

Quebec's New Status

A Quebec commentator notes, as one of the most significant signs of the times, that almost without anyone realizing what was happening Premier Lesage and his government have brought their province to the very doorstep of a new, semi-autonomous status within Confederation.

Ironically, Quebec's main tool in its drive to gradually obtain an increasing share of federal revenues and a greater control over policy-making affecting the province, is a formula designed to permit the safeguarding of constitutional rights—contracting out. As devised, this plan permits any province to opt out of joint federal-provincial programs which infringe on its constitutional jurisdiction and take the fiscal equivalence instead. Since its inception in 1964, Quebec has made liberal use of its provisions. But it appears to have far-reaching plans for further development along this line.

A complete Quebec program for social welfare is now in the final stages of preparation, and officials have already indicated their clear intention of opting out of federal programs in this field almost immediately. A medium-range program for gradually assuming control over unemployment services, labor mobility, worker reclassification, etc., is now being drawn up. When this plan is ready, Labor Minister Carrier Fortin has indicated Quebec will move to leave federal programs here as well. The province is also seeking a greater voice in industrial incentive programs, as well as an increasingly expanded role in the conduct of its own international relations. The result will be to give Quebec a larger share of the tax money collected in the province and the spending authority over it, while at the same time constantly diminishing the influence of the federal government in Quebec affairs.

At no time has Premier Lesage attempted to spell out in precise terms what he conceives Quebec's special status within Confederation should be. But he has brought the concept along to the point where it seems to be accepted as a desirable alternative to the "two nations" cry which posed a threat to our constitutional system. On this point, speaking last month in the Quebec suburb of Ste. Foy, he said: "It may very well be thanks to Quebec's obtaining a special status that Canada will truly survive."

If that be so, it will be of prime concern to the rest of us to know precisely where we fit in.

Monumental Efforts

Prospects for settling the Viet Nam war remain dim, but there is something of prime significance in the intensive diplomatic drive which the United States is making to bring the issue to a head. President Johnson's peace offensive is taking many forms, more perhaps than have been made public. But it is known that last week Averell Harriman, U.S. ambassador-at-large and considered the likely candidate to represent the United States at a Viet Nam peace conference, flew to Warsaw for talks with Premier Gomulka and Foreign Minister Rapacki. From there he went on to meet President Tito of Yugoslavia, one of the countries which has been trying to arrange peace talks, and thence to Paris to confer with President de Gaulle and Foreign Minister de Murville.

At the same time that Mr. Harriman was visiting Warsaw, Arthur Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, was in Rome for an audience with Pope Paul, and George Bundy, President Johnson's special assistant for national security affairs, met Prime Minister Pearson in Ot-

tawa. In Tokyo, U.S. Vice President Humphrey asked Prime Minister Sato for Japan's assistance in settling the war.

There is no doubt that the U.S. pause in the bombing of North Viet Nam is directly related to this concerted and multiple effort in world diplomacy. It is known now that the bombing pause was planned in part at the conference between British Prime Minister Wilson and Mr. Johnson earlier last month, also that British diplomacy is one of the many intermediaries actively seeking a response from North Viet Nam.

Only guarded comment is available from Canadian sources about Mr. Pearson's conversations with Mr. Bundy or, later, with President Johnson by telephone. It is believed, however, that these consultations were not merely for the purpose of informing Canada officially as to American peace objectives, but also of the role Canada could play in the drive to force a settlement of the war by peaceful negotiation, and in subsequent proceedings if the drive should be successful.

As noted above, there is no evidence as yet that the peace offensive has evoked any fruitful response from Hanoi or Peking. But it offers some hope, by its very magnitude, of eventually moving the conflict from the battleground to the conference room. Failing that, it should serve to put American peace aims in a more convincing light among the uncommitted nations, and that in itself is an objective of vital importance.

Hoping For The Best

The Globe and Mail expresses the hope that at the head of the lists of good resolutions our 265 members of Parliament ought to be writing at this season appears the promise: "I will put the country ahead of political opportunism." This, it adds, is what the last two Parliaments failed to do. They were "bear pits," in which almost everybody was fighting the next election instead of getting on with the nation's business. They coasted "from phony vote of non-confidence" to phony vote of non-confidence," which created a wholly unrealistic and unproductive atmosphere of excitement while everybody knew that the opposition parties did not dare to bring the government down.

