again and the disappearing winter weather apparently is taking with it the period diplomats were calling the "cold war pause." Once again the Soviet Union is pressing its plan to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany. This time many Western leaders, particularly in Washington, believe the Russians will follow through.

TRADE TRENDS

Much more serious, however, would any attempt to break into military access, which would pass to East German control with the signing of a peace treaty. The U.S. has assured West German Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder, now in Washington, that it will maintain the right of civilian as well as military access. There have been rumors that East Germany would require diplomatic visas for West Germans going to Berlin.

OUR YESTERDAYS

Twenty-five years ago October 17, 1937, Ontario Lieutenant Governor Sir Delmore Macdonald was appointed to head a provincial committee of laymen and physicians to link up with a proposed Canadian organization for better control of cancer.

TEN YEARS AGO

Last year the president of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, Vancouver, British Columbia, announced that he would attend the semi-annual meeting of the P.E.I. Institute of Chartered Accountants, Charlottetown, on the Queen Hotel this evening. Also present for the occasion is the president of the Chartered Accountants of Newfoundland, St. John's, Rev. A.E. Armstrong, D.D. who returned from Korea several months ago addressed a public meeting in Charlottetown last evening, dealing with conditions in that war-torn country.

Their Own Broadcasters

Two grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park are now operating their own radio stations. Miniature transmitters, attached to the roaming bears by a plastic collar, broadcast their signals to a receiver about five miles away. One bear was successfully followed through a forest for a month despite several snowstorms. Protection of bears in Yellowstone National Park is a top priority for the U.S. government. The population at about 200. Fresh research on the grizzlies' "change in size" may help survival of the threatened species in unprotected forestland.

SWEET RAIT

Before the grizzlies are wired for sound, they are trapped in portable steel cubers, baited with honey, bacon, and pineapple juices. The bears are then injected with a harmless drug that temporarily immobilizes them while the collar is placed on their necks. The collars were devised by Philip Corporation's Western Development Division. Though fewer than 1,000 grizzlies survive south of Canada, these conservative sub-species have numbered across North America for a million years. Some Indians believe the

Hossback Nurses Room Kentucky

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen ... the women of the famed Frontier Nursing service of eastern Kentucky. Most of their homes have been replaced with 10 x 8 hosiery sheds. Their duties have been lightened through the introduction of rust-proof stainless steel cooking and improved diets and medications. The organization is geared to serve 200 patients over 700 square miles.

There was no better place to start than in the remote counties in eastern Kentucky. At that time this was a tight little world of rough mountains. The horse was the only means of transportation. Certain points: from there it became necessary to walk. Mrs. Breckinridge is 60. Most of the success of the venture stems from her executive ability and planning. The hospital at Hyden became the hub, with six (now five) branches scattered throughout the area.

More than 13,000 babies have been born there since the midwives of the F.N.S.; 8,000 were delivered at home and 5,000 in the hospital. The main function of the members of this organization is general nursing and preventive medicine. Preventive medicine is a graduate school for midwives, usually live at each center.

The Cold Season

Ohawa Journal

President Kennedy has one but that doesn't make any one say there are really no more colds this year than any year at all. This is the kind of optimism we've seen before. The President's chief of staff, secretary called it an "upper echelon" of the military. He says the way doctors like to speak the doctors, of course, also talk to the public.

The Pollution Problem

Group of Montreal Citizens

Action taken by a group of residents in the Montreal area will be watching by all who care about the environment. Being done to clean up the nation's streams and rivers. The effort is to secure a permanent injunction to prevent the dumping of untreated sewage into the St. Lawrence River.

Miami's Refugee Problem

Mitwaukee Journal

The exodus of refugees from Cuba continues to impose an intolerable burden on metropolitan Miami. For months the area's schools, hospitals and other public institutions have been operating beyond capacity. The dimensions of the problem are evident from recent school registrations in Dade county. Officials expected to enroll 15,000 to 18,000 Cuban refugee children alone this fall. The actual total was about 20,000.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A British doctor says a howl—like a crash helmet—is worth wearing for safety. Not in the winter when the weather is right for snowfalls.—Ottawa Journal. Goller far off in the rough "Say, caddy, why do you keep looking at my feet?" "I'm a watch, sir, it's a compass."—Montreal Star. Country constable: "Pardon, Miss, but swimming is not allowed in this lake." Tourist: "Is it to tell me before I drown?" Constable: "Well, there ain't no law against undressin'!"—Montreal Star.

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