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Much Left Unexplained

If there has been misunderstanding with regard to Attorney General Farmer's attitude in the matter of the Queens County Jail, we doubt if his explanation in today's Public Forum columns will do much to remove it.

We all know that the jail is overcrowded—grand juries have been complaining of this for years past—and that the Government is hoping, eventually, to have a federal institution take care of prisoners serving sentences of six months or more. We know, too, that many at present in the jail, or roaming the streets waiting their turn to arrive time, have been convicted on charges of drunkenness.

Many of us, too, share in the Attorney General's concern for these unfortunate people and would like to see some better provision made for them. No doubt the magistrates who sentenced them to jail are equally convinced that the system is a poor one and could be improved upon. In the meantime, however, the Government hasn't done so and he has to comply with the law by imposing the sentences he does. And the Attorney General, as chief law enforcement officer, is equally obligated to see that the sentences of the court are carried out.

Mr. Farmer repeatedly refers to this enactment as a civic bylaw, which he says is "evidently not having its desired effect." He ignores the fact that the same offense is punishable in the same manner under a provincial statute. Is he not sworn to enforce all the laws of the Province? Or is it part of his duty to pick and choose among persons who have been sentenced to confinement, decide who shall go to jail and who is to go free until called upon? This is usurpation of the court's authority, and it seems to us to be quite unwarranted.

One thing, surely, the situation calls for. That is immediate action in placing the overflow of jail prisoners in other quarters where they could be confined until the overcrowded condition there is remedied. We gather from the Attorney General's letter that he sees no necessity for doing this; in which case we can only express, again, our regret at his incredible complacency.

Costly Strike Ended

The settlement of the longshoremen's strike at three St. Lawrence River ports on Saturday, after six days of costly idleness, came as a welcome prelude to Thanksgiving, and as an additional reason for observing the anniversary in the proper spirit. The strike ended when the last of five local unions decided to accept settlement terms worked out by the federal mediator, Judge René Lippe, to whom much credit is due.

The strike is said to have cost \$2,000,000 a day in Montreal alone, where 80 ships stood waiting in the harbor or river anchorages to be serviced. In Quebec City 17 ships were queued up, and there was a long waiting line at Trois-Rivières as well. Now there is a feverish rush to clear the backlogs of cargo at these ports, particularly the movement of 60,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat to Russia. The rush will continue until the end of the shipping season, sometime in November.

Prime Minister Pearson maintains that his government's strike-handling policy has been vindicated, notwithstanding early pressure for

compulsory methods that would have been "premature and therefore ineffective." But it was tough and go, for national interests were at stake here which would have necessitated such action had Judge Lippe's arbitration efforts failed. Mr. Pearson had intimated as much on Friday, when he seemed anything but hopeful of the outcome.

Another event over the weekend has given cause for satisfaction. This was the co-operative spirit shown in the House of Commons by members of all parties, in pushing through legislation on the federal trusteeship of five marine unions. By sitting nearly four and a half hours longer than usual, the House put the measure through all its stages—a commendable example of unity in the teeth of unwarranted United States interference in this domestic issue. The significance of this action, it is to be hoped, will not be lost sight of at Washington.

U.S. Subsidy Backfires

Judging from the shocked reactions of certain congressmen, one would think that Canada had betrayed the United States in signing a new wheat deal with Russia. Now Washington is going to do likewise; but if there are special difficulties in the way, American policy-makers have themselves to blame.

One would think that if there is any nation in the world whose production and scientific techniques should make it competitive it is the United States. Yet not so in this case. A combination of cold-war export policies and a costly domestic subsidy system has held down the sale of U.S. wheat for dollars. During the 1962 crop year the country exported 637 million bushels of wheat, but in this only 155 million bushels was sold for hard currencies. For the rest, the U.S. government either accepted soft currencies, or donated the wheat under the Food-for-Peace Program with the U.S. farmer reimbursed up to full price supports out of the federal treasury.

Now President Kennedy has authorized the sale of wheat to the Soviet Union, just as Canada and Australia have done. But opponents of the idea are preparing a last ditch fight against the "subsidization" of the Russian economy at U.S. expense.

Dealing with this subject, the London Free Press notes that it is still the U.S. farmer who is being subsidized, sometimes to his detriment. The Russians, if they buy wheat from the U.S. at all, would buy it at the world price for the grades available. If the U.S. subsidy holds the price to the producer well above the world level that is no concern of the importer nations. U.S. farm organizations believe the remedy may lie in changes in their grading system. It is hoped, however, that such a revision does not lead to the dumping of more low-grade grain on the world market at bargain prices. But the greatest offender in this instance is the hamstringing subsidy system.

