

More Second Thoughts

Another newspaper which has come out strongly against the deal negotiated at the last federal-provincial conference is the Winnipeg Free Press, which calls it "a package carefully wrapped in secret sessions for an unsuspecting public." The basis of its criticism is well worth examining at this time.

Everybody knew from discussions in Parliament and the press, says the Winnipeg Liberal paper, that the conference would address itself to a formula for amending the constitution. But nobody knew, because the fact was deliberately concealed, that the conference would also take up the matter of delegating powers from one government to another. The public learned that this subject, involving a principle foreign to our present constitution, was on the bargaining table "only after the bargain had been struck and the premiers came beaming forth in glowing unanimity."

From the standpoint of the prime movers in the deal, the package has obvious attractions. But no such consideration should dissuade Parliament from most careful examination of the project. Our present constitution sets out specific guarantees—in some cases for the provinces, in others for minority groups. It also provides a more general guarantee to the country at large that federal and provincial governments will act within their appointed spheres and that, in case of dispute, issues may be taken before the impartial justices of the Supreme Court.

What will happen to this general guarantee if the foreign principle of delegation is imported into our system? The BNA Act, in section 91, lists 29 subjects exclusively reserved to the Parliament of Canada (others have been added since 1867) and in section 92 others exclusively reserved to the provinces. But henceforth, without amendment of the constitutional act, powers may be shuffled around to suit the transient interests of government—which do not necessarily correspond with the broad public interest—and the Supreme Court will be a helpless onlooker. The requirement that four provinces must agree, and enact appropriate legislation, is altogether inadequate protection.

Our Winnipeg contemporary finds only one reassuring aspect of the situation. This is that Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Brewin, spokesmen respectively for the Conservative and New Democratic opposition parties, have made it clear that they will not, for the sake of speedy patriation, forego their clear duty of submitting "this dubious project to meticulous examination." The country, it concludes, will require "far more solid assurances than anything yet forthcoming from ministers now basking in a glow of self-satisfaction over a mission accomplished."

A Booming Industry

The humble potato in Britain is growing in stature, reports an official publication from that quarter. Gone are the days when it was peeled, washed and eaten. The peeling and processing of potatoes has grown into a large British industry, and to show how far things have gone a "Prepared Potato Conference" was held in London recently.

By far the largest proportion of potatoes destined for processing are taken up by Britain's crisp indus-

try, which dissects about 300,000 tons of tubers a year, this figure having doubled in the last four or five years.

Perhaps the most noticeable sign has been the shift of emphasis from the traditional, English, corrugated crisp to the more flashy American-style bootlace, tubular, and spaghetti types. One manufacturer is experimenting with the lattice shape now very popular in the United States. The point has been reached where one in 10 potatoes goes to the crisp trade.

Recently British manufacturers formed the Potato Chip Industries' Research Group to co-ordinate research and the mechanics of converting potatoes into crisps. And to prove that crisp eating knows no international barriers, all the countries of Western Europe have now joined the group.

It is interesting to note the reason given by one leading British processor for the boom in the potato crisp market. It is due to the increase in people's leisure hours, and to the fact that housewives are looking for easier means of preparing food. The same holds good for the increased demand on this side of the Atlantic, of course. This is not a fly-by-night industry, geared to exploit a temporary fad. Its possibilities are only beginning to be developed. And wherever it is promoted scientifically, it means a new lease of life for the potato industry.

It could mean millions of new revenue, in the coming years, for the place they call Spud Island.

A 1945 Prediction

As noted in these columns on Saturday, the United Nations has now entered the 20th and most crucial year of its history. In a recent speech Adlai Stevenson, in this connection, quoted American businessman Beardsley Rumi, one of the great supporters of the UN, who made the following statement in 1945 when the organization was founded:

"At the end of five years you will think the United Nations is the greatest vision ever realized by man. At the end of ten years you will find doubts within yourself and all through the world. At the end of fifteen years you will believe the United Nations cannot succeed. You will be certain that all the odds are against its ultimate life and success. It will only be when the United Nations is twenty years old that... we will know that the United Nations is the only alternative to the demolition of the world."

