

Dr. Forsey's Proposal

Indications are that owing to Quebec's insistence on putting through its own contributory pension legislation at this time, major modifications in the Canada Pension Plan are required which would scale down the maximum monthly pension and delay the original option to take a smaller pension at age 65. This, and Quebec's apparent unwillingness to agree to a constitutional amendment giving the Dominion power to include widows and orphans in the federal plan, raises an important question to which attention is drawn by Dr. Eugene Forsey, of Ottawa, well-known authority on constitutional matters.

Dr. Forsey poses the question in the following terms: "If the rest of us want to have survivors' insurance, and Quebec does not, must the rest of us just keep our minds to forego it until Quebec changes its mind and approves a constitutional amendment?" He submits, emphatically, that this is not the case.

In the absence of constitutional amendment, survivors' pensions fall within provincial jurisdiction under "property and civil rights in the province." But section 94 of the British North America Act gives the Parliament of Canada power to make laws in relation to property and civil rights in all the provinces except Quebec; such laws to come into force in any province only upon adoption by the local Legislature, but the power of the Dominion Parliament in the matter to be therefore unrestricted.

So, if the rest of us really want survivors' pensions, and Quebec does not, the Dominion Parliament has simply to pass a Survivors' Pensions Act, and, upon adoption by the nine Legislatures other than Quebec's, it comes into force in those nine provinces, and can then be varied or amended by Parliament in any way that body sees fit, without further reference to any province. "Quebec would be out and the rest of us would be in, which would be just what we all wanted," Dr. Forsey argues.

He recalls that Professor F. R. Scott had a pertinent article on this subject in the 1942 Canadian Bar Review, and that two years earlier Arthur Meighen made a brilliant speech to the same effect in the Senate, in the debate on the unemployment insurance amendment to the Constitution. Section 94, he adds, has never, to his knowledge, been utilized. Perhaps it is time it was. As Lord Bennett once remarked, "Majorities have rights, too."

A Spur To Research

Commenting on the latest report on the link between smoking and various ills, especially lung cancer, the Montreal Gazette notes that this report of the U.S. Surgeon-General, like the report of the Royal College of Physicians in London in 1962, is statistical. It concludes that the risk of lung cancer among those who smoke is higher than among those who do not, but it does not identify what substances in tobacco might be the cause, nor to what extent lung cancer might be due to a combination of influences.

The need for more research is seen in the wide variations in the frequency of lung cancer in different areas. The Gazette quotes a medical study carried out in Canada in 1960 in this connection, which showed that heavy-smoking Indians in northern Canada did not tend

toward this disease, while those living in urban areas did.

A survey of 12 selected countries found that Scotland leads them all in its high rate of lung cancer. This might be the heavy industrialization in that country, which might also account for the fact that England and Wales occupy the second and third places. But it is more surprising to find that Finland comes fourth, followed by Austria and Switzerland; and New Zealand comes ahead of Australia and Canada, while Japan comes at the bottom of the list.

There is also the curiously uneven incidence of lung cancer among the provinces of Canada. Manitoba comes on top of the list, with British Columbia second and Saskatchewan third. In fact, the rate of lung cancer is twice what it is in Quebec. And the rate for Canada as a whole is 35 to 40 per cent below that in the United States.

The evident complexity of the problem is only all the more reason for pressing research forward, it is argued. The report of the Surgeon-General of the United States makes still more urgent the need to answer the basic and unanswered question: What are the substances that cause lung cancer?

Timely Suggestions

The Rural Beautification Society stands high in public esteem, and for this reason let us hope that special consideration will be given by the authorities to its request for making, during this centennial year, existing excavations along our highways more attractive by levelling and grading, by seeding where possible, and by tree planting; also that all road triangles be curbed and landscaped as has been done in Southport and Eldon.

At its annual meeting on Friday, the society urged that the Provincial Government dispose of all existing car bodies along the highways, provide locations for future disposal of these bodies and prohibit dumping them in unauthorized places.

The Provincial Highways Department was commended on the work done to make the Trans-Canada Highway more attractive, and it was urged that the same program be extended to all our major highways; also that rural communities be assisted to establish garbage dumps in proper areas and that community groups be encouraged to participate in the establishment and maintenance of such dumps.

These are very practical suggestions, involving improvements that would be of permanent benefit and that could be carried out at comparatively little cost.

Resuming The Dialogue

President Johnson, says a Washington commentator, has reason to hope that Premier Khrushchev has noted that he risked a major quarrel with the House of Representatives to preserve the presidential discretion in the sale of wheat to Russia. Neither Canada nor Australia took any comparable risk. The issue is not partisan in Australia, and the Canadian government under Mr. Diefenbaker sold wheat to China long before Mr. Pearson's government sold wheat to Russia.

