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Quebec's Demands

When Premier Lesage announced that he was calling a Quebec general election for Sunday, June 5, he indicated that it was for one specific purpose—namely, to obtain a mandate for a stronger-than-ever showdown with Ottawa before the 1967-72 fiscal agreements come into force. His chief opponent and opposition leader in the last legislature, Daniel Johnson, is evidently preparing to get on the same band-wagon. He promises to get a "constitution for Quebec," but nothing like the Fulton-Favreau amending formula approved at a federal-provincial conference in 1964 and subsequently turned down by Quebec.

These statements leave little doubt as to the nature of the coming campaign. Premier Lesage says, "We will not go to war with Ottawa, but we will be firm." Mr. Johnson doesn't say whether he'll go to war or not, but we may expect fireworks.

Mr. Lesage has intimated that Quebec needs a still larger share of federal resources from Ottawa—resources which would be "sought more insistently and firmly than ever." Quebec would seek further concessions in the field of income tax, succession duties and corporation tax. It would opt out of all present and future federal programs in fields under provincial jurisdiction, and seek compensation in cash. It would take over family allowances and old age pensions from the federal authority. Also, it would operate its own employment service and "insist that Ottawa respect Quebec labor laws."

How these demands will fit in with the new formula for equalization payments which Ottawa and the provinces are to thresh out this summer is still to be determined. The new plan, it is said, would have Ottawa create a national average for all the tax yields, replacing the "highest provinces" standard now in use. The Maritimes and Quebec expect to benefit under this plan, to some extent at least; but with it must come a new formula for tax sharing for which no final recommendation can be made until the report of the Carter Royal Commission on Taxation is forthcoming.

In any case, the coming conference could be stultified if Quebec goes to it—not in a bargaining mood but with specific demands for which its government had already sought and obtained indorsement at the polls. There are, after all, other provinces with rights and requirements just as important as Quebec's; and that is why it is necessary to have a strong federal administration to prevent the weaker ones from going to the wall. It would be disastrous indeed if this basic consideration was sacrificed at the dictates of any province, under any pretext.

Manitoba Proposals

Manitoba is concerned about its slow growth rate and population drain. Its problems are not unlike those of the Atlantic provinces in this respect. Combined, these problems create greater ones for the rest of Canada, and this gives added significance to the recent annual report of the Manitoba Economic Consultative Board, in which emphasis is placed on the need for a more coherent national development policy.

The board finds that last year the province suffered a net loss of 12,300 persons to the other provinces, and lays the blame on the fact that labor is moving to the rich provinces where the jobs are. It suggests that there are three fields which, in combination, would lead to a sound national development policy. One is transportation, which, in its present chaotic state, is an impediment to Canada's economic growth. A second is the need for more adequate development policies to promote balanced regional growth so that smaller cities may become attractive to industry and people. A

third proposal deals with education. Both federal and provincial governments, the board argues, have a responsibility in equipping Canadians for the new industrial society. Ottawa is attempting to meet this problem with a new manpower program. However, once again it is incurring suspicion from those provinces that fear the federal government is moving into what they regard as a provincial domain. The board's recommendation here is in the nature of a compromise. It suggests the creation of a federal-provincial continuing committee on national development that would agree on guidelines, establish costs and consider the jurisdictional implications before Ottawa made any moves.

One such investment Manitoba would like to see Ottawa share with the prairie region is a research and development centre to test the latest scientific techniques on the development of natural and human resources. It has already moved in this direction with the creation of a unique organization, the Manitoba Institute of Management Inc., which is teaching provincial business men the latest management techniques.

It will be seen that the Manitoba Economic Consultative Board has much in common with the aims of our Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. Widely separated as they are geographically, there is no reason why these organizations cannot work together in spirit in the achievement of their common objectives.

