

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew W. J. Hancock, Publisher

A Cardinal Issue

The spokesman for the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities has endorsed the views of the Canadian Teachers Federation in stressing the need for more federal responsibility in the field of education. This is a controversial question in some quarters, but what question isn't in danger of running into this criticism nowadays? According to Mayor C. N. Kushner of West Kildonan, Man., "It's time to look at the BNA Act. The education of Canadian children should be the responsibility of all Canada." More voices could well be raised in support of this contention.

Issues of much less importance have been usurping the limelight at the current session at Ottawa. This one is rarely mentioned, and if by common consent. Can we afford to accept as satisfactory a system that penalizes our younger generation by failing to provide basic educational standards across the country? Is it not a federal responsibility to take the lead in obtaining provincial agreement in this matter, as was done with respect to pensions and other legislation in which such agreement is required? Why should the jurisdiction granted the provinces under a century-old constitution be deemed untouchable in this regard, and not in others? Surely it cannot be said that the disparity in educational standards as between the wealthy and the less prosperous provinces is promoting national unity, or national interests of any kind.

If agreement to amend the constitution cannot be obtained, that still doesn't relieve the Federal Government of its responsibility to do more than it is doing in this matter. As the Moncton Transcript points out in commenting on Mayor Kushner's statement, it could provide financial aid under a formula which would ensure that the provinces were still sovereign in the field, just as it has done with technical training and other schemes.

The Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities is interested in spreading the word of education over all the people of Canada because it would aid the sorely pressed municipal taxpayers. In many municipalities the point of diminishing tax returns has been reached. But there are whole provinces—such as Prince Edward Island—of which the same can be said. We have a big stake in this issue, and we should be hearing more about it from both our federal and provincial representatives.

Record Grain Movement

The buoyant status of the Canadian grain market is overshadowing everything else in our agricultural economy at the present time. We are aware of it in a general way down here, but for the Western provinces this is a matter of great importance indeed. The latest grain commentary by the Maple Leaf Mills contains an illuminating report on the subject, and it is one which merits wide publicity across the country.

From this report we learn that Western farmers' marketings, arrested by seeding operations, are unable to keep pace with the disposal at home and abroad, so visible supplies continue their decline. They are at the level of the beginning of the year. From August 1 to May 20, the total commercial disappearance of grains and flaxseed had reached the huge figure of 623 million bushels—210 million higher

than in the comparative period of 1962-63. Wheat alone accounts for 178 millions of this increase.

During the crop year to date, wheat marketings have amounted to 325 million bushels, but 387 1/2 millions have been cleared for export and 100 millions used domestically—for a total commercial disappearance of 487 1/2 million bushels. In the August-April period of 1963-64, wheat flour added 41.5 million bushels in wheat equivalent to the wheat exports—more than double the comparable 1962-63 figure of 20 million. This large grind of export flour is responsible for the jump in domestic use of wheat—to 100 millions compared with last year's 69 millions.

In the 9-month period, the U.S.S.R. took 36 per cent of our wheat exports and a slightly higher percentage of our flour shipments. The wheat exports, August-April, are within a million bushels of the record set in 1928-29 and could exceed the record in the remaining three months.

This record grain movement is bringing prosperity to many parts of Western Canada, and is helping to swell the federal treasury as well. More attention, perhaps, can now be devoted to pressing agricultural problems in the eastern part of the country, where mounting production costs and unstable markets are a constant bugbear.

We cannot hope for windfalls such as Russia and Communist China have provided in the way of big wheat orders, but there are other opportunities on which we could capitalize if existing tariff barriers with other countries were lowered. The freer trade movement is gaining impetus throughout the world, but it has been other nations—not Canada—that have been taking the lead in this matter.

Beef And Politics

British Prime Minister Douglas-Home's latest electoral difficulty has nothing much to do with his political rivals in the Labor Party, but they are capitalizing on it just the same, charging it up to lack of Tory foresight. It is a shortage of beef which has sent prices rocketing and caused a minor rebellion among the housewives of the nation. It could weaken still more the chances of a Conservative victory at the polls this fall, for Britain has long been a bargain counter for the cheap beef steaks. Even today, government subsidized prices are far below European levels.

That is part of the difficulty. For continental buyers are flooding into Britain in record numbers to take advantage of the government backed market. Experts calculate that international buying of British beef meat has roughly tripled in the last year. Most of it is going to Holland and Belgium with less to France.

