

Now What?

As indicated in our news dispatches, a Canadian flag with a single red maple leaf was recommended to the Commons yesterday by the flag committee. It apparently failed to receive the unanimous support for virtually unanimous support. So here we go again, with a deadlock looming in what has already become, to the general public, the driest controversy in our parliamentary history.

How seriously this question has contributed to delaying the other business of the House is illustrated in the present state of the departmental estimates. A 530-page blue book of estimates was presented on March 3 by Finance Minister Gordon. Twenty-two departments of government have to have their estimates approved. So far work has been completed on only seven. And already this is the longest parliamentary session since Confederation.

If the Conservatives persist in their opposition, it is suggested that only three courses are open to the Government. It could ask that the House be dissolved, bringing on an election over an issue that could not fail to cause more disharmony in the country. Or it could impose closure, and cut off the debate. Closure has unhappy associations, especially for the party now in power. The third choice would be to shelve the flag issue, which is hardly likely to appeal to a government committed to putting it through.

Both sides in this controversy have painted themselves into a corner, and this is the result. All over an issue which wasn't even mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, and which won't help to solve a single one of the problems that Parliament was convened to deal with.

If the public is saying "Today a plague on both your houses" who indeed can blame it?

About Our Causeway "Works Minister Deschatelets" says the Montreal Star, "did nothing to endear himself to Prince Edward Islanders in his assurance that the government is giving 'very active consideration' to the Northumberland Strait causeway. This has been said so often in varying forms that Islanders can hardly be blamed if they point the well-known Maritimer finger in scorn at 'Upper Canada'."

"It is not true that the whole idea of a causeway gets attention only at election time. But there is likewise no denying that it is the time when it gets most sympathy. However, up until 1962 something in the neighborhood of \$700,000 had been spent on one study or another and in that year another \$50,000 was voted and three firms of engineers engaged to work on the plans. It was expected the plans would take two years, which brings us up to date with Mr. Deschatelets' very serious consideration."

Not quite up to date, may we suggest. The Montreal paper omitted the important announcement of Prime Minister Diefenbaker in the House of Commons on April 17, 1962, that all the engineering projects which might have blocked the causeway scheme had been solved, and that it was government policy to build it at an estimated cost of \$105 million. Since then, despite the change of government at Ottawa, it has been corroborated that the project has been found feasible both from the engineering and economic

standpoints, and is definitely in its planning stage.

The Star goes on to say that Prince Edward Island was not "despite some claims to the contrary," promised a causeway under its own terms of Confederation in 1873. We have never heard of any such claims being advanced. The promise then, as The Star says, was for the placing of the Island in "continuous communication" with the rest of the country. It adds, correctly, that "in Charlottetown at least this has been interpreted over the years as meaning continuous AND ADEQUATE communication," which no one would claim the ferries provide."

The Star notes, in conclusion, that latest information indicates the project to be one which will take six years to complete, and that "with at least as many winters intervening, with all the uncertainties of ice and weather, more sharp reminders and interpretations of the pledge of 1873 may be expected in the months ahead."

To which we might add the hope that such "sharp reminders" will not have to be given too frequently, bearing in mind the manner in which both the major parties at Ottawa are committed to this project, now that its feasibility has been firmly established.

Food Consumption Report

The pattern of Canadian food consumption "will continue to shift in the direction of higher protein food and foods which satisfy an increasing demand for variety and convenience," according to the Bank of Montreal Business Review for October, just received.

The bank reviews the changes that have taken place in food in the past decade and notes that, with new methods of processing and distribution, the housewife buys a "packet of built-in services." Many of the changes in the past decade also reflect the tendency, as living standards rise, to eat less food with a high carbohydrate content.

With these changes, plus higher spending on restaurant meals, some rise in food prices would be expected and this has taken place. "The wonder is, however," says the review, "not that food prices have gone up, but that they have gone up so little." It points out that, on the average since 1951, food prices have actually risen less than the prices of other consumer goods and services and substantially less than the rise in income per capita.

For the future, the review points out opposing influences at work in the market for food.

Real incomes in the population as a whole are rising and the distribution of income is changing in such a way that there are relatively more families in the higher income brackets. These changes indicate a continuing decline in the percentage of total consumer expenditure devoted to food.

On the other hand, the population is increasing and the age distribution is shifting in such a way that there will be relatively larger numbers of "heavy eaters" (teenagers and young adults) in the years ahead than was the case in the recent past.

