

Maritime delegates are reported to have kept well out of the heat of the argument over tariff protection at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture meetings this week; but there seems no doubt that whatever benefits may have accrued from this policy to the big central provinces, it has served our farmers poorly in both the Atlantic and Western areas. The resolution calling for a reduction in tariffs was watered down in such a way that the Government can interpret in any way it likes, and we confess to some disappointment that the mountain labored so hard and brought forth such a very small mouse.

Why did the Maritime delegates think that by straddling the fence on this issue, they were serving their best interests or those of agriculture generally? Someone should have got up at the meeting and read from the findings of the Gordon Commission on the cost to our producers of this so-called national policy, formed for the protection of infant secondary industries that have long since outgrown their swaddling clothes, and should now be fending for themselves.

Back in 1940 the Rowell-Sirois Commission found that the Maritimes had good reason for complaining about being gyped under this policy, to which it attributed the concentration of industrial expansion in Ontario and Quebec, and the corresponding rise of great national business organizations having their headquarters in Montreal and Toronto. It was noted that Maritime industries, on the other hand, not only failed to derive substantial benefits from this development, but lost ground in their own markets as well.

This process has been going on ever since. It has necessitated the payment of Atlantic Provinces adjustment grants and other forms of subsidization, which, however welcome to themselves, have kept up the position of poor relations with respect to our more favored neighbours.

Freer trade winds are blowing across the world nowadays, and there is hope that at the next GATT conference there will be a substantial scaling down of tariffs, with Canada actively participating. Why not have made this clear in the Federation resolution? This is the only way, surely, in which the goal of expansion in our agricultural trade can be attained.

A Painful Question

Prime Minister Pearson's visit to President Johnson at Washington this week resulted in a lot of friendly talk, but the reports are noticeably guarded with reference to one subject which must have been uppermost in the minds of both government leaders during their conference. According to Mr. Pearson, he and Mr. Johnson discussed the possible consequences of French recognition of Communist China—including the United Nations aspects—but only in general terms, and not in terms of Canadian policy; that did not arise at all.

It is surprising that Mr. Johnson would not be anxious to know what Canada's policy was on this issue, for it is one of considerable importance to Washington. So much so, that during his recent official visit to France the Canadian Prime Minister was reportedly ticked off by an indignant U.S. Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen because he hadn't addressed President de Gaulle out of

extending diplomatic recognition to Communist China.

This story was spilled by a Canadian newspaper columnist and editor who accompanied Mr. Pearson's party to France: Christopher Young of the Ottawa Citizen, and a nephew of Mr. Pearson. He wrote that the U.S. enraged, had "reacted with a furious tantrum to reports from Paris during Mr. Pearson's visit that de Gaulle was on the verge of announcing the establishment of relations with Peking. Through some strange guilt-by-association logic, the Americans were angry with Canada, too. Mr. Pearson was reported in The Citizen article to have "reacted coldly to this treatment," as well he might.

Whatever truth there may be in this story, it has been confirmed officially that France will extend diplomatic recognition to Red China, that the recognition will be unconditional on both sides and will not be accompanied by any demand for France to break relations with the Nationalist Chinese regime in Formosa.

French Foreign Minister de Merville says this does not imply that France would automatically recognize the Communist regimes in North Korea and North Vietnam, but that that would inevitably influence the question of Communist China's admission to the United Nations.

Prime Minister Pearson had already indicated that one of the chief reasons why Canada—which indirectly recognizes the Red Chinese government by doing business with it—has not officially recognized Peking is because it does not want to withdraw recognition from Formosa. But the U.S. attitude is not so flexible as that. It is bent on keeping Red China out of the United Nations on any terms. And such a policy is foolish and self-defeating. It can't make China go away by pretending it doesn't exist, and with the rise of the Afro-Asian vote in the United Nations its attitude is becoming more and more a cause of embarrassment to its Western allies.

Cost Of Ministers

The Ottawa Journal takes note of the curious fact that in Britain a Cabinet minister gets less from the Treasury than a Canadian backbencher. The increase in pay for MP's generally lifted Canadian ministers from \$10,000, and in addition for their Cabinet duties they continue to receive \$15,000 plus \$2,000 allowances, a total of \$35,000.

A British MP now is paid \$4,500 a year following a recent increase from \$3,000. As a Cabinet minister he is paid \$15,000 but has to surrender \$2,250 of his MP's pay, leaving him with a total of \$12,750, or \$750 less than the income of a Canadian backbencher.

With about 53,000,000 people compared to Canada's 19,000,000, the British Government gets along with 23 members of the Cabinet, including the Prime Minister, compared to Canada's 26 in recent months.

Canadian taxpayers have to foot the bill for this costly establishment, whether they like it or not. Meanwhile we note that Finance Minister Gordon, who has returned to Ottawa after a holiday in Jamaica, is reportedly engaged in 11th-hour cuts in his spending estimates for the 1964-65 fiscal year which begins April 1.

For the current year, he originally budgeted for a \$655,000,000 deficit but later raised this to \$709,000,000, and he indicated in a recent Toronto speech that he will have another deficit for the coming year, however much he carves and cuts. He is said to be trying to "find" another \$30,000,000 by reducing departmental expenditures from the level previously passed. These amounts will not be known until the "blue book" of estimates is tabled in Parliament, probably soon after the new session begins on February 18.

There is no suggestion, of course, that he intends cutting down on ministerial salaries or seasonal indemnities!

EDITORIAL NOTE

Interest in the forthcoming civic election is reportedly picking up. Let's hope that by February 12 there will be a good choice of candidates for every vacant seat.