Raises Fearful Thoughts

The decision of the federal cabinet to order a review of the case of Steven Truscott affords its own commentary on the recent parliamentary vote in favor of retention of the death penalty in Canada. The review ordered by the government will presumably establish whether or not there was a miscarriage of justice. But the very fact of a review being ordered indicates the possibility that there was a wrongful conviction. This possibility is strengthened by a carefully researched book on the case written by Mrs. Isabel LeBourdais, and by the fact that a group of respected MPs believe Truscott innocent.

As the Windsor Star well says in this connection, even the possibility that there was a mistake in the Truscott case raises fearful thoughts. For it is only almost by chance that Steven Truscott is alive today, serving a life sentence for murder, to hear that his case will be reviewed. According to Canadian law at the time of his conviction, he should have been hanged in 1959.

Although he was only 14 years of age at the time, Truscott was tried as an adult in a criminal court, found guilty, and sentenced to hang. That at the time was the automatic penalty for a convicted murderer. He was saved from the gallows only because the cabinet reviewed the case and decided to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment. Commutation at that time was by no means automatic, and it is probable only the boy's age saved him from being hanged. It was not until two years later that the death penalty was abolished for those under 18.

On this slim combination of factors hangs the fact that Steven Truscott is alive today. Now it appears there is at least the possibility he was not guilty of the crime for which he was sentenced first to death and later to life imprisonment. Even before the review begins, those who want the death penalty abolished have a powerful argument on their side.

That argument, mentioned frequently in the parliamentary debate, is the possibility of error. It failed there to win majority support, but that does not end its implications.

EDITORIAL NOTES

To illustrate the need for all textiles to be clearly labelled with washing instructions, a consumer magazine tells a woeful story about a Swiss housewife who boiled her very dirty, unlabelled white curtains and left the resulting white paste in a bowl on the table. She came back to find her husband had salted, peppered and eaten what he thought was cream cheese.

The decision of the United States to increase its global import quota on cheddar cheese by more than 900,000 pounds for the balance of the year ending June 30 is being hailed as good news. Under the new quotas Canadian producers will be able to send an extra 200,000 pounds of Canadian cheese until June 30, and a further 3,000,000 pounds in the 1966-67 season. Hitherto Canadian cheese exports to the U.S. have been limited to 600,000 pounds, a quota which has been in force since 1951.



ANOTHER WATER POLLUTION VICTIM

ON THE OCEAN FLOOR

Another Step In Conquest Of The Sea

National Geographic News Bulletin

French oceanauts have boldly advanced the conquest of the sea by living and working on the ocean floor for three weeks without surfacing.

The six divers functioned deeper in the sea—370 feet—than ever before attempted. They battled extreme cold, perpetual night, storms, and equipment failures to carry out a crucial new project in Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau's long-term mission to open up the sea to working man. What Cousteau called a "tough, tricky" experiment took place in the Mediterranean off France's Cap Ferrat.

The oceanauts' most incredible feat was erecting a huge pillow head down from their undersea home. They did the job faster than riggers can on land, proving that divers can handle heavy equipment at twice the depth heretofore possible.

Captain Cousteau reports on the experiment in the April National Geographic. He commented: "If the oceanauts could man a wellhead at 370 feet, workers living in undersea stations could handle many other jobs, such as mining, marine stock farming, and hydroacoustology. The marine sciences could be revolutionized by investigators residing in laboratories far below present-day diving access."

Working below 300 feet was not easy, however. At that depth body warmth is lost 77 times faster than in normal atmosphere. The divers could not smoke, because tobacco refuses to stay lit. Water for tea and coffee could not be brought to a boil.

Tactile senses were affected. Reported one diver: "I feel a kind of perspiration all over my body. But when I wipe my forehead, it is dry. Another modification of our senses is the almost complete disappearance of smells. Most of us complain we can't taste food."

LIVED IN SPHERE Captain Cousteau's oceanauts descended into the Mediterranean on September 17, 1965. They remained below 21 days, 17 hours, and 16 minutes. On surfacing, they had to undergo 3 1/2 days of decompression.

The oceanauts' combined home-workshop was a 140-ton sphere, 18 feet in diameter. An upper level contained kitchen, dining room, and data-bathing equipment. On the lower level were bunkroom, shower, lavatory, and a hatch opening into the pitch-black sea.

The sphere's ties to the surface were limited to power and communication cables. The oceanauts were out of reach of compressed-air divers. The famed Cousteau diving saucer

visited them often, but "the only hand it could lend was its cold steel claw." Since the nitrogen content of air is lethal at 11 atmospheres, the oceanauts breathed a combination of helium and oxygen—"heliox" for short. Breathing heliox turned the divers' voices into high-pitched squeaks. Days passed before they could understand one another.

A cryogenator circulated the gases that the men breathed, froze out carbon dioxide and other noxious gases, and dehumidified the undersea house. Bad weather hampered the experiment in its early stages. Later another storm struck, threatening to snap the cables that transmitted life-giving power to the men below.

Equipment failure was a more serious problem than the elements, however. Said Captain Cousteau: "Helium is a mischievous, merry element. While it treats underwater man well, it gives his inventions and artifices a very bad time. The machines and electronic systems in Conshelf Three (the underwater sphere) had passed short pressure tests in helium, but during the days below, high-pressure helium infiltrated everything."

"Eager Beavers"

Toronto Telegram

The company of Young Canadians, mobilized with much publicity and to a flourish of trumpets a year ago, has been marching with strangely muffled footsteps ever since.

Initially, the Government entertained hopes that this Canadian counterpart of the U.S. Peace Corps would soon be active on the home front and abroad. But these have not materialized.

Ottawa had counted on having 1,000 volunteers busily engaged in the far-flung corners of the world within two years, and another 1,000 in Canada. This will not now be possible.

The Company has been experiencing acute labor pains. But the Eager Beavers, as Prime Minister Pearson once described the CYC, have not been rushing to offer their services.

HASTILY CONCEIVED It is apparent now that the CYC was hastily conceived, badly timed, and the groundwork for it was not carefully laid.

Already, the Company appears to have shelved its foreign ambitions. It intends to concentrate on problems within Canada instead.

No doubt one reason why the CYC's activities are to be restricted is that it would have conflicted with the privately-operated Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), founded about five years ago, now has more than 350 teachers and technicians in the field from Timbuktu to Tibet. It receives a grant of about \$1,000,000 from Ottawa.

The CYC, however, is not dead. Mr. Pearson has just announced the appointment of 18 members to the provisional advisory council of the Company. The Government has also set aside \$1,200,000 in 1966-67 estimates to get CYC rolling. These funds will be spent on a

DOESN'T REGRET QUITTING HALIFAX (CP)—Donald M. Fleming, former federal Conservative finance minister, says he doesn't regret quitting politics and has no plans to re-enter public life. Mr. Fleming said he now accepts speaking engagements only from non-political organizations. In a speech Friday to 350 delegates attending a session of the Scottish Rite of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, he said speech-making can become "a bad habit."

Tidbits On Gallstones

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen One-sixth of the adult population harbors gallstones. Women with children have these concretions three times as often as do those without. In addition, 28 per cent of those with calculi develop the first sign of the disease during pregnancy. These findings are the basis for the concept that metabolic changes accompanying pregnancy play an important role in gallstone formation.

This is obviously not the only cause because men and women without children also develop these rocks. Inflammation of the wall of the gallbladder and a sluggish flow of bile are important factors. The chemicals in bile are kept in solution by protective colloids (gelatinous material) and bile salts. This mechanism fails when the wall is infected; the secretions thicken and when the concentration is high enough crystals form. In many instances clumps of bacteria form the central core upon which layers of bile crystals adhere producing the stone.

Cholesterol, the same fatty substance incriminated in arteriosclerosis, also is involved in rock formation. Bile is rich in this compound and in other fatty acids. It also contains calcium and pigments. Crystallization occurs when bile harbors increasing amounts of these chemicals and more so when the flow is stagnant. The bile pigments, cholesterol, and calcium form shell-like layers around the nucleus thus increasing the size of the stone. The concentration is governed by metabolism and brings us back to the original theory.

How fast do stones form: According to Dr. Walter Hess, they can develop within four to 10 months. This was determined years ago when surgeons removed the stones but left the gallbladder in. In one patient a new pebble was noted within 34 days. Crystallization of the stone nucleus probably occurs within hours after the old rocks are removed. This is why the gallbladder always is removed along with the stone.

Some concretions continue to grow, whereas others reach a certain size and remain the same. The stones love to migrate and go places when small enough to pass through the ducts. When the rock gets stuck, colic ensues.

IRON SHORTAGE A reader writes: What is hypochromic anemia? REPLY: The type due to an iron deficiency: Blood loss and a diet low in protein and other foods containing iron are the most common causes.

SCAR REMOVAL H. B. writes: Can chicken-pox scars be removed? REPLY: Yes, via skin planing with a wire brush or sandpaper, provided the lesions are not too deep.

FLOATER M. D. S. writes: Should anything be done about a floater in the eye? REPLY: To my knowledge, none of the many remedies tried has proved effective.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Built a hazard-free home.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It is, of course, sad to report that the best of our hockey-playing amateurs can't beat the best of the Russian amateurs. But, let's face it the best English and Scottish soccer teams can't beat the Brazilians or the Italians or the Spaniards very often these days. — Hamilton Spectator.

The congressman's wife sat up in bed, a startled look on her face. "Jim," she whispered, "there's a robber in the house." "Impossible," was her husband's sleepy reply. "In the Senate, yes, but in the House, never." — Montreal Star.

Mrs. Peterson complained to her doctor that her bill was too high. "Don't forget," the doctor reminded her "that I made 11 visits to Johnny when he had the measles." "And don't forget," she replied, "that Johnny made you a lot of money by giving the measles to the whole fourth grade." — Montreal Star.

Fifty years ago the diagnosis "sound as a dollar," was reassuring; now it's frightening. — Windsor Star.

A young man who was applying for a job had to answer questions. Two of them were: where did you work; and, why did you leave. He answered, "At the Adult Education" and "The wages weren't enough." — Fort William Times - Journal.

"George is so grateful," the sales manager complained to his secretary. "It's a wonder he can sell anything. I asked him to pick me up some cigars on his way back from lunch, and I'm not sure he'll even remember to come back." Just then the door flew open, and in bounced George. "You'll never guess what happened!" he shouted. "While I was at lunch I met old man Brown, who hasn't bought anything from us for five years. Well, we got to talking and by the time we reached desert he gave me this half-million-dollar order!" "See," sighed the manager, "he forgot the cigars." — Montreal Star.

It's funny how the man who isn't good enough to marry your daughter can give you the smartest grandchildren in the world. — Financial Post.

Skunk Oil Remedy

Recently we noted reference to the idea that skunk oil has, or at one time was believed to have, medicinal value as treatment for whooping cough. Be this as it may, in an earlier day in Ontario there was a market for skunk oil.

This oil certainly is not to be confused with the nauseous emanation which makes skunks fearsome to encounter. It rather is the oil obtained by the rendering of the fat—and skunks seem always to be fat animals.

We recall one farm lad who, in modern parlance, was slightly retarded. But he was an excellent trapper. His principal objectives were skunks. They had a dual value. He could get 50 cents or 75 cents for a hide and by rendering down the fat, could get something extra for it. The oil was practically odorless and it was being bought for medicinal uses.

One had to be very wary, however, in trapping skunks—and for reasons that "are apparent. The trick is to disable them before they have opportunity to arm and to spray you. Their aim can be accurate and the spray travels quite a few feet. This young trapper had his system. He carried a broom handle.

As the skunk was being pulled out of the hole he smacked it over the back. That rendered the animal's armory ineffective. But, if he missed with his stick, one had to make tracks—and fast.

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