

Budget Reflections

Several references in the Ottawa stories yesterday on the tax increases on liquor, cigars and cigarettes in the Federal budget were accompanied by the reminder that the Finance Minister is a non-smoker and teetotaler. This kind of reporting is neither factual nor fair. Few people will believe that Mr. Fleming's personal tastes influenced his decision to boost these taxes, but that is the inference conveyed. Granted that a deficit reduction was necessary, and that extra money had to be raised from some source, surely it was better to impose the levy on luxuries than on necessities. Drinkers and smokers already pay heavily in taxes, it is true, and many people will be affected by the new imposts, one way or another. But the critics have not yet come up with any acceptable alternative.

It was not, after all, the Diefenbaker Government that brought about the recession, though it has had the job of pulling the country out of it. Tax increases, bad as they are, are infinitely better than widespread unemployment, or the penny-pinching policy adopted towards such provinces as Prince Edward Island a few years ago, when we had to adjourn the Legislature and go hat in hand to Ottawa for a little relief.

On the other hand, it seems odd to include such items as wines, ports and sherries, not to speak of perfumes, marble products and wool fabric used in scarves and neckties, in the list of imports granted reduced tariff rates. The explanation here affords an example of the complicated nature of our trading arrangements. The British margin of preference, which was knocked out of killer last year when Canadian rates were arbitrarily increased on British wool cloth, has been restored. But it has been done by increasing the rates on woollens and worsteds from non-Commonwealth countries. To compensate Italy and France for this tariff boost, we have now reduced our rates on the items above mentioned.

We hold no brief for the transaction which inspired this chain of results, but at least it supplies a reasonable, not an invidious, motive for the Minister's announcement.

Our farmers are less concerned with these matters than with the advantage they will derive from the tariff changes on imported fresh fruits and vegetable, and on making the duty on potatoes—table and seed—a straight 37½ cents per hundred-weight throughout the year. This, in the Minister's words, will give a substantial reciprocity with the rates applied to our potatoes by the United States. The duty increase will not affect Canadian sales to the U. S. but is expected to place Canadian producers in a more favorable competitive position against American imports. To many a potato grower, this will mean a good deal more than the extra one-tenth of a cent tax he may have to pay on a cigar or cigarette, or 12 cents extra on a bottle of rum.

Farm Support Policy

Recently Agriculture Minister Harkness announced at Ottawa that the floor price support under hogs would be lowered next fall from \$25 to \$23.65 a hundredweight. At the same time, he said that he has instructed his department to try to work out an alternative method of assistance to hog producers through deficiency payments. Under a support price, farmers know in advance the minimum return they can expect and can plan their program accordingly. If the floors are attractive, they become a powerful incentive to production. Under the deficiency payment scheme, they don't know where they stand until after the product has been marketed, if no specific guarantees have been given. What is apparently bothering Mr. Harkness, comments the Ottawa Citizen, is that higher supports tend to benefit most the efficient farmers whose production costs are relatively low. The situation is complicated by commercial firms that con-

tract with farmers, a system being widely discussed today under the name "vertical integration." Mr. Harkness is now looking for a way "to withhold payments from commercial organizations operating under the so-called vertical integration plan, and to limit payments to any individual to a specific number of hogs marketed."

This is where deficiency payments come into play. The system has been advocated by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and no doubt it could be extended to a number of other products besides hogs. The experience of the United States shows that a policy of high price supports can cost the taxpayers fantastic sums without materially helping the mass of farmers. It has been estimated that less than 10 percent of American farmers have received 50 percent of the benefits. How to avoid a repetition of those mistakes in Canada will take all the resourcefulness of which the government and Parliament are capable.

Bagpipes And Tartans

Scottish bagpipes and tartans, it is cheering to note, are becoming more popular in North America. One influence thought to contribute to the increased demand is that of the Scottish regiments. Or all the tartans the Black Watch is the most popular. Attempting to account for this, some have pointed to links between the Black Watch regiments and units in Canada; others, like an official of the Macnabb Mill in Edinburgh—where Scottish tartan tweeds have been made since 1649—say that "women find that the Black Watch tartan makes up fashionably." The tartan is among the darker ones, its basic colours being green, blue and black. Next in demand are "Ancient Lindsay," "Hunting Stewart" and "Hunting Fraser"—all rather dark in shade.

As for bagpipes: "Standards have risen," said Mr. Hugh Macpherson, head of a firm in Edinburgh bagpipe makers; "Bagpipe music is falling more pleasantly on the ear nowadays." He cites Allied military contacts in the two world wars and the emigration of many Scots with piping traditions behind them to account for the present demand for bagpipes in Canada. A few years ago he made a coast-to-coast tour of Canada in which he met every Highland regiment in the Canadian defence forces.