SOME PEOPLE HARD TO CONVINCe

BRITISH COMMENTARY

Long List of World Trouble Spots

By W.N. Ever

United Kingdom Information Service

One has only to glance at the newspaper any morning or to listen to the radio to be unwearyingly conscious of world-wide unrest. Sometimes clashes are between countries; sometimes internal, between clashing communities. "In the bosom of a single state"

The long list of trouble spots in the world today makes depressing reading: India-Pakistan, Morocco-Algeria, Arab-Israeli, Kenya-Somalia, Indonesia-Malaysia and many more. These do not include the internal quarrels like Cyprus or the Yemen or newly-independent

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Potential Suicide Needs Early Help

By Dr. Theodore R. Vanellien
Some men in the United States are committing a suicide every 20 minutes. Depression is the usual cause, and prevention is possible provided we pay more attention to clues and signs of the individual's wish to take his life.

The potential suicide can be helped at an early stage when he is undecided about living or dying. Dr. Philip Solomon of Harvard medical school uses a man past 50 as an example. He is unmarried, widowed, or divorced and feels isolated from society.

Personally changes have occurred in that this individual has become pessimistic, irritable, and disinterested in the things he used to enjoy. He broods about it, or is obsessed with his poor health (real or imaginary) and feels no strong ties to his family, church, community, or business. Some help from relatives or friends who rarely recognize the true situation until it is too late.

Who is most likely to commit suicide? What are the warnings? Men and women who are plagued with an overbearing, unaccountable depression. The list, Dr. Solomon says. Next in line are those with frank mental disorders, manifested by withdrawal from society, confusion, suspiciousness, or exaggerated feelings of guilt or hopelessness. Expressing a wish to die is ominous, regardless of the cause.

The risk is increased if suicide has been attempted before. Writing a suicide note or taking an overdose of sleeping pills shows the intention to commit a suicide. Threats of jumping from a high place or from a cliff are more purposeful. These people really want out.

The suicidal threat is serious in persons who cannot face the loss of a job, property, or relationship. Some men and women hope to gain attention by slashing their wrists. The attempt is usually a prelude to the spouse or parents. But the danger is greater when the person has sought to gain by dying. The elderly and alcoholics, especially when intoxicated, are more prone to take this way out.

WEeping SKIN
Mrs. R. B. writes: I have been suffering from hummulus cruris for a year, and nothing has helped. What can you tell me about this condition?

REPLY
This skin disorder is allied to neurodermatitis, and both have an emotional basis. It has been said that the skin weeps in people who repress their tears and other psychic reactions.

DEVIATED SEPTUM
Mrs. J. D. writes: What ill effects to the body could result from a deviated septum in the nose?

REPLY
None, unless the deviation obstructs the passageway or encourages nasal or sinus infections. If the septum is bent at a sharp angle, it may cause a lack of vigor, might enrage in the circumstances.

JOINTS AND MUSCLES
A.S. writes: Does rheumatoid arthritis affect the muscles as well as the joints?

REPLY
In the strict sense, rheumatoid arthritis affects the capsule that surrounds the joint. The victim may not move an extremity if painful joint so that the surrounding muscles become weak or atrophied.

Today's Health Hint—
Parents must offer a leadership.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We have seen hockey players get stuck at other players and at members of the press and at members of the press. But, really, it's the school boys who are the blame on the players, most of whom are young and impressionable. It's the fans who are to blame for much of the criticism, the fans and the club owners. They spoil the players' desire to support a winning team that they countenance anything short of armed robbery on the part of their heroes.—Hamilton Spectator.

Hopeful First Encounter

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer
Prime Minister Pearson first formal encounter with President Johnson produced such a strong feeling of mutual optimism about the future relations of their two countries is high.

Neither the Canadian nor the United States state anticipated a first meeting that would eliminate all problems or immediately bring in a new era of cross-border co-operation. As Pearson emphasized later, there are problems and there will be many. Both sides made a determined effort to resolve differences.

The Canadian government had been trying for more than a year to get the U.S. to renegotiate the Canadian-U.S. air agreement so that Canadian airlines may be able to get a larger share of the U.S. travel market originating in Canadian cities.

American authorities had been using all kinds of argument which negotiations had begun but Johnson took this argument aside and agreed with Pearson that such negotiations should start "almost immediately."

The Canadian government had been seeking new and more elaborate machinery to establish guidelines in trade relations with communist countries.

The two administrations have differences on approaches to resolve their international payments deficits; on pricing of oil and other commodities; on policy affecting the production of automobiles and on trade with communist countries.

The two countries have thrown up a lot of cross-border economic bridges in the past to reduce and eliminate frictions between the two neighbors. One of the last major holes in this field was the development of the joint ministerial conference on trade and economic affairs.

This is made up of cabinet ministers from the two governments. They were supposed to meet to discuss and resolve areas of frictions before they developed into embarrassing public issues.

COMMISSION POSSIBLE
But Pearson believes something more structural and more permanent is needed. He has in mind a possible permanent commission or board that could develop a set of rules for economic relations, similar in intent to the close Canada-U.S. economic co-operation that developed during the Second World War.

AT ROTARY — "City Home Renovation" was the subject of an interesting and practical address given at the Rotary luncheon yesterday by Gordon Warren, graduate assistant at the Experimental Farm. He stated that the Experiment Farm would be glad at any time to advise home owners with regard to home beautification.

TEN YEARS AGO
At the annual congressional meeting of Zion Presbyterians in a Church held Thursday evening, the meeting endorsed the action of the Ladies' Auxiliary in starting a fund for the erection of a memorial window to the memory of the late Rev. G. Carlyle Webster, former minister of the Church.

EDMONTON (CP) — Out here they call it "Smile". In New York it's "smooze" and in London they call it "smog" but on the Canadian Prairies it's a weatherman uses "smile"—ice fog — the super-cooled layer, coming with severe sub-zero temperatures.

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