That, of course, was partly the government's fault. It was too timid to tackle necessary legislation because it feared an upset, too timid to deal openly with big-muscled provinces that were pressing into federal preserves. The election has removed the excuse for such timidity, and for irresponsible opposition action as well. No party in Parliament now dares to precipitate another election. The electors have made it clear that they trust no party with majority power, and that they expect the lot of them to cooperate in getting through the heavy business of the forthcoming session.

But, as our Toronto contemporary points out, this does not mean that the opposition should be blunted. The opposition is there to question and probe and badger the government into the best performance possible. What it does mean is that the country is fed to the teeth with niggling, bad-mannered, purely political opposition.

Undoubtedly Premier Robarts of Ontario spoke for the great majority of Canadians when he said in London recently that the political parties must strive to make Parliament work for at least two years, even if this meant that party lines would have to be relaxed. But this does not relieve the administration of the responsibility of giving proper leadership. It is to be hoped that behind the closed doors of the Liberal party caucus this week, some outspoken advice was offered along this line.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Progress and Harmony of Mankind" has been selected as the theme for the 1970 World Exposition, to be held in Osaka, Japan. The fair, to be held on a 3,300,000-square meter area in the Senriyama Hills, will run for six months from spring to autumn in 1970.

Here, comments an exchange, is an ironical situation. Burma has become one of the most inaccessible nations in the world. It bans foreign investment. It allows no resident foreign correspondents. Visitors are discouraged. Few Burmese are allowed to travel. Yet the man who heads the United Nations, the organization with the aim of bringing the nations of the world together in co-operation and trust, is a Burmese. U Thant has become a symbol of an open and free world at the very time his own nation has become an international recluse.



RESOLUTIONS WE COULD SUGGEST

A STARTLING PICTURE

The Year We Discovered Poverty

1965 was the year Canadians discovered poverty and the government decided to declare war on it. The establishment of a federal secretariat to deal with the problems of poverty started out with a picture, rather than a plan. A remarkable series of papers presented to the national poverty conference showed the face of the culturally and economically disoriented a few of us had seen it before. It didn't convince a lot of people. Four million impoverished Canadians, more than a fifth of the entire population? That's incredible, they say. A million adults with less than Grade five schooling? Even if the statistics don't lie, they say, most of these semi-literate people can do some sort of work and earn \$40 a week at least. Until comfortable and complacent Canadians got the picture of poverty in Canada straight, their governments aren't likely to take the formidable action necessary to deal with it. What is not clear to many is the nature of poverty in Canada. WHAT IT MEANS "It doesn't mean people starving in the streets or freezing to death for lack of clothing. Thank heaven and our natural resources, it doesn't mean that it means in India, nor does it mean bloated African bellies. And we do have the baby bonus, old age pension, old age assistance, welfare systems, hospital insurance, unemployment insurance, free schools. Poverty in this country is the paradox of people living on the edge of subsistence in the midst of affluence. You see it in the supermarkets, their shelves bulging with good food. An elderly lady, neatly but shabbily dressed, agonizes over a 49-cent package of meat, turns away and buys instead a tin of beans for her dinner. Mothers queue at store opening time to grab loaves of stale bread and a dozen cracked eggs at marked-down prices. A woman trailing children takes three oranges out of her basket when the cash register rings the total. She hasn't found enough coins in her purse for the little luxury. Poverty here is the single person—perhaps a former clerk or a long-retired teacher—living in a drab room, trying not to become a welfare case. It's the family on relief living in Dickensian squalor in the shadow of a flossy office building, or of an apartment tower where rents are \$180 a month. BEING LEFT BEHIND The reality of poverty in affluent Canada is the condition—and the awareness—of being left behind while, economically, everyone else is going ahead. It's regional poverty (for instance, the median income in New Brunswick is 47 per cent less than in B.C.); it's urban, whether in Vancouver, Toronto or Montreal; it's rural where farmers on small, unproductive acreage try to scrape along. It's hidden down the street in a few blocks from you, where people can't meet doctors' or dentists' bills. It's college students unable to afford winter coats and proper meals, as well as their fees. Poverty is the person who sleeps late so that he can save the price of a meal. It is anybody who has to depend on charity and handouts. It is, ignorance, which is the tap-root of poverty. Our society has the resources and technology to abolish poverty. Let's get the picture straight, and assert the will to do it.