This is the year that will test Mr. Rumi's prediction, which bears more than the usual hallmarks of inspiration. If it can get successfully through this trying period, then it bids fair to be around for a long time. Failure to solve current problems—two of which were touched upon in our issue of Saturday—could conceivably undo everything that has been achieved since 1945.

The League of Nations was dead before it reached 19. Today, the UN is bigger and stronger than the league ever was. Let us hope that the internal dissensions that threaten it will be faced in a true spirit of statesmanship.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is pleasing to note that Transport Minister Pickersill, who has been ill for several weeks, expects to resume his duties at Ottawa this week. He is one of the hardest working men in the cabinet, and one of the ablest. Also, he has shown himself to be a very good friend of Prince Edward Island.

The pictures appearing in The Guardian of some of the prize winning farm homes in the 19th Annual Prince Edward Island Rural Beautification Contest are themselves a delight to the eye. Congratulations to all who participated in the contest, and made it such an outstanding success.

Writing in an Ontario paper, an enthusiast for Maritime union says he hopes the Federal Government "will give practical encouragement to such a move by securing employment for anyone displaced because of the union and by honoring all provincial premiers involved by granting them an annual life income in recognition of the benefit brought to Canada by their achievement." No bribery, please!



THE WRONG END OF THE MEGAPHONE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Scores Mounting Burden Of High Taxes

Federal political leaders were given an eloquent tongue-lashing by Hon. Ross Thatcher for the ever-increasing and crushing burden of high taxes resulting from their reckless endeavours to buy votes with electoral promises.

The newly-elected premier of Saskatchewan was speaking to a capacity audience of the Canadian Club in Toronto. His frank and hard-hitting speech was listened to with "rapt attention" and was rewarded with an extraordinary long burst of applause.

In election after election, promises have involved social services. Government must take care of the needy, the unemployed, the indigent. But in the field of Social Welfare, we have gone beyond these humanitarian objectives. We are looking after many who don't need it. Thousands are drawing un-

employment insurance when would-be employers cannot obtain labour. I believe the time has come for Canadians to take a long hard look at any additional social security measures.

I was delighted when Hon. Donald Fleming invited me to be his guest at the head table to hear Mr. Thatcher speak. I am sure that I heard the first public utterance, outside his province, of a voice of reason which is needed in our public life today.

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

When Donatien, the Minister of Finance, he showed himself to be the most conscientious and by far the most industrious holder of the post-war era. He followed incessantly to combat inflation and to keep budget deficits within reasonable limits, during years when our treasury was being bled white through costly electoral promises. So it was informative to see his approving reaction to the political philosophy of our newest premier, Ross Thatcher, he told the audience, it "one of the most interesting political figures in our public life today and an unshakable proponent of free enterprise."

There are few governments which are showing much interest in curtailing government expenditures." Mr. Thatcher said. "As a matter of fact, the whole subject has little political sex appeal for the average voter and talk about tax cuts makes people go to sleep."

Yet any thinking person or any political persuasion should be suggested, he concluded, by the ever-increasing and crushing tax burdens being imposed by all levels of government. This tax bite is so crippling that business has not the capital left to pay for the expansion and development which would create the jobs needed for full employment.

"It is an unpleasant fact that the average citizen today is working one day in every three for government; the present level of taxation is a major roadblock to growth, expansion and employment."

Here was a politician speaking with the common sense of a businessman — which Premier Thatcher, Bachelor of Commerce and successful hardware merchant, is. Unlike Prime Minister Pearson and ex-Prime Minister Diefenbaker, Ross Thatcher has faced the acid test of meeting a staff payroll, on the 15th and the 30th of the month; he knows that only efficiency can yield profits, and only profits can keep a business afloat.

BUYING YOUR VOTE

"All political parties—and I most assuredly include my own—must accept a share of the re-

STRIKE CONTINUES

ROME (AP)—Italy's railways bogged down again Wednesday on the day of a two-day "wildcat" "hiccups" strike, but Rome's traffic eased back from chaos on a 24-hour strike of municipal workers, went back to duty. Other municipal workers stayed out, striking for higher wages and fringe benefits.

