

The More Sorry Showing

Taxpayers will note, as the most striking thing about the resumed session of Parliament after a two-month holiday, that absenteeism is as rampant as ever despite the big pay boost to \$18,000 per member per year—including \$6,000 tax-free allowance. Last Tuesday, when the first division took place, the bells to the Commons chamber eventually rang 201 of these 265 highly paid servants of the public to their voting duties.

Under discussion at the time was the \$116,000 required to pay the additional \$10 a month old age pension. And on another vote, the Government escaped defeat over the U.S.-Canada nuclear arms agreement which it has refused to make public on security grounds, because of Opposition absentees. All parties were represented among the truants, but the Conservatives, with close to 30 absent and not voting, had more than their share.

As the Ottawa Journal remarks, in the old days the MP who was passing poor on \$4,000 a year was easily forgiven if he snatched a few days from a session to earn a little or relax at home. But at \$18,000 a year they are expected to put Parliament first. A man earning that much in the Civil Service is a model of punctuality and devotion to duty. Why not MPs? Dismissal notices are not given to these gentlemen with a month's notice; but if they are inefficient, negligent or lazy it should be remembered on election day.

And, of course, there should be a daily roll call. Our Maritime members, who are among the most regular attendants at their duties in the House, should insist on this in their own interests.

In Parliament's Lap

The House of Commons didn't know what it was in for when it decided last week to accept the responsibility of determining what's what in the Social Credit party or parties. Nothing like this has happened before in the Canadian Parliament and no one, in the brief debate on the subject, was able to cite a precedent in the history of any other parliament.

Commenting on this point in the Winnipeg Free Press, the distinguished columnist Maurice Westminster calls it something of a milestone in our political development. As a general rule, British parties resent the intrusion of outsiders into their affairs. But the situation within the political world of Social Credit has now passed beyond the comprehension of Social Crediters themselves. It is a remarkable fact that the investigation or inquest was entrusted to the committee on privileges and election with the approval of one Social Credit group and the somewhat grudging concurrence of the other.

Mr. Speaker's problem arose from the receipt of four letters, three of them from members elected as Social Crediters and one from Mr. Stanley Knowles, New Democrat. The first, from Mr. Gregoire of Lapointe, notified the Speaker that his party had chosen a new leader and claimed various rights and privileges. The second, from Mr. Thompson, referred to the "separation" of Mr. Caouette and his followers from the party. The third, from Mr. Caouette, stated that "our movement has become a

donal group on the title, Reclamation of Creditors."

Even more pressing, however, was the fourth letter from Mr. Knowles—which claimed that, with the Social Credit fixation, the New Democrats were entitled to sit next to the Conservatives in opposition. This would give them precedence, as a third party, over the fourth in the speaking and voting order, and a right denied to their rivals of moving amendments in certain cases.

Faced with these demands, the Speaker decided that the question was too puzzling for him to answer, and tossed it over to the Commons committee. In doing so he referred to a famous definition of "party" by Edmund Burke as "a body" of men united for promoting the national interest in some particular principle on which they were all agreed." That doesn't throw much light on the problem in this case.

The Creditists were not recognized as a separate party in the last election. Can they now be granted official recognition before they have submitted themselves to the electorate? Or are they entitled to recognition by virtue of numbers and a separate caucus?

Mr. Diefenbaker could not resist the opportunity to suggest that it was all a matter of \$4,000 extra indemnity, and that he had predicted such a development when the House passed its salary bill last August. However much truth there may be in this comment, it unfortunately doesn't help to solve the problem either.

They Stood By Him

The Pearson Government is to be commended on its decision to continue Mr. Donald Gordon in office as chairman of the board of the Canadian National Railways. Mr. Gordon says he will submit his resignation in about 18 months, after first completing a reorganization and strengthening of the publicly owned company; and there is no question that he is the best qualified man in the country to perform this service.

The outspoken CNR president has made a lot of enemies, especially in Quebec, but we note that among his staunchest supporters are some of the country's top railway union leaders. These men haven't always seen eye to eye with Mr. Gordon, but they recognize his outstanding ability, his courage, and his integrity.

Frank Hall, chief negotiator for 100,000 non-operating railway employees and an opponent at many contract talks, sent a telegram to the Prime Minister "strongly urging" the CNR head's reappointment. Paul Raymond, chairman of the General Chairman's Association of the CNR, representing 80,000 workers, did likewise. So did W.J. Smith, national president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers, who urged the Government to "ignore groundless criticism of Mr. Gordon and extend his tenure . . . in the best interests, not only of our union members, but also of the CNR and the Canadian people it serves."