The Whales' Way

The conversation of natural resources is a subject to which man pays much lip service but too often does little or nothing about. A case in point is the rapid depletion of the world's whale population. The disappearance of the whale is due simply to the usual cause of the disappearance of resources—man's greed and his inability to see beyond the present. According to the Financial Times of London, the extra-ordinary thing about the history of whaling is that the whaling industry seems unable to grasp the idea that its fate and that of the whales are inextricably bound up. It has been estimated by experts that the industry, which is now worth \$150 million, could in 20 years become a \$300 million industry; but at the present rate of killing, whalers will be out of business in five or six years. Yet the industry carries on as if nothing were amiss. It is true that in recent years international agreements have substantially reduced the target for world fisheries. In 1962-63 the world quota of 15,000 blue whale units was set; (this is the equivalent of one blue whale, two fin whales, 25 humpback whales or six sei whales). The 1965-66 quota has been set at only 4,500 units. But according to scientists this is still twice as high as it should be if whales are to have a chance to recover. In spite of the 15,000 quota in 1962-63, only 11,000 units were caught. Recently the five major whaling countries—Britain, Holland, Japan, the Soviet Union and Norway—met in Tokyo; but they could agree on nothing, except to call another meeting some time in the future. The Soviet Union is believed to be unhappy with its quota of 20 per cent of the total catch and some doubts have been raised about whether the reduced 1965-66 quota can be made to stick. If it cannot, says the Financial Times writer, then it will be only a matter of time before the whale joins the dodo on the museum shelf, and this irreplaceable and much needed source of protein will no longer be available.

Curling Anyone?

A group of people who were wont curling the other night, some of them for the first time ever. It isn't certain which was harder—for the beginners to get the rock over the hog-line or for the old hands to restrain laughter, or perhaps tears, at the sight of it all. One young lady got hit in the hip, by a rock, fortunately, was gliding on the ice, not through the air. Most others were luckier—their flirtations with moving rocks were limited to tripping over them, slowing them down with brooms, waving at them weakly as they went by or chasing down the ice madly sweeping behind them. ("Now I know why I don't like curling," said a thoughtful new lady curler. "I never did like sweeping.") Some interesting new techniques were discovered. Putting both feet in the hack, one fragile girl somehow managed to push hard enough to get the rock over the hog line while his men couldn't bounce it over. And "speaking of bouncing, the 'waddle' may have been added to the inturn and out-turn if the motion of some shots could be believed.

Our Yesterdays

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (January 5, 1941) Mr. Fraser MacMillan, EA, left Saturday to resume his studies in the Presbyterian College in Montreal, after spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. MacMillan.

TEN YEARS AGO (January 5, 1955) Grace Kelly, blonde, beautiful and elegant star of the movies, announced in Philadelphia, Pa., her betrothal to Prince Rainier of Monaco.

Prime Minister St. Laurent said he would send provincial premiers a letter this weekend concerning federal-provincial tax relations. It is understood that it would contain a proposal for a federal tax-sharing formula to replace rental pacts in 1957. TEHRAN (AP)—A Red Lion and Sun spokesman announced Monday that the organization will send 20 nurses to South Viet Nam to help war victims. The Iranian version of the Red Cross is sending them in response to a request from the South Vietnamese Red Cross, Dr. Hussein Khatibi said.