Students New World

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen College students usually are given a complete checkup by the family doctor before matriculation. Generally these young people are in excellent health, physically and emotionally. But the new environment creates overwhelming stresses in some, especially if this is their first time away from home.

The majority find the new freedom and assumption of responsibilities to their liking and adjust perfectly. But, according to Dr. William H. Wehrmacher, in Physician's Management, some are still searching for their identity and become confused by the challenges offered by group living, working under pressure, and extracurricular activities. Add to this poor eating habits, respiratory infections, loss of sleep, and "homesickness, little wonder a certain proportion become unhappy and maladjusted. Family, social, and financial problems add to the burden.

These immature young men and women need attention if they are to continue their academic life. When this reaction to college life represents a physical or an intellectual disability parents ought to recognize the situation and not force the youngster to continue. If they do, tragedy may be in the making. Suicide is one of the most frequent causes of death among college students.

Accidents must be included among the health hazards. Injuries and fatalities are not as common on the athletic field as on the highway and drinking and speeding account for the majority of these traffic casualties. We can't put old heads on young shoulders but some sense of responsibility should accompany a driver's license.

Another form of experimentation among college kids is the excessive use of coffee, amphetamines, or other psychic energizers. The habit may start with taking a wake-up pill for several nights while boning for an exam. Later, other excesses are found for the desire to ward off sleep.

Our new leaders will come from institutions of higher learning. The majority of parents school health services, and physicians are doing their part toward making the college year successful. But in the effort we must not forget that a small percentage of these young people are vitally in need of help.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Pay your taxes with a smile," advised Mrs. Wealthy "I should love to," said Miss Comely, "but they insist on cash." — Sarnia Observer.

The smile worn by the fisherman, who is photographed with his large catch, always seems smug to the envious one who looks at it. — Fort William Times-Journal.

The reference of the flag issue to a parliamentary committee seems to have released another flood of new ideas. One of the most unfortunate of these is a suggestion from Winnipeg that our national banner should bear a design of Canada geese in V-formation. No slight, argues the designer, is more Canadian than this, the trouble with this is that the symbolism is altogether too accurate. There is growing suspicion among the public that geese have been migrating out of Ottawa. But do we need to announce it to the whole world? — Toronto Star.

A Columbus teenager was heard to complain that her new friend was so deceitful. "He pretends to believe me when he knows very well that I'm lying to him," she said. — Columbus Journal-Republican.

Grandpa Woogie was regaling his grandson with stories of the old western gunfighters. "Did you know," said Grandpa, "That Billy the Kid killed 21 men because he was 21 years old?" "That so?" queried his attentive grandson. "What kind of a car did he drive?" — Montreal Star.

Soviet Military Shadow

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer

Though the new Soviet leadership pledge to continue peaceful coexistence with the West, the puzzling emphasis on military that accompanied the fall of Nikita Khrushchev casts a deepening shadow over the broader prospects of world disarmament.

The Chinese mainland hailed his dismissal and now Albania which had sided with the Chinese in the quarrel with Khrushchev, describes the Soviet change in command as a "great victory... for Marxism-Leninism and all the revolutionary forces in the world."

Long before his unceremonious dismissal, Khrushchev frequently let a word slip that he was having trouble with his generals — much in the same way that United States presidents had trouble with their military leaders. Generals the world over appear renervated for their demands for more men and more arms.

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Now that the former Soviet leader has been bounced, the Soviet defence department has hailed Khrushchev's plan for strengthening the armed forces because "there are still forces of frenzied imperialist reaction in the world."

The new Soviet leaders have indicated a desire to maintain Khrushchev's policies towards the West. But the emphasis on military and prospect of renewed Soviet courting of Albania and China indicates a hardening line that would not be conducive to fruitful disarmament negotiations.

Distressed by the Kremlin's Stalin-like action against Khrushchev, some European satellites, have demanded explanations, expressing such public sympathy for the deposed leader as to embarrass the new executive.

In fact, in the light of Soviet developments and the detonation of a Chinese nuclear bomb, the West may find itself reviewing its own arms and its future armament needs.



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