This helped to relieve the heavy pressure on the Prime Minister by Mr. Gordon's removal, and it was a fine example of putting national interests ahead of party grievances. It is a fine tribute to Mr. Gordon, too, that he should command the respect of men who are in the best position to judge of his services he is rendering.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There is food for thought in an item in The Canada Gazette showing that the net outstanding un-matured debt of Canada on July 31 was \$1,057,200,000. That is just about \$1,000 for every Canadian man, woman and child.

Scientists are now working on the idea of putting a satellite in orbit for the purpose of tracking migrations of birds and animals. Tiny radios strapped to these wanderers that have been captured and released would emit signals, distinctive for each species which the satellite, circling 200 miles above the earth, would pick up and relay to ground stations. It is expected to track birds and animals over an area 1,600 miles wide on each orbit if this scheme goes into effect.

QUEBEC-ONTARIO STORM CLOUDS



FEELING AIRSICK ALREADY

BRITISH COMMENTARY

The Somalis of North East Kenya

United Kingdom Information Service

As the countries of Africa move first to independence and then towards African unity, difficult local problems are bound to crop up in the vast process of change and growth. One of the most serious is the problem of the people of Somali race who live in north east Kenya, in part of the Northern Frontier District.

British-Somali talks in Rome, with Kenya Ministers taking part, failed to clear up the problem, but they pointed towards a peaceful and constructive method of tackling it. In this way able for all parties — above all, for the people most directly concerned — the Somalis of the Northern Frontier District who suffer most from a conflict of interests with the Somali Republic and Kenya.

The problem is a complicated one, but by no means unique. The frontier drawn in Africa, in the colonial era, was not drawn with racial or even tribal groupings. There was no machinery for consulting the interests of all the people concerned.

Agreement in Principle

By Carman Cumming, Canadian Press Staff Writer

The big three foreign ministers' talks have wound up at the United Nations with only the slightest perceptible forward movement towards an East-West détente. Some observers felt the best that could be said for the talks was that they had been held in all-and in a chummy first-name atmosphere.

SPLIT HAIRS

The 10 day pact under which the United States built and is using five major air and naval bases in Spain was extended for another year by the United States. The pact was signed in 1953 and expires at 11 hours before the expiration time.

PUBLIC FORUM

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WIDOWS PENSIONS

Sir,—In reading over the Public Forum a few days ago, I noticed a letter by the widow of D. Johnston, in which old age pensions, family allowances and widows' pensions were mentioned. Many people were under the impression that all widows receive pensions, but this is not the case, as I know from my own experience. The widow of a person who dies while in the service of the Crown is entitled to a pension for six years after the death.

TRAVELLING AFRICANS

More than 17,000 South African travellers abroad on their holidays in 1962.

Avoid Buying Cracked Eggs

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen: If our animal population continues to increase, the 2d egg family will be as common as the 2d farm. According to a report by Hugh A. Carthers of Jacksonville, Fla., there are 30,000,000 cracked eggs in the U.S. each year. The 2d egg family will be as common as the 2d farm.

But the majority are extremely rare, including rabies, Calvescens, and fungal infections are the most frequent. But these diseases are not transmitted through the bite of an animal or a bird.

This spring and summer we had an epidemic of food poisoning due to salmonella organisms. From May 1 to July 8, 775 cases were reported from 25 states and the District of Columbia.

The search was made for two egg farms that could have supplied certain hospitals with cracked eggs. In one sample of chicken feed, four pooled samples of cracked eggs in one area. This became the key to the investigation to avoid buying and using cracked and salmonella eggs.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

The way some people continually say "I think there was a reward." — Thomas Timms-Herald.

The taxes will be in 77 years old October 10, but in fairness let's say that some only 1.9 x that age. — Windsor Star.

Regardless of how many people are thrown out of work by automation, the devil will never run out of work. The devil is a man. — Welland Tribune.

The man who yields his right of way to a woman driver isn't motivated nearly as much by chivalry as he is activated by the first law of nature. — Timmins Press.

Two British laborers who are right for Prince Philip to wear double-breasted suits is even though they are not in fashion at present. No doubt he is duly grateful. — Ottawa Journal.

Public speaking taxes the throat. Members of Parliament, however, should be exempt from the House of Commons, until a great deal of talking to keep their constituents in the know about problems and developments in their ridings.

Some hypocrisy were to dictate again that members of Parliament should be purer than their constituents, in this respect, while they are in Parliament's Hill. They are all over 21.

Woray War Over Eskimos

Quebec Chronicle - Telegraph

Judging from the latest salvos fired by both sides, there are no signs of a truce between Quebec and Ottawa over who should control the destinies of a territory that goes only 1,900 km. in the north of the province.

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