Disturbances Due To Age

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Old age is blamed for many physical and mental disturbances. People of all ages make financial mistakes, but when an older spends or invests money foolishly, he is said to be senile. The same can be said of being forgetful, long-winded or withdrawing from society. To avoid misunderstanding, we must admit that hardening of the brain arteries and strokes can lead to senility with peculiar behavior. A simple deterioration of the brain may lead to confusion and loss of memory. The victim forgets recent events but can recall the details of things that happened 20 years ago. They also tend to be irritable or lose interest in their personal appearance. Being oblivious of food stains on clothing is a typical example. They repeat oft-told anecdotes and occasionally have a complete change in their moral standard. But not all of these peculiarities are caused by senility. The elderly person has more reasons than the young and middle-aged to develop a mental disorder such as depression. They are aware of their limitations created by years of deterioration and, unlike the 20 year old, have very little to look forward to. They may have lost a mate, have strained family ties, monetary problems, or lack status in the community. In other words, they have reasons other than senility to have a nervous breakdown. Withdrawal from society is a symptom of mental illness, but it may be a sign of good feeling. The senior citizen realizes his limitations and prefers to completely detach himself from earlier pursuits and personal involvements. It is a positive, satisfying, constructive, and philosophical approach to the twilight of a long life. This type of individual prefers to be alone. Some older people live on the brink of senility and become foggy when they develop a light cold, bladder infection, or are bedridden because of injury or infection. They are normal as soon as the cause is recognized and corrected. A. W. writes: Years ago my doctor told me I had chronic conjunctivitis. My glasses were changed several times. After two years I saw my doctor for a periodic eye exam and was dumfounded when he said I was getting cataracts in both eyes. Is surgery for this condition serious? REPLY All eye operations are serious. The chance of dying from the operation is practically nil but best results are obtained when the ophthalmologist is skilled in doing this procedure. SCALP MASSAGE Mrs. D. writes: Is it dangerous for an elderly person with high blood pressure to massage the scalp? This seems to make the blood rush to the head. REPLY No, because the "rush" is to the scalp and not into the arteries of the brain. FAG INDUCERS Mrs. T. writes: Can low blood pressure and anemia make a person feel dragged out? REPLY Yes; both are associated with fatigue. KNEE SWELLING Mrs. V. writes: Can water on the knee be drained off? REPLY Yes, but the fluid will return within a few weeks if the cause remains. Other treatments are available. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Winter sports are invigorating. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

To Restore Chateau

Work is starting on another major phase in the restoration of the ancient Fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. The government is undertaking a partial restoration of Louisbourg. The chateau restoration will be the centrepiece. Work under way is the reconstruction of the part known as the King's Bastion, as well as the foundation of the Chateau St. Louis. The remainder of Louisbourg—which was razed in 1760—will be restored to show the streets, a few houses and the outline of the razed buildings so that the public can appreciate the size and historical significance of the port and fortress which, at one time, was inhabited by about 3,000 persons and played a significant part in the history of Canada.

At No. 10 Downing St.

I have a new theory about the troubles—structural, not political—of 10 Downing Street. It comes from Hector Bolitho, who has written a history of the house. He recalls that Pepsys called "George Downing a 'perfidious rogue' and that Sir Winston Churchill described the house and its neighbours as "shaky and lightly built by the profiteering contractor whose name they bear." He wonders if Downing's poltergeist still dwells in No. 10 and, whenever there is a political crisis, tampers with the walls and shakes the fireplaces out of their settings. Masons had to be called in when parts of the house began to collapse at the time of the rift between Britain and the American colonies. When Pitt died in 1806 about £2,200 had to be spent on making the house safe. Again in 1825, when the

Johnson's Unique Style

washington (cp) — Canadians on the last day of 1965 received a special demonstration of the unique style President Johnson now has made a permanent feature of his job. It is a style which at its most grandiose, florid and inscrutable has sent presidential peace emissaries from capital to capital to explain that the United States sincerely wants to end the war in Viet Nam and sincerely wants North Viet Nam to get that message. In Canada's case, it was an apparent snap decision last Friday from the president's Texas ranch home to clear his desk of a revised Canadian-U.S. civil air agreement before 1966 began. It may have had something to do with Johnson's conversation the previous day with Prime Minister Pearson about Viet Nam, or it might not. Anyway, Ottawa sources had said some day earlier that the lengthy civil air negotiations begun in April 1964 had reached agreement in principle and that still is the case. Last Friday was a federal U.S. holiday and the Canadian embassy here was on short staff basis reflecting the Christmas-holiday lull. Nevertheless, word came from Texas Friday morning that the president wanted to have a joint Texas-Ottawa announcement before noon on the air agreement. Diplomatic scrambling finally managed to produce a mutual 1 p.m. EST timing. Canadian and other diplomats under the Johnson regime have grown used to such hurried preparations which contrast with more leisurely schedules of the past. Speed in the Johnson regime tends to be of the essence. As when Arthur Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is reported to have cut short a West Indies holiday by pulling pants over swim trunks to launch his Vietnamese peace rounds. Or when Prime Minister Wilson of Britain, who presumably got a pretty thorough Viet Nam