From Britain's point of view as a trading nation, this would normally be fine. But the big rush has come at a time when Argentina—traditionally a major supplier—has declined in British herds. Leaders in the meat trade and catering industries are now urging the government to slap a temporary embargo on continental beef exports. Such action, however, would represent a complete reversal of British trade policy.

In the United States, too, beef prices have attracted attention politically—but for different reasons. Prices to producers there have fallen in the last year, so low as to wipe out the profit for many ranchers. They have complained to Congress, blaming imports, among other things. They also charge that the housewife isn't benefiting, that the prices she pays have, if anything, been going up. A presidential commission is scheduled to examine these issues, which are getting livelier as the presidential election approaches.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The salary boost our MPs got was intended, as we recall, to encourage them to spend all their time at their parliamentary duties. Last Wednesday, the Commons had almost to adjourn prematurely for lack of a quorum. 20 members present out of 265, according to the official count! The attendance hovered at this mark until the House rose at 6 o'clock.

Part of the Russian Loan to Egypt was a Model Farm using Soviet Agricultural Techniques. Includes an illustration of a tractor and a person working in a field.

A Gift From Cleopatra Seeking New Solution

Communism In The Hemisphere

The worldwide conflict between Moscow and Peking has been reflected in every Communist party in Latin America. Some of them have split; in most countries the pro-Soviet element remains in the ascendancy, but the pro-Chinese groups are attracting more of the younger radicals as they come along. One of the striking features of the Latin-American scene as a whole, however, is an absence of devotion to ideology. Foreign ideas—democracy, Marxism and Fascism, for instance, have always dominated Latin political thought, but never to the extent that Communism is the exception that proves the rule. Other than their left-wing social revolutions in the hemisphere's history, the Mexican and Bolivian revolutions, for example, and even the Cuban aid at its beginning.

Large "by word" trees thought to Gabon. Three mountains loaded with iron ore should help keep the small African nation prosperous.

"The Age Old Story" There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of his life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Joshua 1:5.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of general interest. It is not necessary to endorse the opinion of correspondents. Editors reserve the right to edit and condense material. Letters should be typed on one side and enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

COVERED BY FORESTS

Dense tropical forests cover most of Gabon, the great West African country. The country's largest employer and principal source of revenue is the logging industry, which has cut a hundred yards through the tangled forest.

Felling enormous trees and rolling them down steep slopes has led to a backbreaking job. It sometimes took 30 men an entire day to cut a tree, which weighed a hundred yards through the tangled forest.

Tracing out clear paths and piling the logs, making it possible to penetrate deeper into the forest, has been a great task. Most of the logs, however, have to be floated downstream to the coast, where they are obstructed by rapids and falls.

Lack of modern transportation facilities has made it difficult to transport the timber. It is the principal obstacle to exploiting the nation's vast mineral resources. The three iron mountains in the far northeast corner of Gabon, the so-called Boké, Niakhar and Belinga, the mountains hold an estimated billion tons of high-grade iron ore. A great survey is underway to study the feasibility of building a railroad from the mountains through swamps, mud and rain forest, swamps, and savanna to a deep-water port.

Sweating Feet And Its Control

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Sweating feet is a common problem during warm, humid weather. It is caused by excessive perspiration because they think relief is out of the question. Cure may be made by using a powder which is out of the question. Cure may be made by using a powder which is out of the question.

Goldwater's Campaign By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Writer

If Barry Goldwater means what he says, a U.S. government under the Arizona Republican would send marines into Cuba, perhaps use small atom bombs to defoliate Vietnams, and conduct a southern strategy against the U.S. from the United Nations.

Cult Of The Occult

Canada's tax level is not high; if anything, it is low. This is the view of an American tax expert, Dr. I.J. Goffman, as expressed to an audience of business men at Queen's University.

AN INVESTMENT IDEA THAT MAKES SENSE

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His Favorite Book

Montreal Gazette: McBurnette's attitude towards the B-26 bomber Bill did not agree with its principles, but he said that "the popular demand for more bombing was so great that Kennedy's favorite book and Gabon has virtually a complete absence of industry."

Two Temptations

Retired British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan has declined two major public honors, an earldom and the Order of Merit. He has declined both because he is a Quaker and because he is a Quaker.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Nw if he has reversed, every one owns a car and you are really "in" if you can own a horse too. A student, overheard telling a friend how he had fared in an exam in English Literature.

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