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the decline was checked. Since 1951, the total has begun to grow slowly once more and last year reached a new peak of 953,000. Nevertheless, the rise in population has still been less than the natural increase.

As a result of recent developments a new pattern of basic production has emerged. In the period when agriculture was overwhelmingly dominant, the size of the grain crop was faithfully reflected in the total output of goods which varied from \$75 million in 1937 (a year of almost complete crop failure) to \$446 million four years later on the strength of a bumper crop and much higher grain prices. Today, given reasonably prosperous national business conditions, the size of the crop merely spells the difference between a fair year and a good or excellent one.

Along with developments in mining and secondary industries have gone improvements in agricultural technology, in production diversification, in marketing arrangements, and in provision for credit to farmers, which have brought increased stability to farm incomes.

Relic Of The Past

It will surprise most Canadians, and no doubt many Britishers as well, to learn that Britain still has a law which jails people for not paying debts. Actually, the effect is not to jail people for debt as such, but for contempt caused by failure to pay off installments ordered by the court. But it amounts to the same thing. About 7,000 persons are in prison at any one time in England and Wales on counts of this kind. Scotland has the deduction-from-salary system, and now the British government is taking the first step to bring the laws for the United Kingdom into conformity.

It has appointed a committee, headed by a judge, to study systems in other countries where debtors have money taken from their paychecks if a court so orders. One reason it is eager to stop these jail sentences is that prisons are seriously overcrowded. Another is that debtors are not regarded as criminals.

It is realized that once in prison, a debtor has less chance than ever of rehabilitating himself. He might remain there a maximum of 42 days, until his "contempt" is purged. More often this is done by relatives or friends scraping together money to pay the debt.

The number incarcerated for offenses of this kind is more than at any time since the days of Charles Dickens, who gave such a graphic description of a debtor's prison in "David Copperfield." Of course the squalor and misery of Marshalsea Prison, where Mr. Micawber waited patiently for something to turn up, is a far cry from Drake Hall in the English midlands, where most debtors are jailed today. Debtors imprisoned there have many concessions that were never dreamed of in Victorian days. But it is a relic of the past, nevertheless, and it is not surprising that a present-day Labor government should wish to abolish it.

Gas Spurs Rivalry

A contest is on between two western provinces in which big stakes are involved. The Alberta and Southern Gas Company has applied to the National Energy Board for a license to export additional natural gas to the California market, and the application is being fought by British Columbia interests, supported by the provincial government. They argue that if the Alberta request is granted, development of British Columbia's rapidly expanding gas fields will be severely handicapped.

British Columbia contends that the Rocky Mountain barrier makes it only logical that its gas should be sold to the United States west coast, having the market east of the mountains to Alberta. Evidence has been presented to the Board to show that the west coast province has ample gas reserves to meet both domestic and export requirements. Hearings on the application will be held by the Board this month, and the results will be awaited with widespread interest. They could determine the trend of western Canada's gas industry for years to come.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Economic experts from 40 nations will meet in New Zealand this month to talk about money for Asia. They will meet under the mantle of the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, often called Asia's economic parliament. The meeting may produce a new billion-dollar Asian development bank, opening up a new and less Western politically oriented source of money to lend to underdeveloped Asian nations.



"THIS HAS A QUEBEC POSTMARK"

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Issues Raised In Intra-Canadian Conflict

I recently described the justifications for the overt or subconscious desire for greater self-government, or separatism, among a large and increasing group of better-educated and younger Quebecers.

Quebec's mood has led to the crisis in which Confederation now finds itself.

But the other nine provinces also have a position in this intra-Canadian conflict which has become a crisis. In fact, the further one travels away from the Quebec border, the more virulent is the anti-Quebec backlash.

The Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism was appointed by the present Liberal government "to recommend what steps should be taken to develop the Canadian Confederation on the basis of an equal partnership between the two founding races."

In this wording, the Pearson government deliberately and unjustifiably tried to rewrite our history and our constitution to fit its partisan purposes, and to justify what other parts of Canada regard with good reason as its softness towards Quebec.

