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Hopes Again Deferred

The members of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities have been disappointed in their hopes of obtaining a federal-provincial-municipl conference on fiscal problems. At their annual meeting at North Bay, Ontario, this week, they decided not to press this matter further at the present time. A Winnipeg resolution had urged that procedure be initiated to bring the three governments together at regular intervals on welfare matters of common interest. Another proposed by Estevan, Sask., and also turned down would have asked for a three-level meeting to arrange a more suitable basis for distribution of tax revenues among the governments. A third motion in similar vein, submitted by Halifax and referred back to the executive for study, proposed an objective federal study of municipal fiscal affairs.

But it was Prime Minister Diefenbaker's address which naturally received most attention at the convention. The Prime Minister made it plain that the Federal Government has committed itself as far as it can for the time being, and he washed out hope of any three-way fiscal meeting in the near future. "We all realize," he said, "that there is only one taxpayer—the public—that no advancement can be made in this country except through taxation and only one person pays for all these things." We know all about that in this Province, and probably the Mayors and Municipalities Federation delegates knew it too. But it does not answer the question about the distribution of tax revenues which is the basis of the municipalities' complaint.

Since its inception 22 years ago the Federation has been fighting for realignment of tax resources to give the third level of government money to provide services for an urban population that now makes up some 60 per cent of Canada's population compared with one-half that 50 years ago. Heretofore the provincial authorities have been holding the purse strings in the division of tax revenue received from Ottawa, and that, presumably, is the way it will have to continue for the present. The Federal Government has problems enough of its own to contend with and is not now taking on any more. And this not being a federal general election year, it was deemed a timely occasion by the Prime Minister to pass this information on.

And so, with many delegates abstaining, a resolution that would have asked for a three-way conference and another that would have asked for an agreement among the three levels of government to provide for a direct tax-sharing arrangement were both voted down. The delegates did, however, go ahead to request greater federal aid for education and to ask the central administration to do all in its power to check inflation. After that, it was time to call it a day and go sadly home.

Soviet Farm Wages

Before he left for his surprise visit to Albania, Premier Khrushchev made a speech at Kiev which has been construed as indicating that another offensive is being launched against the most stubbornly individualistic members of the Soviet population—the farmers. The Premier declared himself opposed to high wage payments by collective farms for work done by their members. He urged that such payments be kept down to levels satisfying the workers' essential needs, and asserted that a large proportion of collective farm income should go for investment in communal structures such as bakeries and boarding schools.

According to a report in the New York Times, Mr. Khrushchev indicated that he feared the rise of a "kulak mentality" among peasants on the richer collective farms. That phrase must have fallen ominously upon his listeners' ears. The kulaks were the well-to-do farmers who were liquidated twenty-five or more years ago when Soviet peasants were forced to unite their private holdings into the collectives that are now the basic units of Soviet agriculture.

In the past, Soviet propaganda has cited high individual earnings on particular farms as evidence of success of the collective farm system. Now Premier Khrushchev appears to be suggesting that the standards of such services as water supply, sewage disposal and bath houses should be made the criteria of whether collective farms are developing properly along Socialist lines. This policy might represent a revival of his "agrogorod," or farm city, proposal of 1951, which was defeated at that time. Khrushchev proposed then that the small villages of the Soviet Union be combined into large towns consisting of small apartment houses and equipped with the facilities of urban communities. It is apparently to make such reconstruction of the Soviet countryside possible that he propses limitation of individual farmers' incomes and investment of available funds in construction of communal facilities.

The Premier's attack on rural wage payments came shortly after a Soviet economist presented data showing how poorly paid collective farmers have been during the last three decades. The data indicated that even in the relatively prosperous year of 1956 the farmer's money earnings came to only 1,300 rubles, annually, or little more than 100 rubles a month. At the tourist rate of exchange, which provides a rough measure of purchasing power, this is equivalent to cash payment of about $10 a month. The average Soviet worker earns about 700 or 800 rubles a month. Even taking account of additional payment in grain and other farm produce, the figures appear to support Western suspicions of extreme poverty on the collective farms, alleviated somewhat since Stalin's death in 1953 but still far from overcome.

Even By Accident

Here, from Senator Mansfield (Dem. Montana) in an address at Gonzago University convocation, is a warning which should be pondered at the Geneva conference, and by every world statesman who may be tempted to practise "brinkmanship" in this dangerous age:

"I will not hold up to you the comforting thought that nuclear war, being too terrible to contemplate, is therefore too destructive to be fought. As a former teacher of history I find this thought—despite its considerable currency—completely illusory. It is unsupported by the historic experience of mankind.