No other leader has taken the deliberate domestic political risks assumed first by President Kennedy in trying to establish a "dialogue of peace" with the Soviet leaders. If Premier Khrushchev wants to broaden that dialogue he can do so by easing the Berlin situation, or by giving freedom of chance to breathe in Eastern Europe.

Perhaps it would be unwise to bank too much on Mr. Khrushchev's sense of gratitude. But certainly the firm action of President Johnson, and the political nature of the risk he invited in this instance, will not go unnoted. The Soviet leader can assume, from this, that the new man in the White House is not to be trifled with, and that if there is to be a broadening of the peace dialogue he, Mr. Khrushchev, will be expected to speak up to some purpose. Whichever way one looks at it, the prospects for getting down to brass tacks with the Kremlin are improving, and it is encouraging to note the vigor with which Mr. Johnson is developing this line of approach.



"HE GIVETH SNOW LIKE WOOL"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

A Case Of Governmental Pussfooting?

The cigarette is providing a vivid example of the lack of leadership and purpose by our federal governments, which for some years past have been unwilling to take a firm stand against the cross-currents of conflicting interests.

Medical opinion in many countries has pointed to the cigarette as making its addict prone to a premature death. Dr. P.B. Ryland, the respected M.P. from Orillia, has for several years raised a lone and unheeded voice, drawing Parliament's attention to this danger.

But while the British and USA governments have taken positive action, the Diefenbaker government seemed both the accumulating evidence and the professional advice of its supporters.

It is that accepted responsibility of the federal government to permit the sale of only those goods which have been proved safe. A simple example is artificially coloured foods.

It is in contrast, the sale of cigarettes is permitted, and even encouraged by our government. Why? By whom?

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Treatment Of Frostbite

By Dr. Theodore R. Vandellen

Frostbite means frozen tissue. The best treatment is to thaw the parts as soon as possible in a tub of water warmed to between 100 and 110 degrees F. (not hotter). Twenty minutes of immersion is enough, as a rule.

After thawing, the affected area should be wrapped loosely in wool blankets. General body warming is important. Hot liquids help, so will alcohol, if the individual has reached an warm place where he expects to remain in. Scratches may be cleaned with a mild medicated soap or solution containing hexachlorophene. Do not puncture blisters.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

To skim on social welfare services today is merely to incur further costs tomorrow for prisons, hospitals, courts and other agencies of last resort—far more costly media to cater to the mistakes and misfortunes—Victoria Times.

What's the point of being a natural blonde if one can tell the difference, except the hairdresser's and the influence of fashion. Everyone wants to be different—Winnipeg Tribune.

De Gaulle And The Chinese

By Harold Morrison

Canadian Press Staff Writer

French President Charles de Gaulle is reported ready to recognize Red China and President Johnson is ready to let go with a mighty blast at Paris when the United States makes its official announcement.

This new diplomatic development, with its unsettled undercurrents, is likely to deepen discord between Paris and Washington. While Britain and a few other Western allies recognize Communist China, none of the major Western allies have taken the step since the Korean War.

De Gaulle is not seeking a machievole role in relations with the Anglo-Saxons, his way of dealing with the British and the Americans. He had slammed the door on Britain's entry into the European Common Market in a most embarrassing public way.

De Gaulle maintains that the discord can be modified and contained. The old argument is that de Gaulle is indeed seeking a machievole role in relations with the Anglo-Saxons, his way of dealing with the British and the Americans. He had slammed the door on Britain's entry into the European Common Market in a most embarrassing public way.

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Trade bargains

Charlottetown to:	
Sackville	\$2.20
Moncton	\$2.90
Truro	\$3.70
Saint John	\$4.30
Halifax	\$4.80
Antigonish	\$5.20
Sydney	\$9.50
Quebec	\$12.15
Montreal	\$13.00
Ottawa	\$15.70
Winnipeg	\$35.00
Edmonton	\$4.00

"Bed Goer" Honored

Letter From London

The Warrants are issued to the New Year in the United Kingdom; a great many more make resolutions, although few keep them. One of the most fascinating of awards issued every New Year is the annual list of Royal Warrant holders.

PUBLIC FORUM

next year should they have to repeat it? And how does the registrar and principal of this institution know so well now which students are the best?

Why are our students, especially in the first and second year courses, asked to discuss their studies because their averages in the December examinations were below the expectations of college officials? What are these students to do for the balance of the year. In a province such as this where employment opportunities are so limited?

Would it not be better for them to continue in their grades for the balance of the year as they would then have a better chance of completing their grade?

Why the mail box? Sir—I would much like to know why the mail box is the Royal Warrant holder's target for today? Is the mail box, or the can or box which you place out hoping after there has scored a direct hit on the mail box.

Why the snowbank? Sir—I would much like to know why the snowbank is the Royal Warrant holder's target for today? Is the snowbank, or the pile of snow which you place out hoping after there has scored a direct hit on the snowbank.

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