History tells us that the French originally settled just the valley of the St. Lawrence. That area, generously extended into a huge wealthy hinterland making it our largest province, was recognized as having special French associations. At the conquest and again at Confederation, French features such as their language and their civil law were enshrined into legal rights within the borders of Quebec—but not generally in other provinces.

The French also have a historical foothold in Acadia, and a more modern overspill adjacent to Quebec borders. But they have no claim as one of the two founding races of certain other provinces.

As for those words "equal partnership" does this envisage numerical equality in the federal parliament? does it mean universality of the French language?

Now many French-Canadians are asking for their minority in other provinces exactly the same rights as the constitution gives the English in Quebec. In fact the constitution implies that English shall be the official language of Canada, but grants official status equally to the French language in the province of Quebec, and in the federal parliament and law courts. It does not give the French language official status in any other province. The English population of Quebec is about 575,000, or 11 per cent of the total. (And the B and C commission surprisingly reports that a higher proportion of English than of French in Quebec are bilingual.) The French population in Saskatchewan is 60,000—ranking after the 160,000 Germans, 80,000 Ukrainians and 68,000 Scandinavians. Should these languages be given official status, ahead of French in fact, in Saskatchewan, if French is recognized there?

GOOD-BYE CANADA? Economically and educationally, the Utopia of an entirely bilingual Canadian nation is not practicable. Should the mailman in Nanaimo, the bus-driver in Kamloops, the policeman in Charlottetown and the hotel clerk in Woodstock be given their jobs only if they were fluently bilingual? There is no doubt that Quebec, and the other provinces, should have restored to them the constitutional rights usurped by Mackenzie King. But "associate state" status for Quebec is not practicable. What would happen to the cut-off Atlantic provinces, for example? With the crisis of Confederation and the partisan incompetence of our parliament, I find

little surprise that several intelligent top Americans in New York and Washington recently laughed at Canada's fuss about a new flag. 'Within 10 years,

most of you will be happy to fly the stars and stripes.' That is how serious our crisis is.

Warmer Winds From North?

Moose Jaw Times-Herald

Canadians who turn their radio sets to southern U.S. stations, have been hearing many times this past winter about "masses of cold air from Canada," moving to make it most uncomfortable for our U.S. cousins. This has been going on for years, some times it is "masses of cold Arctic air," which is a more correct description of the occurrences.

However, we here in the western plains area of Canada, absorb enough of the cold Arctic air when it sweeps down from the north, that by the time it reaches the northern U.S. states, it has been considerably warmed up.

Even at that the U.S. doesn't like it and Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin has introduced a bill recommending that the U.S. army engineers study ways of opening up the Great Lakes and the Seaway for year around navigation. In the bill the "ice blockade" is described as being one of the most "serious obstacles to the economic advancement of the mid-western United States and a hindrance to national defence."

A similar bill reached the Rules Committee of Congress but died there last year.

The suggestion is made in Wisconsin that the air-bubbling system as used in Scandinavia, Greenland and elsewhere be tried out. Power jet engines would force air under the ice on the lakes and in the seaway. The effect is to honeycomb the under side of the ice and make it easy for icebreakers to break it up. There is also the suggestion that nuclear reactors might be adopted to de-icing the lakes.

There is a vast expanse of Canada between the Great Lakes and the Arctic Ocean. If this Arctic air is an obstacle to the development of the Mid-Western States, it is having the same effect on Canada. If it is absolutely necessary to warm-up the Great Lakes areas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, Senator Proxmire, should look further afield.

A country which has built one canal through the Isthmus of Panama and proposes to build a second, which invented the atomic bomb and has nuclear submarines that make trips around the world under the ice of the north sea and the Antarctic Ocean, should be able to master the job of warming the Arctic Ocean.

One Hopeful Ray

London Free Press

Public demonstrations in Moscow are usually and probably correctly suspected of being carefully staged affairs. Bricks, stones and bottles of ink are hurled at a foreign embassy; police break up the mob and eventually there is an apology and repairs are made. It all seems routine.

But there appears to have been a genuine demonstration on the part of Chinese and North Vietnamese university students who took time off from their studies to raid the American Embassy in as hot-blooded a riot as the Russian capital has seen.

Ambassador Foy Kohler demanded and got protection, but not before some 2,000 students had tangled with police and infantrymen who had to set up a human wall to keep the demonstrators at bay while some of their number were arrested. This outburst in itself would

not be news except for the context in which it occurred. The students were protesting American North Viet Nam, a military action which the Kremlin certainly does not approve and which Premier Kosygin has warned could explode into full-scale war.

It would have been simple for the Russians to let the embassy be attacked, arguing as they have in the past that the rioters had gotten out of control. Instead, Soviet police brought up reinforcements, including water tanks and a portable fence, and the riot was quelled.

Perhaps too much should not be read into this action, since protection of foreign embassies is one of the prime obligations of any civilized nation. But it is one straw for which we are glad to grasp in an otherwise discouraging situation.

Holding The Purse-Strings

Fort William Times-Journal

The growing awareness of social and political independence in this country would be more meaningful if there was also a greater measure of economic independence. The hard truth of Canada's situation despite current preoccupation with the symbols of nationalism hasn't escaped the attention and acrimony of other countries.

The Times of London in a recent 16-page supplement on Canada doesn't equivocate about pointing out the dilemma. It agrees that the proximity and relative strengths of Canada and the US have produced an inevitable Canadian dependence on the American economy. However, the Times states, when combined with a preponderance

of foreign ownership of economic resources, it provokes doubt about Canada's economic sovereignty.

It remarks on the recent agreement with the US for free trade in cars as an example of the trend by industries to interweave. Because of the effect this agreement will undoubtedly have on Britain's automotive exports to North America, selection of it as something less than an encouraging example of economic trends is understandable.

Nevertheless the broad inference that the pedestal upon which we Canadians are raising our new national image is owned by somebody else is the uncomfortable truth.

Readers And Writing

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
Can mumps recur? Not as a rule, but a La Grange, Ill. woman has a personal experience to report. Her children developed mumps and she followed suit with swelling of the glands on one side of the face and neck. Thirteen years later she developed a second attack involving the glands on both sides. She remained in bed two weeks and at home six weeks. The first attack did not produce permanent immunity. The second attack was harder on her because I was older. A few years ago I developed regular measles. Old age does not prevent childhood diseases.

A Wilmette, Ill. man told of his son who had mumps when 11, a second attack at 18, and a third at 33 years of age. This is unusual and I assume that his system is incapable of manufacturing protective antibodies against mumps.

At any rate, the disease does recur in a small percentage, assuming the diagnosis was correct. Now and then the infection settles in one of the salivary glands and a few weeks later spreads to the others. This is not a recurrence; it is the same attack in which the virus spreads from one gland to another. The disease burns itself out as soon as the body develops immunity. Laboratory animals which nibble all day have less hardening of the arteries than those consuming a large single meal. A reader projected the idea into her way of living and wrote: "I find no fault with this theory as it may apply to the reclusive or domestically isolated individual, but as chief cook and bottle-washer for a family, I am dismayed.

"Consider the appalling consequences in terms of litter, dishes, and the accumulation of garbage I have no desire to inhibit those who seek scientific methods of dietary practice or a manufacturer of nutritional specialties who might come up with a practical solution. How about handily packaged, balanced, nutritional units with a value of 50 calories each, supplied in capsule or supplementary form suitable for self-administration at 20-minute intervals? The litter-free aspect of this around-the-clock ingestion system would appeal to any homemaker."

A good suggestion! But what happens when someone is invited to lunch?

ALLERGIC TO ASPIRIN
A T writes: Whenever I take aspirin, I break out in hives and my feet swell. Is this an unusual reaction to the drug?

REPLY
Yes, except among the small percentage of our population who are allergic to aspirin. SYPHILIS AND INFERTILITY
Mrs. G. writes: Can syphilis make a woman sterile?

REPLY
It is possible but many women with this disease have given birth to babies. The condition usually is detected long before delivery because a blood test is done routinely on every pregnant woman.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Pakistan's Position

By Arch MacKenzie
Canadian Press Staff Writer

When Pakistani President Mohammed Ayub Khan visits U.S. President Johnson next month, he goes to Washington as an ally-turned-neutralist.

He will have been a recent visitor to Peking and Moscow and a fairly recent convert to warm contact with the Chinese. Foster Dulles in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, SEATO still exists but Pakistan, as France, is a token participant these days.

In 1955, Pakistan also was tied more firmly into the pro-Western Bloc with membership in a similar middle-eastern military grouping. Today, Britain and Iran are the remaining loyal members while Turkey has cooled somewhat and so has Pakistan. Iraq is out.

CHINA A FACTOR
Pakistan is an example of some of the facts of life created by the rising role of China in Asia.

While Pakistan has had an estimated \$4,000,000,000 or more in aid from the U.S.—military and economic — it has turned to China as well now. Part of this shift was caused by anger at the U.S. help for India when the arch-enemy of Pakistan was being invaded by China along the northern frontier.

Pakistan viewed the Indian arms buildup with concern. The just-concluded state visit to Peking is a culmination of the new Pakistani approach. There has been a settlement of a border dispute between the two countries, discussion of increased contacts and provision by China of a \$60,000,000 interest-free loan.

VIET NAM A TOPIC?
In Washington, Ayub is expected to report on his impressions of the two Communist capitals to Johnson. He is also expected to make a pitch for negotiations on Viet Nam if the situation at that time remains unchanged.

The president carried much the same message to Peking but without any visible sign of softening China's firmly-stated views that negotiations hinge on American withdrawal from South Viet Nam.

Johnson, it is expected, will take just as tough a line. But there is no sign at least yet Pakistan is going to sacrifice any of the economic aid from the U.S. because of stronger ties with China. It was open hostility to the U.S. which threatened economic aid for Gamal Abdel Nasser's United Arab Republic and cut off Indonesia.

Concern In Australia

Montreal Gazette

The growing tensions and upheavals in Asia have caused a marked change of policy in one important country in the area—Australia. Australians are coming to realize, more than at any time since the Second World War, that they are in a position which is both exposed, and likely to attract hostile attention.

When the world's major wars were fought in Europe, Australia seems the last place on earth which needed to worry about its security. This situation crumbled during the last war when Japanese aggression crept close to, and might have enveloped Australia, had it not been for Pearl Harbor.

After the war, there was a temporary return to security. But now, faced with China's campaign against the West and against the white "race," and with Indonesia's erratic adventures,

Australia is taking stock of its future. It, and New Zealand, are two nations in the world most troubled by a which, in spite of geography, are both Western and white.

One response has been a rearmament program. Conscriptive armaments are being bought from the United States, Britain and France. And there is increasing debate whether the country should embark on an emergency program to develop the barren northern regions.

Above all, Australians are hoping that they can commit the United States firmly to the defence of the island continent. For in the last resort, Australians know they would need a gigantic ally on their side if China and Indonesia ever began a determined campaign against them.

Britain Takes Her Stand

Fort William Times-Journal

A white paper issued by the British government on the subject of defence makes the position of the Labor government very clear. Britain is going to take her place with allied democracies in the defence against communist aggression (the nation will ask Parliament to vote \$6,360,000,000 in 1965 for the purpose) but at the same time she will lean heavily on the nuclear force of the United States.

Put briefly, Britain is acting on the assumption that the defence of Western Europe is adequately set, since the nuclear strength of the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. almost precludes a belligerent move there. But she sees great need for the reinforcement of defence forces in the Middle East and Asia, and will place emphasis on her co-operation in this area.

When another labor government was in power prior to the Second World War, defence preparations were permitted to slacken—a mistake that came close to being fatal. It is reassuring to see the present labor government being realistic, determined to do what it can to protect those who depend on British power to resist the machinations of Peking.

The government at London is committed to no mean task as it embraces such a policy. India, Malaysia and other places in the east are quite vulnerable to attack from China. Plenty of manpower from military equipment will be required to maintain necessary protection. Not without god-cause does Britain call on her allies to help share the defence burden.

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