Preserving Wild Life

Word comes from the Winnipeg Free Press of a pilot project to save duck-breeding grounds in western Canada, which will be noted with appreciation by conservationists everywhere. The Canadian prairies are the greatest duck-producing area on this continent. But with the spread of agriculture, many prairie sloughs and potholes—the ducks' nesting grounds—have been wiped out. This has led to a steady decrease in the number of birds.

To preserve those breeding areas that are left, the Federal Government intends to enter into agreements with farmers whereby the farms will be paid by the Government for leaving sloughs and potholes on his land in their natural state. The pilot project involves eleven owners of farms along the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary and covers more than a thousand acres. The farm owners will receive \$14,000, and for this they promise not to drain or fill the land or burn over the vegetation on it.

This is a project, says the Free Press, that should be extended as rapidly as feasible. Agriculture is important to this country but so is the preservation of our wild life. The present program seems a sensible way of making sure that there will be ducks in the years to come.



ONWARD AND UPWARD

TO BE A STATESMAN

Needed in Canada -- A Political Elite

The Printed Word

PUBLIC FORUM

ATTORNEY-GENERAL FARMER REPLIES

Sir:—In view of editorial comments and the published results of the meeting held at City Hall on October 11th, 1963, I see that there is some misunderstanding as my position in relation to the Queens County Jail as expressed in a press release...

(a) At the present time the Queens County Jail will not accommodate all persons whose sentences are to be served there.

(b) There is in contemplation a policy of integration with the Federal authorities to have sentences of six months and upwards served in an Atlantic Provinces Institution in relation to the Queens County Jail...

(c) The persons who serve sentences in Queens County Jail include those whose sentences are imposed under the Criminal Code and other Statutes of Canada, various Provincial Statutes, By-laws of the City of Charlottetown, and By-laws of other Villages in Quebec County.

(d) Of the persons serving sentences in the jail, many are there for drunkenness. In a fraction of a By-law of the City of Charlottetown, and of these a very high percentage are persons who are repeaters and who spend many days, and in cases several months out of each year in jail for this offence.

The penalty provided for an infraction of a law, whether statutory or otherwise, is calculated firstly to deter and prevent its violation and then, if violated, to punish the offender. If having these considerations in mind in regard to the situation which has developed in Charlottetown concerning drunkenness, it is very evident that the By-law is no longer a punishment and in some cases it is an opportunity to get free lodging. No fault is to be found with the provisions of the City By-law, but with the lack of satisfactory results from its enforcement against the habitual repeaters.

I have been attending the Charlottetown Police Court for approximately thirty-two years. From 1931 to 1933, my attendance as Crown Prosecutor almost daily. Since that time my attendance has been less frequent but at the same time sufficient to know in a general way what was happening. Over these thirty-two years the daily procedure was: The officers concerned in the case were charged under the City By-law for drunkenness, to the Courtroom. The number of the By-law was as high as probably 12 to 15 on some occasions. The officer in charge called the names and each one in turn stood up. Evidence was taken, a modest fine or a term of imprisonment of ten days or more or less was imposed. As soon as the Court adjourned these people were placed in Queens County Jail to serve the sentence. Very few of them paid the fine. One of the most singular and remarkable features of these proceedings was that the By-law was charged to offer a defence.

It is worthy of note that in estimating the loss of human resources which has occurred in this country, I am of opinion that at least something can be done to

Home Care For Schizophrenia

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A psychiatric treatment center was opened in downtown Louisville in 1961. All patients with schizophrenia are placed in the center for treatment were divided into three groups. Thirty per cent were placed in a state mental institution and 40 per cent were sent home for combined in-home and hospital therapy. The remaining 30 per cent received the same treatment as the latter group except that a placebo was substituted for an active tranquilizer.

Home care consisted of daily medication (including placebo for the third group), a weekly or bi-monthly visit to a public health nurse, and frequent telephone calls or visits to the psychiatrist. What were the results? Some of the home patients did not succeed and had to be hospitalized. This occurred more often among the group receiving the placebo than among those getting the real medicine. After 18 months, the results were tabulated. The patients treated with drugs at home were able to remain there 88.2 per cent of the time, only 11.8 per cent and 8.3 per cent were in hospitals. Comparable figures for the placebo groups were 61.7 and 48.3 per cent respectively. Individuals who were sent to the state hospital spent 62 per cent of their time in the institution and only 38 per cent at home.