"War can come today as it has come many times in the past. It can come by accident or miscalculation, despite a basic desire of all to avoid it. It can be a limited conflict, as in Korea, or it can be of an extent that will reduce to radioactive ruin the legacy of several thousand years of human civilization."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The importance of the tourist dollars in Canada's economy is illustrated by the fact that only two exports—newsprint and wheat—bring more money into Canada then the tourist trade, and only newsprint tops tourism as an earner of U.S. dollars. Last year Canada earned $352 million from travel expenditures, a drop of $11 million from 1957.

* * *

The Atlantic Premiers are to meet at Fredericton on September 15. Two Liberals, two Conservatives, they met before without clashing politically and this time they propose to discuss problems of Atlantic economy in the same co-operative manner. We do not need to remind these honourable gentlemen that this is the only way they can hope to achieve results.

* * *

Mr. Forrest W. Phillips received well-merited tributes at the Liberal convention at Ellerslie Wednesday night when it was announced that he was retiring from active politics at the end of the present government term. A former Speaker of the House, and former Minister of Labor and Welfare, Mr. Phillips was popular with all classes and his illness, which overtook him about a year ago, was a matter of general regret. He can look back with pride on a record of conscientious service to his constituency and Province.

KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

OTTAWA REPORT

Big Potential Market

By Patrick Nicholson

A huge potential market for a wide range of Canadian consumer goods and Canadian foods has been opened by the British Government's recent removal of all restrictions on the importation of these items from the Dollar area.

During a recent survey in Britain, I formed the opinion that this step paves the way for substantial purchases of Canadian exports in certain lines, of which the most promising may well be our household electrical gadgets of all kinds.

The British housewife, who for so long toiled unaided in her old-fashioned kitchen, already is beginning to enjoy the streamlined North American style kitchen, with ample counter space, convenient cupboards, and our generally bright and easy-to-clean decor. Now she will also have the opportunity to buy our North American style push-button electrical aids.

The freed trade applies to U.S.A. as well as to Canadian products; this had to be done under present international trade agreement against discrimination. But thanks to the system of Empire Preferential Tariffs set up by our Conservative Government in 1932, our goods will now enjoy the advantage of being imported into Britain free of duty, while U.S. products must pay a tariff.

UNKNOWN JOYS IN U.K.

Such electrical equipment as food mixers, meat grinders, dishwashers and garbage disposal units seem to me to be the kind of product which our manufacturers might now be able to sell to Britain in considerable quantities. We enjoy the advantage that U.S. goods must bear a 15 percent duty, which is aggravated to 18.75 per cent by the purchase tax, while our duty-free goods have this competitive edge.

These items are at present scarce and costly luxuries in Britain, the product of British factories. A typical British food mixer, for example, costs $77.25, while a comparable Canadian machine sells here for $39.75.

Importation of our large-size refrigerators may herald a new shopping pattern for British housewives. Only a few British homes in that temperate climate now contain refrigerators; these, of British make, are much smaller than ours, and much more costly per cubic foot of capacity. A typical British product of 4½ cubic feet costs $217; we pay $295 for one three times that size.

If Canadian exporters can persuade the British housewife of the advantages of our pattern of one big food purchase each week with perishables stored in a big girls will make

Canadian refrigerator, those girls will make attractive savings in shoe leather, and our manufacturers will make attractive exports.

FOODS FREE TOO

The other new market possibility now opened will interest the Maritimes and B.C. This stems from the removal of restrictions on the purchase of certain canned fish products, such as lobsters, clams and chicken haddie. Salmon of course was freed last year, when our record salmon catch in B.C. was sold to Britain at record prices.

Purchasers of our cheese have hitherto been curtailed, although January to March exports to Britain this year are running ten times above last year. Now cheese is freed, offering an opportunity to the makers of our favoured Ontario cheddar, similar to that Oxford County product which the local M.P., Wally Nesbitt, always boasts so effectively around Ottawa.

Fresh, frozen and canned vegetables, fresh fruit and fruit pectin are now freed, opening the British markets to our farmers. Certain other items, typically eggs, are also now freed, but our prices are at present too high to make them competitive in the British market.

This freeing of import restrictions now puts 110 classes of these consumer goods on the basis already enjoyed in the British market by our wheat, many wood products, chemicals and other manufacturers' raw materials. This happy development is the direct result of the lead given by the Diefenbaker Government in promoting the diversification of our trade, and in convening the Commonwealth Economic Conference in Montreal last Fall.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

"BEFORE AND AFTER"

Sir,—Before the last two federal elections, Mr. Diefenbaker now Prime Minister, said to the electors of Canada from coast to coast, "The Liberals tell you that reduced taxes and increased pensions and salaries can't be done — put us in power and we will show them". He also promised greater federal assistance to the municipalities throughout Canada.

Now the Canadian Federation of Mayors is holding its annual convention at North Bay, Ontario, and they have been addressed by Mr. Diefenbaker. He told them that they will have to bide their time in their search for increased financial aid from the Federal Government. He said there is only one taxpayer — the public — and that no advancement can be made in this country except through taxation.

Dealing with the country's current economic situation, Mr. Diefenbaker said, "One criterion of development is shown in the rise of interest rates, which, of course, increases the cost of government at all levels", but he did not tell them that the rise in interest rates was brought about by the blundering of his Goverament, particularly by the Fleming conversion deal.

I am, Sir, etc.,
T. V. GRANT.

Senate Chamber,
Ottawa, June 3.

The Times' Fall From Grace

By Ed Simon
Canadian Press Staff Writer

For the last 2½ years, Selwyn Lloyd has been fired with the regularity of Vancouver's nine-o'clock gun by Britain's political correspondents.

As one of the most prominent cabinet holdovers when Prime Minister Eden resigned after the Suez crisis, Lloyd was the obvious scapegoat in a period when Eden's successor was doing his best to convince everyone that Suez never happened.

The foreign secretary inexplicably stayed in office, weathering a series of parliamentary rows that kept Fleet Street busy revising his political obituary. Only The Times, the grey eminence of British journalism, declined to join the game.

Last weekend, when Lloyd's diligent efforts at the foreign ministers' conference in Geneva had raised his prestige to unprecedented heights, the Old Lady of Printing House Square decorously boosted her skirts a few inches above her ankles and got her feet wet.

PREDICTS DEPARTURE

The Times article made handsome reference to the foreign secretary's hard work, devotion to duty and growing mastery of his job. But under a big, two-column headline on the paper's main news page it predicted Lloyd's departure after the next general election.

In the austere columns of The Times, speculation is normally the sole prerogative of the racing correspondent. Its reputation for accuracy is based on factual reporting rather than crystal gazing. The old lady's fall from grace provoked a considerable stir among her more wayward Fleet Street sisters.

The immediate question concerned the source of the information and the motive behind its publication. The columnists impartially accused sinister forces in Russia, West Germany, France and even in the British government itself of plotting Lloyd's undoing.

HUMAN ERROR

While Prime Minister Macmillan's firm statement in the House of Commons disposed of any question of Lloyd's early departure, an astonishing number of political reporters were reaching the conclusion that the unsigned article had simply been the product of human error.

Someone, on a newsless Sunday night, had elected to write 13 paragraphs of political gossap Someone else had glanced at the story and shoved it into the paper. The sort of thing that never happens in The Times had finally happened.

At the moment, Britain's foreign secretary enjoys unparalleled security in his job. The same cannot be said for one or two employees of Britain's foremost newspaper.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(June 5, 1934)

The Supreme Court opened at Summerside yesterday morning with His Lordship, Chief Justice Mathieson presiding. As there were no criminal cases on the docket, His Lordship was presented with the customary pair of white gloves by the Sheriff, F. J.E. Wright.

Godkins Bros., Jewellers, Summerside, had a good sized pearl brought into them by a local fisherman recently, which he had found in a quahaug, picked up from a bed in the waters near Summerside. The pearl was sent to Toronto to be valued and it was found to be worth $100.00.

TEN YEARS AGO
(June 5, 1949)

A fire that took the combined efforts of the Summerside and R.C.A.F. fire departments to control, gutted a three-storey wooden building that contained the Olympia Restaurant on Water Street, Summerside, on Saturday afternoon. A barn owned by Wilfred Kelly was also destroyed. The restaurant was operated by Mr. Chester Gaudet and the building is owned by J. Henry Gaudet.

Deputy Mayor of Summerside, W. Henry Wedge, accompanied by Councillor Lorne Driscoll, left Saturday night to attend the convention of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities being held this week at the Chateau Frontenac Hotel, Quebec City, where they will represent the Town of Summerside.

NO OVERTIME

LONDON (Reuters) — More than 200,000 pressmen, typesetters and other printing workers throughout Britain Wednesday banned all overtime in a bid to enforce claims for higher wages and shorter hours. The dispute affects magazines and periodicals and most newspapers, though not the major London dailies.

MAXIMS

It is the common wonder of all men how, among so many million of faces, there should be none alike.

Mother Nature And Pregnancy

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

IS THERE a best age at which The answer to this question is simple: of course there is. At least there is an age bracket in which both the mother and baby have the best chance of coming through the procedure in tiptop condition.

CAN GO WRONG

With all our modern techniques and knowledge, there is little chance of anything going wrong at any age, but it can happen.

Doctors generally agree that it is best for you mothers to have your children when you are between the ages of 20 and 30. Young mothers, if they aren't too young, appear to have the best chances of giving birth to healthy babies.

UP TO NATURE

Now I want to emphasize that I don't mean that no one over the age of 30 should have a baby. The birth of a baby is pretty much up to Old Mother Nature. She usually knows what she is doing.

However, it is a fact that a woman who has her first baby when she is over the age of 35 runs a greater risk than does a younger woman.

MULTIPLE BIRTHS

Age also appears to be a factor in multiple births.

For example, women in the 35 to 39 age bracket have about 17 sets of twins per 1,000 births, while mothers under the age of 20 have only six sets of twins per 1,000 births.

Actually, the general health of the mother is usually more important to the well-being of the infant than is the woman's age.

If she takes care of herself throughout pregnancy and has good medical care, the odds are greatly in favor of the baby being a real bouncer.

PREMATURE BIRTHS

About six out of every 100 American births are premature. For mothers who have good medical care, this figure is reduced drastically to about two or three "premies" per 100 babies born.

Moreover, healthy parents generally produce healthy offspring.

If you have any question about whether you should have children at your age, I suggest that you consult yoqr family doctor. Each case must be decided on an individual basis.

UESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. E. M.: My eighteen-month-old baby has had good eating habits until lately. Now she refuses to eat any of her regular food except milk and orange juice.

Her doctor says she can go indefinitely on this food without harm. May I have your opinion?

Answer: Milk and orange juice are very good, substantial foods and contain most vitamins and nutrients. However, this is not sufficient for a well-balanced diet and I would suggest that continued effort be made to diversify the baby's diet.

The Poet's Corner

FARM MORNING

You have come back to the farm morning
Daughter, dove daughter,
To drink of the sun on the orchard
And the cold brook water.

To feed on the sight of lambs
Pushing their mothers
And the buttery yellow chicks
Nipping their brothers.
Aye, drink deep of the wood's edge
Where it thins in the meadow
And the wheat greening the hill
And the aldertree's shadow.

They will not hold you long; whether
You wish or not you will go
Back to the city canyons their tether,
But healed. Drink deep now, drink slow.

—Margery S. Stewart
in the New York Herald Tribune.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In many a case a person's sins don't weigh so heavily upon his conscience as doe a long accumulated stack of unanswered letters.—Woodstock Sentinel-Tribune

People who smoke in bed are in the same class as peoople who drive cars dangerously, dive into shallow waters, handle guns without making sure there is no cartridge in the breech, or do several other things that involve risks.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

A display of Canadian uranium, showing the wide range of uranium products now being produced in Canada, will be a feature of the 1960 Tokyo International Trade Fair. The Tokyo fair, third to be held in Japan's capital since the war, will be held from May 5 to May 22. With more than 3,000 firms taking exhibition space, the 1959 fair will be twice as large as the last Tokyo fair. —The New Japan

A single pair of robins, if all progeny survived, could produce some 19,500,000 descendants in 10 years. Significantly only four or five species of North American birds have vanished into extinction since the continent was colonized. One of these, the passenger pigeon, laid only a single egg. Several species, notably forest birds such as the woodpecker, may have declined. But in general man's clearing of the land has greatly helped the song-birds. —Owen Sound Sun-Times

Cigarette smokers and liquor drinkers are now paying more for their pleasures (or vices, according to your point of view), but at least they know why they are paying more; it is a direct result of Mr. Fleming's budget. The average person however, has no idea of the extent to which he is taxed. If he did, there would be far fewer demands on the Government for this or that service, and much lower taxes.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle

And now even the most expert expert doesn't know why the stock market does what it does even after it does.—Brandon Sun

To the auto repairman every knock is a boost in the total of the bill.—St. Thomas Times Journal

For years now, women have been steadily invading fields hitherto reserved for men only. Latest is the appointment of a woman to spot forest fires from a tower West of Port Arthur, Ont. —Ottawa Journal

It is reported that blood makes a complete circuit of one's body every 23 seconds. When a beautiful blonde walks by, the office boy's blood makes the trip in eight seconds flat.—Calgary Herald

For the first time Canadian Eskimos have been represented by their own kind at the council tables in Ottawa. And the most striking thing about their representations was that they were so reasonable. All these Canadian citizens asked was a chance to do as other Canadians do.—Toronto Telegram

Canada is probably the least national nation in the world. It has a lot of territory, and a somewhat scant population. It has 3,000 miles of border defended by customs men. It has ten provinces, each of which is different, and each of which is convinced, that the other nine get a better deal from Ottawa. But, apart from the odd verbal brawl, they get along.—Vancouver Province.

The Age Old Story

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