Therefore, "total expenditures on food in Canada, which in 1963 reached \$6.3 billion, will most certainly rise but the extent of the rise will depend on the strength of the various influences."

Bankers are proverbially cautious, and the authors of this report are no exception. But there are genuine grounds for optimism in the findings they reach on this subject, particularly with regard to the prospects for food processing and packaging. Our stake in these industries here is becoming larger every year.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Maritime hospitals have a better record in getting and maintaining hospital accreditation than those of Ontario, says President R. Alan Hoy of the Ontario Hospital Association. He stated in an interview in Toronto that while visiting the Maritimes earlier this year, he had been greatly impressed by the number of small hospitals, even in isolated communities which received and retained accreditation, and which were doing "a better job than we are." A fine tribute, which will be welcomed by all concerned in this achievement.



SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

To Make A Fact-finding Tour Of Africa

Mr. R. N. Thompson MP, National Leader of the Social Credit Party, has been invited by Hon. Paul Martin, our Foreign Minister, to make a three-week fact-finding tour of Africa.

Leaving today, he will visit Ghana, Ethiopia, Senegal, Zanzibar, Kenya and Egypt. On his way back to Canada, he will be present at the NATO Council meeting in Paris.

It is a very great tribute to Bob Thompson that he, the leader of an opposition party, should be picked by the government to make an official journey of this kind. This illustrates the very high regard in which he is held by the Liberal Cabinet as indeed by most members of all parties in the House of Commons.

A considerable factor in his choice must also, of course, have been his intimate knowledge of parts of Africa and of some of the great continental problems. For he has lived in Ethiopia for 15 years, being second in command of the Canadian Air Force detachment in 1945 to go there and remaining there until 1958. During that time, Bob Thompson became the confidant of the Emperor of Ethiopia, and advised on the new constitution and the development of a national program. Mr. Thompson's course has taught at elementary school, all high school and at university in Canada and USA.

PROBLEM LAND The new and emerging nations of Africa need help in the worst way. They are all struggling to achieve industrial and technical development, universal education, self-government and adequate health and nutrition. Mr. Thompson's main task on his tour, I suspect, will be to study the developments in education and industrialization.

Surgeons teach surgery, lawyers instruct in law, engineers in engineering, but at the school stage writing is taught by teachers and by the students. They do not write but make a living through writing with their hands.

What is worse, they and their colleagues in universities are not doing so well. Men who do possess writing talent and discourage it are less determined of them until in discouragement perhaps, they too turn to teaching.

Not all ministers are guilty of these sins, of course. Some teachers in high schools and universities have the talent they seek to bring out in their charges and have the capacity to inspire and encourage young writers to ascending flight. But many of them are not doing the creative spark in their students but divert the mass of the student body from the written word to the spoken word.

Hubert's No Roy Rogers Washington Post

No man on a horse has ever looked less like a man on horseback than Hubert's No Roy Rogers, the Democratic choice for vice-president of the United States, who was photographed astride an LBF Ranch steed near the banks of the Pedernales River.

Men who do a great deal to get elected to high office in the United States, Calvin Coolidge had a memorable picture of himself, and some of his projects will be visited by Mr. Thompson.

Before returning to Canada to enter our public life, Bob Thompson gave generously of his skill, his time and his energy. He has so far played their less generous hand with much greater aggressiveness than the West. We hope the same, maybe Bob Thompson will come up with some advice about how we should play them. Canada is already playing a significant role in Africa. We are assisting with development projects under the Special Commonwealth Africa Aid Program and some of these projects will be visited by Mr. Thompson.

Hydrocortisone Aids Bursitis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Following a letter we received from a 55-year-old man: "A couple of months ago pain began in my right shoulder and shoulder. It was most noticeable at night and in the morning. I was unable to do anything on that side. I do not feel it when working unless my arm is in a certain position—forward, upward, when I put my hand to the back of my head.

"Pain from the drug did not help. Five heat and electrical treatments by a physical therapist were of no value. I also used a heating pad at night. Some people tell me to use my arm and work out the pain; others suggest rest. Friends and heat treatments are no good and I should go to a physician for an injection of cortisone. My therapist says cortisone is bad for the heart. This being my experience with such aches and pains, I am confused, to say the least."