briefing here two weeks ago from the president, had to cut short his own Christmas holiday to receive a Johnson envoy saying the president wants peace. Or even when the president by report here tried—and failed—to have a Washington jewelry store reopen during Christmas because he had forgotten some foreign dignitaries. APPROVE OF EFFORT Johnson so far is tending to get an "A" for effort for his Vietnamese operation with reiterated reservations about the way he conducts these affairs. Says columnist Arthur Krook of the New York Times: "The president is congenitally disposed to dramatize the settings in which his decisions big or little are made public. In either performance, there has also often been a heavy odor of flavor of ham. "But only an inveterate critic could find either fault with his dispatch to three continents of missionaries, charged with removing 'misunderstandings' of the administration's aims in Southeast Asia, and to solicit international assistance in his effort to substitute negotiations for war in Viet Nam." Syndicated columnist Joseph Alsop, who usually takes just about everything Johnson does except the way he does it, criticizes what he calls the president's moral style which results because he is not "forthright, either with his country, or with his associate or even, one suspects, with his nearest and dearest." Alsop says no one can judge the true purpose of the presidential peace offensive and asks: "Was his aim to prove once again that he had left no stone unturned for peace and thus to prepare for another increase in the U.S. effort in Viet Nam and a difficult wartime budget? Or was his aim to start the kind of negotiations that must almost certainly lead to a very thinly concealed retreat and surrender? ... No one can tell; that is part of the trouble."

Now Britain's Problem

During the past few decades massive increase in crime in the United States and Canada has become a subject of deep concern to all those who fight to maintain standards of decent living in society. Organized crime has made its stronghold the wealthy centre of a busy city. In Great Britain, the police who enforced the law without benefit of revolvers, and the e-ward were not called upon to deal with gangsters and mobs of the kind which operated on the other side of the Atlantic. Now that has changed. As reported yesterday, the city of London alone has been

Borrowing From Youth

The poet Wordsworth once wrote: "O man, that from thy fair and shining youth—Age might but take the things youth needed not." If we may believe the latest reports age is borrowing rather heavily from youth these days. A department store executive observes that Americans no longer strive to keep up with the Joneses. They now fight to keep up with the young and their tastes are dictated by their sons and daughters. Diet fads, exercise, dance classes, "young" clothes and (heaven help us!) even cosmetics for males are booming. It is reported that the sale of men's hair dyes has increased 73.3 per cent this year. Youth is being merchandized like tooth paste and tomato catsup. All of which conjures up visions of a nation of perpetual sophomores, lively as mountain goats, eyes sparkling with erasable pencils. Fiddle-faddle. Most mature people, we suspect, just plug along trying to grow old as gracefully as they can, a little thinner on top and a little thicker amidships, content to leave youth to those with stamina enough to survive it.

Scoters And Horses

We see a chance for a lively debate. Which is a more effective mount for a policeman in hot pursuit: down a traffic-jammed street or in an effort to control a crowd: New York's new police scooter or a horse? There is much to say for New York's innovation. The first "scramble patrol" in the country, made up of 10 scooter-mounted patrolmen, it gives proof that the scooter has many virtues. One of them is the ability to go places where a squad car cannot travel. Only 30 inches wide, the scooter can either sit wide between lines of stalled traffic, climb over curbs onto sidewalks, and even make its way down low stairs. Being equipped with radios, scramble cars are able to keep in touch with each other and work in group formation. But then there is the case for the horse. The handsome steed of the mounted policeman, symbol of the dignity of the law, has almost disappeared from the American scene. But Boston, which retains a 10-horse mounted unit, finds the police cavalry still useful. Its experience convinces us there is an argument for the horse in this debate. The horse, too, can slip between rows of stalled cars and climb curbs.

KIDS HURT IN PANIC

LIMA, Peru (Reuters)—Fifteen children were seriously injured when a movie audience at Sullana, about 700 miles north of here, panicked and stampeded after a member of the audience shouted "earthquake," said police reports reaching here Monday.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Prince Edward Island Mutual Fire Insurance Company will be held at the Summerside boys' club, corner of Notre Dame and Cedar Streets, in the Town of Summerside on Tuesday, the 25th day of January at the hour of 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon.