

The Potato Situation

Our farmers must face the fact that there is little to be hoped from any potato marketing agreement on the basis proposed this year by the Agricultural Prices Support Board. The amounts of 15, 20 and 25 cents per bushel for three pool periods, as compared with 42, 50 and 55 cents paid for the 1953 crop have been set far too low for any worthwhile purpose to be served. There is no dealer who would not be willing to offer better terms than the Board figures. The reason given by Ottawa officials would seem to have nothing to do with the personnel of the Potato Marketing Board, but to the fact that they were "too optimistic" in setting the 1953 figures and incurred a loss to the treasury of some six million dollars. It may be, too, that they fear American tariff reprisals if the support figures were placed too high. But there is a golden mean in everything, and on this occasion they have certainly erred on the niggardly side.

It is claimed that the Support Board is not really a price support organization at all, but is designed merely to assist in co-operative marketing when finances are short. Whatever its purpose, it is in duty bound to take stock of the serious situation of our growers this year, due to a marketing problem over which they have no control. The big industrial provinces always seem to have the arguments their own way when it comes to protection of basic industries. When everything else fails the strike weapon comes into play. Farmers do not have resource to this means of gaining their ends, and they should be given all the more consideration from governments and government boards on this account. It is to be hoped that some practicable assistance will yet be forthcoming to our potato farmers, on a basis that will be of some real help to them in this emergency.

Irritating Influence

The outcome of last Sunday's election in the Saar was something of a political upset. Most on the spot observers had predicted that Premier Hoffman's plan for Europeanizing the rich industrial region would be endorsed, despite pro-German sentiment which had been regarded as more of a nuisance than a definite political factor. Once again it has been demonstrated that the only time to tell about an election is after the ballots have been counted.

As matters stand now, at least four things can be taken for granted: (1) The Saarlanders, most of whom are German by tradition and language, prefer German to French political and economic ties; (2) Pan-Europeanism, which has been discussed with more or less enthusiasm by the architects of European security, has not yet made any great impact on public thinking; (3) German nationalism is still a potent factor of European politics, notwithstanding the supra-national sentiments which have been expressed from time to time by Chancellor Adenauer, and although Germany's involvement in the Western Alliance seems to be fairly well established. (It may or may not be significant that a former Nazi official led the successful pro-German forces in the election campaign.); (4) The position of Chancellor Adenauer, who pleaded with the Saarlanders to support the Europeanization plan, has been weakened, perhaps dangerously.

The result of the election does not necessarily mean that the Saar will be restored to German sovereignty immediately. But it is difficult to see how the transition can be postponed for any length of time. The West Germans, the French, and all other Western peoples are demanding Soviet consent to free elections in Germany, in the hope that these elections would result in German reunification. In view of

that, they can hardly ignore the plain, unmistakable verdict that the Saarlanders registered in their free election. In any event, it looks as if the region that has exercised such an irritating influence on Franco-German affairs in the past is likely to continue indefinitely in that role. Chancellor Adenauer's and Premier Faure's hopes to the contrary notwithstanding.

A Momentous Conference

The Big Four Foreign Ministers' Conference, beginning on Thursday in Geneva, will go on the books as one of the really momentous meetings in the history of the nations. In a sense it may be considered as even more important than the summit meeting itself. At that meeting, the emphasis was on good intentions which, it was hoped, would pave the way for a brighter and a safe future for mankind. At the present meeting, the emphasis will be on specific actions which are necessary to give substance and reality to the much publicized "Geneva spirit". It remains to be seen whether these specific actions will be forthcoming; but certainly that is the hope of the Western representatives who, in the words of United States Secretary of State Dulles, "are ready to meet every legitimate Russian concern for security". That being done, it will be up to the Russians to show their sincerity by translating their protestations of goodwill into deeds that will bear the light of day.

The fact of the matter is that, despite all the fine talk in recent months, the Soviet Government has done little or nothing to ease international tension. To mention just two problems in the way of a settlement, German reunification and disarmament under a proper system of control, the Soviet position has not changed to any noticeable degree since the summit meeting, although there are rumours that Soviet leaders are taking a little more kindly to President Eisenhower's proposal for mutual aerial inspection and exchange of military blueprints—only rumours, however.

This week or next will probably tell just what they are prepared to do, or, at least, whether or not they mean business. And it can be taken for granted that, while Western representatives will lean over backward, as it were, to give the Russians every chance to prove the value of their contribution to the "Geneva spirit", they will not lean back far enough to endanger Western security.

A Fine Tribute

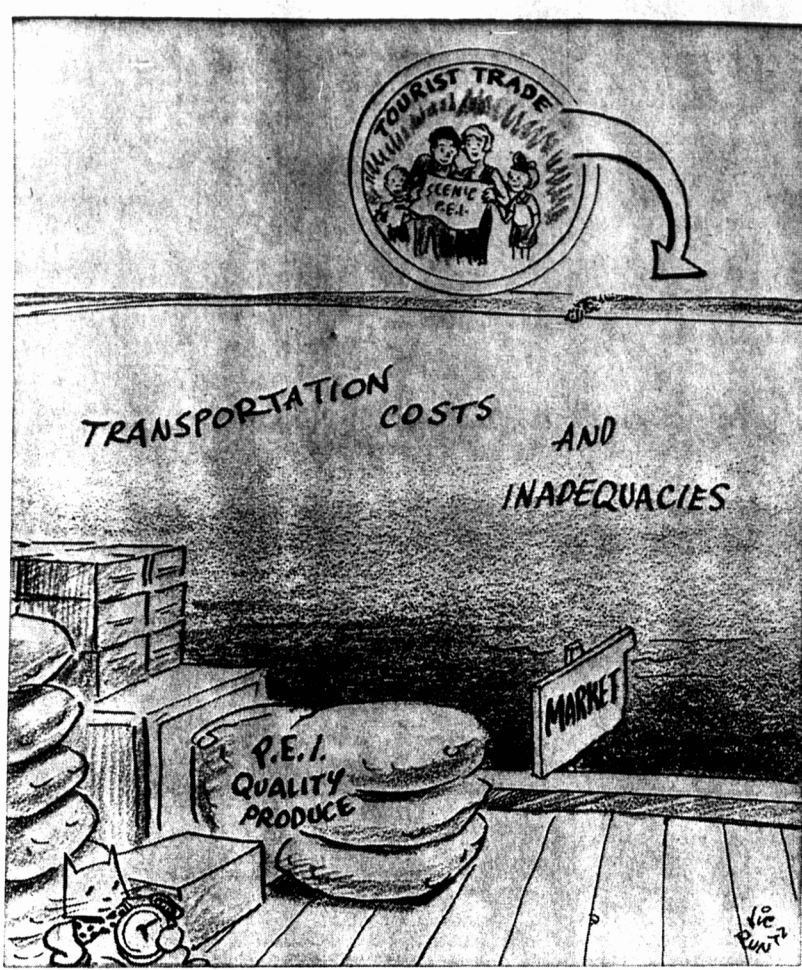
"An inspired teacher has an influence far beyond the circle he actually touches," says the Toronto Globe and Mail in an editorial tribute to the late Dr. Donald Alexander MacRae, formerly of this Province. Noting that Dr. MacRae was a lecturer at Osgoode Hall Law School for twenty-one years before his retirement in 1945, the Globe and Mail adds: "The bare statement of his occupation far from illuminates the remarkable gifts which he brought to his profession. His death has removed an exceptional mind from the community of a sort which can ill be spared."

After briefly reviewing Dr. MacRae's career, his devotion to the classics, his successful period on the faculty of Dalhousie Law School and his chairmanship of the committee on legal education of the Canadian Bar Association for eleven years, the Toronto paper concludes: "The contribution such a man is able to make to his times may not be measured by ordinary standards. Suffice it to say that, blessed with talents beyond the reach of most, he used them to the full as a trust to his fellow-men and to his God. It is an example to emulate."

EDITORIAL NOTES

It seems that aviators are safer in the air than on land. A report says that last year 878 members of the United States Air Force were killed in automobile accidents and 856 in plane crashes scattered throughout the world.

Late rising may have its advantages; but, according to a British milk analyst, cows that are milked later than 4.30 a.m. don't produce the amount of butter fat of which they are capable. He made the observation in an address in which he berated British dairy farmers for staying in bed late—after 4.30, that is.



MORE THAN JUST A RIVER TO CROSS

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily endorse the opinion of the editor.

THE POPPY FUND

Sir—Would you allow me space in your very valuable paper to express a few thoughts regarding the Poppy, its meaning and the use made of the funds provided by its sales. The poppy has for many years been the sign and symbol of blood shed and sacrifice. In the war-torn fields of France and Belgium it grows and blooms in blood-red profusion, silently drooping its head as though in quiet reverence and sadness for the many brave young men who, because of the greed and lust for power of ambitious rulers, now sleep in soldiers' graves.

At this season of the year when winds are chilled, the leaves are falling, and nature seems to be slowly dying, it is fitting that we should pause in this busy work-a-day world to think of those who because of their sacrifice, made it possible for us to live today in comparative ease and freedom. Let us buy a poppy and proudly wear it in memory of those who died that we might live.

Somewhere in a small Canadian village a little eleven-year old girl is living on borrowed time. Recently she has been given a new lease in life—a short one, it is true; but her parents are very thankful to the Canadian Legion for the help provided from the Poppy Fund to bring to her the aid and medical treatment which will extend her life by some five, seven or maybe eight years. Even though it is not considered that she can ever be cured, her parents are grateful for the help given which will enable them to have their dear one with them during these precious years.

This true account of one case helped by the Poppy Fund is only one of many that might be quoted. If the good that we can do by our small contribution to the Poppy Campaign would be likely to give more gladly and more generously.

I am S. F. P. Smith, Charlottetown Legion Representative.

ROUND-WORLD DIARY

Moscow To Pakistan

By I. Norman Smith
Associate Editor, Ottawa Journal.

Basra, Iraq, October 12.—Delayed. The 5.30 rising call was as usual unnecessarily early but we were leaving Moscow and somehow one didn't want to get left behind. The ride to the airport of 20 miles showed again the great number of television aeriels even as we had seen in the countryside on the train from Leningrad.

And again the broad roads and fast traffic were impressive, though as we approached the airport a dead body was lying in the middle of the road with a few branches laid over him as police stood by awaiting undertaker or coroner. We had wondered for days why we hadn't already seen more such victims of the somewhat power-drunk Russian behind a driver's wheel.

RESTRICT RCAF PLANE

The RCAF Plane presented the welcome familiar, including fruit juice and no language problems. It had earlier been Mr. Pearson's intention to fly to Leningrad, Stalingrad and Baku in that plane but at the last moment the Russians decided our military plane and its trained aircrew should not fly over Russia to that extent but merely into and out of Moscow. Train and Russian plane would supply other transport.

This somehow was not as surprising a decision as the earlier one that we could fly to such freedom. If Bulganin came to such freedom doesn't imagine we'd let a Russian army plane fly him hither and yon.

From our great height we had a fine view of the rich fields of the Ukraine en route to Ski in the Crimea, glimpsing the sea of Azov and then landing at a military airport bristling with aircraft on the Black Sea. No sooner down than we were whisked out of there in limousines over a wild road to the pleasant seashore town of Yevpatoria where the mayor gave us the usual bang-up Russian luncheon but where the towns people were gathered in hundreds outside the restaurant and clapped and cheered enthusiastically.

I went out between courses to take photographs and they gleefully posed in groups and sought to shake my hand, several of them putting their other hands on their hearts in a gesture of sincerity as they did so. The handshakes were firm and their eyes searching and often I heard again the word "Mir"—Peace.

TIGHT SCHEDULE

A tight air schedule necessitated our giving up luncheon after only about four courses, and it was off again to the airfield, passing miles of seaside resort area where the Russians come to water and sun themselves after the manner of petty Bourgeois and love it! Knowing all we had known of Russia before coming into it we couldn't ever quite dismiss as impossible that there might be some hitch, some passport technically, some unintended transgression on our part that the authorities might use as pretext to hold us under surveillance. But off the plane went and though none in the aircraft cheered there was an unusual quietness among us as we soared upwards, the seat belts remaining fastened longer than usual for they were forgotten amid the deeper thoughts of the moment.

And so over the Black Sea—look at the map and see how large it is!—and the fierce hill country of Turkey and then the twinkling lights of fabled Baghdad and at last the airport of Iraq's city of

HAS 18th OPERATION

TURIN, Italy (Reuters)—Prof. Mario Pozzo, 70, pioneer Italian radiologist, Tuesday underwent his 18th operation in 30 years for cancer, contracted in the course of his radiation studies. One of his disciples, Prof. Achille Mario Dogliotti, amputated two of the three remaining fingers on Pozzo's right hand. Pozzo lost his left arm and part of the shoulder last July.

THE AGE OLD STORY

And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which these shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

DON'T RISK HEALTH WITH EXTRA POUNDS
So you're a little overweight. Well, maybe that isn't too serious. But if you're fat, you'd better do something about it. Now just how fat is fat?

Your physical appearance probably provides the best answer to that question. When the girth around your abdomen exceeds that of your chest (unexpanded, mind you) then you're fat.

BEST OF HEALTH
Maybe, though, you feel fine. In fact, you might feel in the best of health.

Then why reduce? Life insurance companies can give you some pretty good reasons. They have statistics which show that if you are fat:

You are more susceptible to diabetes, more likely to have high blood pressure, get varicose veins and suffer from gallstones and gallbladder trouble.

You are more apt to have heart trouble and you will have more difficulty recovering from acute infections such as pneumonia.

You are more likely to have other diseases and ailments. The life insurance companies say you are a greater risk to them than a person of ordinary weight.

Now then, why are you fat? Oh, I know you've got a good excuse. You probably blame it on a family tendency to overweight, or maybe you insist that some of your internal organs are at fault.

While it's true that certain conditions within your body can cause obesity, I'll bet most of you are overweight simply because you eat and drink too much, and lead too easy a life.

It's this simple: You take in more calories than you convert to energy. Some of you, I'm afraid, should probably blame chronic beer drinking. On the other hand, some of you can blame the fact that you don't drink beer or alcohol.

Quite frequently a person who doesn't drink or smoke will compensate for denying himself these, by maintaining a diet out of proportion to his requirements.

You know the type. He eats a lot of sweets and chocolates, and thinks he is being a good boy!

QUESTION AND ANSWER
L. K.: I have had tuberculosis, which is now cured. Will my children inherit the tendency to get this disease?

Answer: No; children do not inherit tuberculosis or a tendency to develop it.

Feeding Weeds

(Windsor Star)
When one of the touring Russian farmers was told, in Quebec, that use of more fertilizer would solve the Soviet Union's food problems, he replied: "You not only feed people but also weeds." A thriving weed patch nearby gave him his cue.

This Russian was speaking simple truth, although perhaps his intent was to turn aside a suggestion of inefficiency in Soviet agricultural practices. We do feed a lot of weeds in Canada annually. And as they take their sustenance from the soil, it must be left poorer year by year as a result.

The Canadian farmer of course, is not the main offender. He recognizes weeds for what they are, and combats them, especially in his harvest fields. But often they will be found growing in fence corners, by roadsides, in pastures, on vacant acreages, and in a dozen other places where they can complete their growth cycle and produce seed for another year.

Towns and cities, too, are prolific producers of weeds, on public and private properties. They infest gardens, vacant lots, the borders of sidewalks in the less thickly settled areas, and everywhere else they can take root unmolested.

Our lush weed crop is far too large. And it's just another form of soil depletion. Weeds, if not kept under control, owe much of their success to a remarkable vitality. Grains and vegetables are effete and delicate by comparison. Cut or trample the latter down once, and they've had it. The weed will fight its way back in a few days or weeks, by the elbowing and pushing tactics that make it such a tough competitor.

HONOR FOR PIONEER

OTTAWA (CP)—A cut stone monument to Peter Fidler, Hudson's Bay Company employee who was the first white man to explore the Churchill river from its headwaters to its mouth at Hudson Bay will be unveiled at Meadow Lake, Sask., Thursday.

NOTES BY THE WAY

So far as economists are concerned farming is still a hazardous occupation and is going to remain so. Under normal marketing conditions the fat years compensate for the lean ones. Unfortunately with the abnormal marketing system we have established with gain in Canada there is little chance of any such balancing. The price remains the same regardless of production and widely fluctuating costs. In the old days of a free market a big crop meant prosperity. Now it is a headache.—Financial Post, Toronto.

Dogs are rightly termed "man's best friend" but even this title does not grant them licence to bite public servants. This has been recognized by the Court of Appeal of the Civil Service Commission at Washington, which has decreed that a letter carrier has the right to kick a vicious dog in self-defence. The president of an Oklahoma court considering the case of a mail carrier who had been dismissed for kicking a vicious dog, recommended that the man be reinstated in his position. A little discipline does a dog no harm, and in the long run is in the best interests of the dog itself. If a dog is allowed to harass and bite a postman with impunity, he might next take a bite out of a policeman—which would be just too bad for both dogs and master.—Ottawa Journal

The maiden who takes her time about marrying is usually happier than the one who enters matrimony early in life. This is a conclusion drawn by sociologists from a study of 604 young women, single and married. Psychological tests indicate that the single girls "had better emotional adjustment, greater self-reliance and a greater sense of personal freedom." The tests are show that those who are in no hurry to marry are less likely to be antisocial. Although most authorities on marriage agree that a woman should not marry until she is emotionally mature, one sociologist points out that their advice is not always followed because it is the immature and emotionally insecure young woman for whom marriage has the strongest appeal.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

One of the most famous Danish archaeological discoveries—the 2,000-year-old Grauballe man—is being exhibited in the Aarhus museum in Denmark for the first time. The body was discovered three years ago in the Kedelose in Jutland by some peat workers. The curator of the museum has applied a new method of preserving it in such a way that it should remain indefinitely. Another famous find, the Tollund man, crumbled away when brought to light. But the curator has succeeded in preserving the man. It is now in a showcase on a layer of peat soil in roughly the same position as when it was unearthed. It is believed that the man was sacrificed to the goddess of fertility, Nerthus. The skin of the hands is so fine that police have been able to take fingerprints, and the delicate shape of the hands supports the theory that this was no mere thrall but a nobleman who voluntarily submitted to the sacrifice.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

Explaining the American position on Algeria before the UN General Assembly, Delgate Lodge seconds France's contention that Algeria's future is a French domestic issue. "Unlike Morocco and Tunisia, which are French protectorates", Lodge said, "Algeria under French law is administratively an integral part of the French republic." This must be taken with a sense of history. The French recognized, equipped and fought with the American revolutionaries in 1776-81 though under British law at the time, the American colonies were administratively an integral part of the British Empire.—Miami News.

A monument commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the peaceful dissolution of the Swedish-Norwegian union was recently unveiled in the Swedish town of Karlstad, where the separation peace pact was signed in 1905. The ceremony was attended by some 30,000 people from both sides of the border. In a symbolic gesture Swedish and Norwegian children framed a human ring around Ivar Johansson's inspiring sculpture. In his unveiling address, King Gustav Adolf of Sweden said that the fact that the union was peacefully dissolved was the key factor in developing such friendly and close relations between the two brother peoples. And Crown Prince Olaf of Norway declared the Norwegian people would always be conscious of the sacrifice that the Karlstad pact meant for Sweden. Among those present at the ceremony were the prime ministers of Sweden and Norway.—News of Norway.

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