In the opinion of Dr. Benjamin Pasmancik, one of the leaders of the project, this study supports the contention that home care under the supervision of a community mental health center, creates less disorganization, and keeps the mentally disturbed person in the good graces of the neighborhood. Outpatient care is particularly important because 45 per cent of those in state mental hospitals spend 10 or more years in continuous residence there. These individuals, who are in the home care may prove to be the modern answer to their problem.

STAYING CELLS Mrs. H. writes: I have pelvic pain which my doctor says is due to endometriosis. Would it get worse if I became pregnant?

REPLY No, and pregnancy may relieve your discomfort. Endometriosis is a condition in which the tissue that normally lines the uterus wanders to various parts of the body, causing distress. Pregnancy decreases the activity of these lesions.

J.M. PALE LIDS J.M. writes: My upper and lower eyelid membranes are pink, like a rabbit's. I am a man of 65. Can you tell me the cause of this?

REPLY "Too pink" may indicate anemia. A blood count will settle this question.

STATIC ELECTRICITY W.F.D. writes: Does a man's body contain more electricity than a woman's body?

REPLY No, except when generating a static electric charge.

OTHER DIFFERENCES There were other differences between the Carthaginians and the Romans. The Carthaginian elite was a plutocracy. An older state than Rome, Carthage had a decline at the time of the celebrated series of struggles. Agribusiness had never become more of itself. Hannibal, however, affairs were transacted in Carthage. The whole of Hannibal's fourteen-year invasion of Italy he was frustrated and perplexed by the artifices of the faction that opposed him back at home base in Carthage.

HOW ABOUT IT? Young Canadians who are casting about for useful careers, at good pay, might well consider being full-time politicians. To train for this, if they are English-speaking, they should become, as at home in France and if French-speaking, they should become proficient in English. Other Canadian languages they may be able to master, such as Spanish, Italian, German, Japanese, may be useful, and even Russian and Chinese.

MINIMUM WAGE ORDER Sir:—The recent announcement of a special minimum wage order covering the employees of potato warehouses was a bit of a shocker. To suggest anything less than another warehouse or labour group and expect them to assist in anything less than an established provincial minimum wage seems to defeat the purpose of the Act and indicates retrograde thinking in some quarters.

It is evident that two bodies are involved: viz. the Labour Relations Board who draft such orders and the Executive Council who approve them. But since a government or a government body rarely initiates such orders without first being requested to do so, it would seem that one of two other parties involved must have filed a request or petition.

Can we estimate the employee element? At 85 cents per hour the answer should be "Yes". That is, if the employee group and it is hoped they and any others who approve of the legislation mentioned can justify their action. It should be demanded that they do so.

I am, Sir, etc. M.A. FARMER Charlottetown

WRONG NAME The name Lindo was given to the ship which was captained by Columbus in 1492 when he had wrongly assumed he landed in the vicinity of India.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Vacations go back to the time when Columbus started the fad of taking a trip on borrowed money.—Hamilton Spectator.

Our Yesterdays (From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO October 15, 1938

The residential property on a Prince Street belonging to the estate of the late Miss Mabel Bremner, has been acquired by J. Ernest H. Worth, druggist, who is carrying out considerable alterations.

Miss Jacqueline Norton of Toronto, editor of the White Ribbon Tidings was guest speaker at a meeting of the Cornwall and North Wilshire Union at the home of Mrs. Gordon MacMillan, Cornwall, Thursday afternoon.

TEN YEARS AGO October 15, 1953 At a meeting of the directors of the Charlottetown Forum Ltd. held last night, Forrest E. Clow was appointed managing director to fill a vacancy occasioned by W.J. Brown who is entering upon a new enterprise.

Announcement was made last night of the award to Major F. S. Jenkins of the Efficiency Decoration in recognition of his twenty-year's accredited service in the Army. Major Jenkins is Second-in-Command of the 8th Signals Regiment, a unit with which he has been associated since 1937.

New Zealand now has a state-approved weekly lottery and the government plans to assist scientific research substantially with profits from the lottery. Probably many of the purchasers of lottery tickets would be pleased if one of the first scientific research projects were to come up with information on how to produce a winning ticket.—Fort William Times-Journal.

In the book subdivisions that are springing up across Canada there is a very conscious trend toward buying variety. It's commendable; but sometimes we can't help suspecting its motives. Must the house differ because the people are the same?—Toronto Star.

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