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PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1964

Inauspicious Prospects

One of the issues confronting the federal-provincial conference now in session in Quebec City has to do with the more than 600,000 Canadians who are living on the dole because the family breadwinner is jobless. Some 40 per cent of them are employable, but can they be put to work to earn their relief money?

The work-for-relief proposals would be left entirely to provincial jurisdiction if the whole field of employment assistance were made the full responsibility of the provinces. And that is what some of the more wealthy provinces want in connection with a wide range of welfare measures, including public health grants, hospital insurance, and other schemes.

This would mean giving these provinces more tax collecting powers than they have now, and leaving the "have-nots" more dependent than ever in the way of handouts from a depleted federal treasury. This principle crops up in a lot of the issues scheduled for discussion at the conference. Whichever way one looks at them, they hold out little prospect of meeting the problems with which we are concerned in Prince Edward Island.

Then there is the question of the national pension plan, from which Quebec has already "opted out." The whole future of this plan now depends on Ontario going along with it. Why, it is now being asked, should Ontario, with its own doubts about the plan, be a "softer touch" than Quebec?

And if Quebec's stonewall refusal to cooperate on this vital issue were not enough, there is the matter of extremist groups planning hostile demonstrations while the conference is in session. It opened, yesterday, behind "an encircling screen of tight police security." A big student demonstration is being planned for today, supporting Premier Lesage's demand for more federal revenues for Quebec.

In the circumstances, a Toronto Telegram correspondent has raised the question of why the conference should be held in Quebec City at all at this time. These meetings, he argues, are generally held in the nation's capital; and if a gesture were to be made to any province, it should be towards Ontario "now being hounded into making a major sacrifice to keep the nation together."

Poor Ontario! Poor Quebec! Victims of Confederation, both of them! Shouldn't the rest of us be ashamed, milking them dry as we've done, and expecting now to get more!

Potato Resolution

A central selling system for the potato industry has long been mooted in this Province, but it failed to receive the almost unanimous backing accorded it at the potato growers' meeting here on Monday night. The plebiscite which the Minister of Agriculture has been requested to hold will determine the views of our growers generally on this matter. The move, if endorsed, will presumably involve a good deal of regimentation, and this must be accepted voluntarily if the plan is to meet with success. The responsibility will be on the growers themselves to make it work. The resolution adopted on Monday

day endorsed the principle of a single selling agency to regulate the marketing of the entire potato crop, but made this principle applicable particularly to seed and export deals, suggesting that all that might be required for table stock potatoes sold in Canada would be to organize and supervise the selling. It was specific in proposing that the selling agency be administered exclusively by a board of "farmer growers", who would be nominated and elected by the growers on a county basis.

The potato industry has been in grave difficulties in recent years, and this may account in part for the criticism which has been levelled at the existing board, which is representative jointly of producers, dealers and the co-operative union. Certainly the agreement which the board was able to arrange with the railway, and which has saved the industry more than half a million dollars annually, was an achievement to its credit. It will be necessary to ascertain, as soon as possible, whether the same arrangement would prevail under the proposed new setup.

The growers feel strongly about a minority of dealers who, reportedly, have contracted for potatoes at cutthroat prices. On the other hand there is no doubt that the dealers, as a body, have done much to develop new markets and expand existing ones. Their experience in this field is something that could not be acquired overnight by a new board composed entirely of producers, however zealous they might be in discharging their duties.

There are many other factors to be taken into account. What is of concern to all of us is that the industry be placed on the most efficient basis possible. No one questions the right of our growers to demand the kind of organization they want, but it is important that no decision be taken without careful, dispassionate consideration. A plebiscite, if it is called, should provide the machinery for registering the views of all our growers on this basis.

A Different Slant

A curious angle to the drive for bilingualism and biculturalism is noted by an Ottawa correspondent in the Fort William Times-Journal. This is the fact that without exception, members of the Federal Cabinet of French-Canadian origin are fluently bilingual, whereas, with just possibly one exception, none of the non-French-Canadian Federal Ministers are any better than stammering bilingual.

With the French-speaking Ministers all able to talk well and easily in English, and only one of the English speaking Ministers able to get along even passably in French, the so-called "Dialogue" on the bi-cultural and bilingual issue becomes a monologue.

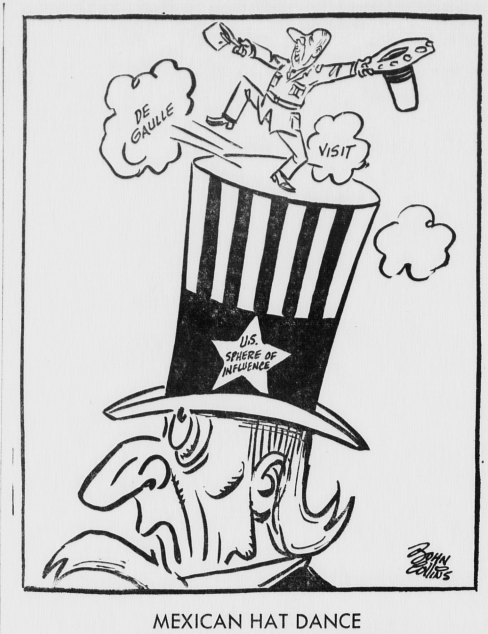
The way things so far have been working out, the French-speaking Ministers have all been busy crusading in English Canada, pleading with the people of the other nine provinces for sympathy and understanding for Quebec's hopes and aspirations. And the English-speaking Ministers simply haven't been—because of the language barrier?—doing any crusading in Quebec, pleading with the people of that province for sympathy and understanding of the reactions, loyalties, and—if you want to put it that way—prejudices of the other nine.

In these circumstances, it has been a pretty one-sided conversation. Perhaps if the Cabinet Ministers from Quebec crusaded for Confederation IN rather than OUTSIDE Quebec, some of the present confusion might be cleared up.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Perhaps, suggests an exchange, more people would live to a ripe age if they didn't worry so much about what will become of them when they are old.

More evidence of that sturdy Alaskan spirit: The Anchorage Times, evening daily, got out a special edition Sunday and a regular edition Monday, despite considerable earthquake damage to its plant. The Anchorage News, the city's other daily, put out an edition Monday afternoon even though the rear wall of its plant was missing. And all four Anchorage radio stations were back on the air Monday.



MEXICAN HAT DANCE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Tory Rallies And The Numbers Game

There are some quiet chuckles and gentle satirizations around the Press Gallery here on account of the final indisputable victory of the Press over Mr. D. in the "numbers game." The more so is the Press scolding because this victory was scored by a neat shot through their own goal by Mr. D.'s defence men.

The numbers game originally concerned the attendance at a Conservative rally addressed by Mr. D. during the 1962 and 1963 election campaigns. An insignificant but traditional feature of any report of a political rally is an estimate of the attendance, just as any cub reporter following the fire engine always inserts an estimate of the dollar value of the cost of a configuration.

Mr. D. always set himself up as a rival to the press in estimating the attendance. His estimate frequently differed from those arrived at by the press, and on such occasions the estimate was always the higher. The campaign train or campaign slogan was the scene of many dramas, which always had the same plot. Mr. D. would roll up to a rally, and the press would report, more or less accurately, that they had underestimated the crowd of the faithful who had turned out to hear him speak.

IMPARTIAL WITNESSES

It is not a common sight to see an audience at any gathering where admission tickets are not sold in advance. But at a Tory meeting in the city of Ottawa, there was an ample time during the speeches to make their own reasonably accurate assessment. Frequently they are able to discuss this with the superintendent of the hall who knows how many seats have been provided and is accustomed to assessing the size of the crowds in his own hall. I recall a Tory meeting in the Ice rink at Moose Jaw in the Spring of 1962, when several reporters viewed the crowd from the empty balcony, in company with the superintendent. This delegate gave his own estimate, which very closely matched that already made by the press, confirming the accuracy of the press estimates.

One of the more publicized disagreements concerned the crowd at a rally at Charlottetown in 1963. I recall an experienced reporter of the Canadian Press agency estimated the crowd at 2,000. He is agreed with this figure, or rather it is closely. But in the article later, he says that the crowd had really been 4,000. In an even later speech, he was quoted as asserting that the attendance had been "well over 3,400." No doubt several Charlottetowners present could say if the CP really made an error of 50 per cent.

OTTAWA TALLY Now comes the pay-off. In the April issue of a four page handout from the Tory central office here, entitled "Canada's Young Conservatives", the lead story begins: "By an overwhelming majority (approximately 1,400 out of a possible 1,500) the delegates at the Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, in confidence in the continued leadership of the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker..." Dick Thrasher, the national organizer of the Party, told me that 1,213 voting delegates were registered—not 1,500. He also said that there were "about 800" chairs in the room where the standing vote was taken. About 150-200 stanchions crowded in a line. This makes utter

False Noses, Eyes And Ears

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Artificial noses, eyes, and ears were in demand by the ancients and knights of old. According to Dr. Arthur H. Bullabian, archeologists have uncovered eyes of quartz, rock crystals and man-made. Nasal prostheses were made of lacquer in India and China 1,800 years ago. The inhabitants were lucky there were men of technical skill to make them because swords and knives were the weapons of the day. In addition, cutting off the nose was a common form of punishment, especially in India.

Surgeons of the 16th century attempted to replace noses by grafting the tissues from the individual's arms but ran into difficulty in fashioning open nostrils and a nasal cavity. The patients must have been desperate or extremely vain to allow their barbers to do this type of surgery. Perhaps they had nothing to lose.

The results were so poor these people resorted to prosthetic noses or ears made of silver, paper, malle, or leather. They were held in place with metal bands and resembled the mass wares at Halloween or as a novelty.

The technique of making prosthetics has improved over the centuries and such devices are widely employed by the medical and dental professions. Advances are stimulated by wars. Credit goes to the progress made in developing the material used. Best results are obtained when the artificial structure blends perfectly with the surrounding skin. Many of the newer plastics and light metals are made to order for this purpose.

Some of the prostheses are utilized as temporary surgical aids while the wounds heal. Others are used to restore the contour of the face after a serious accident and reconstructive surgery. The loss of part of the jaw, for example, requires a prosthesis for inside the mouth as well as outside.

NEW HEALING IN DIABETES

C.F. writes: What can be done for sores on the back of the heels that won't heal in a diabetic? REPLY: Ulcers in this area heal slowly, especially in a diabetic, because the circulation is poor. The sores must be kept clean and dry and free from pressure. Measivale diabetes must be brought under control and the circulation improved with medicines or surgery.

SWINGING GAL

L.C. writes: A 21-year-old happy, healthy girl has the habit of swinging her legs constantly, as she sits watching TV when her knee crosses. This makes the rest of the family nervous. Is it possible for her to correct this habit? REPLY: The sanbags to her feet, to remind her of the habit.

FLIES

A.S. writes: In using an electric fly swatter, I have killed a number of flies entering the lungs? REPLY: Not unless an unorthodox method of cleaning the razor is used. I refer to opening the razor and blowing or sucking on the blades.

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

NOTES BY THE WAY

There is nothing wrong with a political job unless it gets elected.— Plymouth Review. You have to have the sand before you can leave any footprints in it.— St. Thomas Times-Journal.

There's a limit to almost anything except the number of wrong ways a golf ball can be hit.— Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

The person who doesn't know where his next dollar is coming from usually doesn't know where his last one went.— Timmins Press.

A plump patient was having difficulty sticking to the rigid diet her doctor had advised. After he gave her a lecture, the woman exclaimed impatiently: "But, Doctor, why don't you just prescribe a big bottle of what-ever the astronauts take to achieve weightlessness!"— Financial Post.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO (April 1, 1939)

Three plays were staged at Prince of Wales College, and the Little Theatre Guild presented its fourth student play. The plays were "It's A Chance Now", "If The Shoe Pinches", and "The Command Performance".

A six-week course in "tourist catering" attended by 48 young women closed. It was the first class of its kind ever held in this Province under the Dominion Provincial Youth Training program.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 1, 1954)

Professor Thomas Lothian, Prince of Wales College, was elected chairman of the Community Planning Association at a meeting in Emmet MacDonald was elected vice-chairman.

Captain Angus Brown, official ice observer, was taken over a 950 mile trip by an aircraft from the MCA. Capt. Brown reports the ice to be in varied conditions in the Gulf.

Oxford University has educated more kings and princes than it can count. It doesn't bother counting them in fact, preferring instead to adopt a stober casualness about its royal undergraduates. The student newspaper, however, recently took notice of the future of our Dutch Princess Irene's decision to marry Prince Carlos Hugo of Bourbon-Parma. The headline read: "Campion Hill Man to Wed."— New York Times.

Advertisement for Niagara Finance Company Limited. Features a logo with 'NIAGARA FINANCE' and 'ALWAYS THERE WITH READY CASH... For Car Repairs or any good reason \$5000 to \$5,00000'. Address: 1278 Queen St. Charlottetown 894-5524.

Gold Cup & Saucer

WEDNESDAY NIGHT P.W.C. AUDITORIUM Wednesday, April 1, 8:30 p.m. Full Color Films of "THE HAMBLETONIAN" and "THE LITTLE BROWN JUG" (1963)

Selection of Prince Edward Island's "HORSE OF THE YEAR", 1963

Presentation to Leading Driver for 1963

NEW ADMISSION CHARGE

SILVER COLLECTION AT THE DOOR

To help defray expenses of bands in Gold Cup and Saucer Parade.

Advertisement for The Royal Bank of Canada. Text: 'Come and enjoy an evening of fun and relaxation; the best cure for early Spring blues.' Includes a logo for 'THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA' and 'THE CANADA TRUST COMPANY'.