This man has tried everything except consulting the one who should know more about this problem than anyone else—the physician. In my opinion, bursitis (tendonitis) from the story, because pain is localized and is aggravated by activities involving the shoulder (as occurs when putting the hand to the back of the head or into a rear pocket). The shoulder should be examined and X-rays may be helpful in determining the cause. Bursitis treatment usually is successful. Dramatic results are obtained with hydrocortisone; one or more injections may be needed, depending on the extent of the disease. Procaine can be added to make the procedure painless. The hormone does not hurt the heart, nor do complications arise from injection into the involved bursa.

Heat from an electric pad, diathermy, or ultrasound also helps ease discomfort. Now and then phenylbutazone is useful. The arm should be manipulated frequently in a full range of motions to prevent stiffness.

DISEASE ASSOCIATIONS E. H. Wright: Does diabetes encourage gout or vice versa?

No. There is a relationship between diabetes and tuberculosis and all other instances, but most of the complications occur in the cardiovascular system (heart and blood vessels). Gout, too, has cardiovascular aspects and there is an association between gout and kidney and stone disorders (kidney disease and stone).

STRAIN AND SCIATICA M. S. writes: I have sciatica due to my own problems. It is something a person does that causes this disease?

REPLY Six out of ten of this condition have a slipped disk between two of the lower vertebrae. And while the GAIT caused by unusual strain on the back but in the majority, the protrusion of the disk stems from a degeneration of the structure.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Obesity often means poor adjustment to life's problems. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be sent to Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

Three slightly dead men were missing from the north to London in an old, noisy car, and hearing was difficult. As they were leaving the city, one asked, "Is this Wembley?" No, replied the second, "this is Thursday." "So am I," put the third. "Let's stop and have one."—Montreal Star.

Not having access to the 60-watt television sets, it is just possible that Nikita Khrushchev is spending his Saturday free time listening to Radio Free Europe. And how about the world reaction to his sudden demotion.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A single jack can lift a car, but that of jack is required to keep it up.—Galt Reporter.

The problem in Federal spending is to give out pockets of money in wide open pockets in general.—Calgary Herald.

Realistic medical man has said out loud and in public that most housewives work harder than their husbands. Few men may quarrel with his assertion, but it's downright ungentlemanly of him to give the idea widespread publicity, and how about those many fine men who work so hard at not working?—Victoria Daily Times.

Recalls Canadian Curbs

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer

Britain's new import curbs have raised a storm in parts of Europe with the result that the Wilson administration now must defend its action much the same way Canada defended its import curbs during the 1962 currency exchange crisis.

The allegation against Britain, as expressed by Foreign Minister Trygve Lie of Norway, and echoed in other European quarters, is that a specific tax on imports, instead of using import quotas, is a violation of international trade obligations since the higher specific duty tends to nullify existing tariff contracts.

Reducing import tariffs through quotas, however, tends to be a slow and complicated process compared with the swiftness of a specific duty. And, at a higher tax gives a government the prospect of added revenue, whereas a quota is a member.

It is not likely, therefore, Britain would yield under pressure from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to revise the method of slowing imports, and while the GATT membership may criticize and condemn the 15-per-cent import duty, there is always the argument, as one London newspaper observed, that Britain can afford to stand its ground.

Canada at that time erected extra duties ranging from five to 15 per cent.

Amid the heat of debate and criticism, there also is the prospect that Britain may use the temporary tariff bill as a means of providing a special deal with certain European partners with the result that the split will widen between the six-nation group and the European Market and the seven-country European Free Trade Association.

To offset the criticism of the 15-per-cent duty among EFTA partners, Britain is reported ready to accelerate tariff-cutting within this trade bloc. Already 60 per cent of the tariffs already have been cut, with the remaining 40 per cent to be stripped by 1966. The next 10-per-cent cut is due in January and another 10 per cent will be taken off by the end of the year. About 60 per cent of the tariffs already have been cut, with the remaining 40 per cent to be stripped by 1966. The next 10-per-cent cut is due in January and another 10 per cent will be taken off by the end of the year. About 60 per cent of the tariffs already have been cut, with the remaining 40 per cent to be stripped by 1966. The next 10-per-cent cut is due in January and another 10 per cent will be taken off by the end of the year.

ECONOMIC NONSENSE In Paris, Frank Figueres, secretary of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, described the split of the two trade blocs as "economic nonsense." The bigger the trade area, the easier it would be to produce economically and keep prices down.

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