The firm produces some 300 sets of bagpipes a year at prices ranging from £23 to over £100. There is a big demand too for their miniature sets of bagpipes which sell at about eleven guineas.

EDITORIAL NOTES

U. N. Secretary-General Hammarstrand says that both the West and the Soviet Union "want to make progress in negotiations over Berlin". Yes, or course; the trouble is that they don't want to proceed in the same direction.

The Premier of Cuba says that in his forthcoming visit to Washington he will urge the United States to restore his country's sugar quota to what it was before the revolution. If he wants to accomplish anything worthwhile in that regard, he will have to talk "sweetly" to Washington officials.

The St. Lawrence Seaway will be opened to traffic at 8 a.m. on April 20, nearly two months before the official opening by the Queen and President Eisenhower. The Lachine Canal will open at the same time. It would be an appropriate time for the Federal Government to give the go-ahead signal on the Borden-Tormentine causeway project.

The world's known oil reserves at the beginning of this year were estimated at about 37 billion metric tons. This figure compares with 35½ billion tons a year before. The biggest reserves are in the Middle East—24 billion tons. American reserves are about 4½ billion tons, a little more than the total for the Soviet bloc.

More bleak news comes from Little Rock, Ark., where Governor Orval Faubus has just signed into law a legislative measure to require labelling of blood for transfusions by race of donor. The new bill, patterned after a Louisiana law, passed both legislative branches over spirited but numerically slight opposition. Race prejudice dies hard, and there are those who seem to think it is their God-given mission to keep it alive in its moribund state as long as possible.



OTTAWA OSCARS

P.E.I. MEMORIES

My Uncle By Marriage

By C. Winfield Matheson, Calgary

William Winfield Forbes, (1834-1913), was one of the older children of the Hon. Malcolm Forbes and Christina Scott, his wife, both of Perthshire, Scotland, French-Fort, and eventually Avondale, Lot 49, Prince Edward Island.

His parents had emigrated from Perth, first to French-Fort, or Marshfield, where his father became the owner of some 600

acres of land. Some years later Malcolm exchanged his lands near Marshfield with Premier Haythorne, (later a Canadian Senator), who had owned considerable acreage in the Avondale district, about 2 miles north of Vernon River.

Politics Here the father, besides looking after his large farm, took an interest in politics, and soon was the elected representative of the 4th district of Queens County, and a member of the Executive Council. In those early days the representative was called a M. P. P. (member of the Provincial Parliament), instead of the M. L. A. of today.

Uncle William attended the old Central Academy (later named P.W.C.), in Charlottetown, and obtained a teacher's licence. For some five years he taught the public school at North River, and soon afterwards, in partnership with one of his younger brothers, George, managed a general country store, at Vernon River Bridge, about 5 miles South-West of Avondale.

An older brother, Peter, who had been given about 200 acres of land to farm by his father from the 600 original block having passed away, the father requested Uncle William to occupy these 200 acres, which lay straight North of the father's land, only a fence, running from the west to the east, dividing them. Eventually Uncle William owned an additional 55 acres, or so, immediately west of his holding. This acreage had been previously owned by early U.E.L. settlers by the name of Pleaswell.

3-YEARS-OLD After a few years, Mr. Forbes married my mother's eldest sister, Mary A. MacRae, daughter of Malcolm MacRae, of Seal River, Lot 50. Not having any children of their own, they evidently persuaded my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matheson, of Charlottetown and later St. Avarias, near the city limits, who had two younger children besides me, to let me come out to their lovely farm at Avondale, some 13 miles East, and live with them. I understand that I was about three years of age at that time.

So there I stayed for the next five years, living the life of a farmer's son, helping with the chores as I got older, attending the Avondale Public School, about one mile and a quarter North of the farm on the public road. The

salary of \$55.00 a month lives 25 miles away, a couple of trips and her whole cheque is gone. Who is going to pay this high cost of medical service to the doctor's with their high incomes? Simly, the people who Dr. MacDonald says are not earning enough to pay income tax or rather the miserable amount of \$2.50 of an average for farmers. In addition to their patients will be mostly fishermen and working people with much lower incomes than the doctors themselves.

These unorganized, underpaid, hard-working fishermen, moss gatherers and salary people, who buy as hard or harder than my urban friend, Dr. MacDonald, who wants Daylight Saving Time to roam in the farmers' fields, hunting and fishing. Dr. MacDonald says the farmers pay no taxes. I would like to ask him who pays the heavy toll on the railways, both on what he buys and what he sells? Who pays the taxes for the fertilizer companies, bag companies, machine companies, etc.? Do not the people who pay the doctors, indirectly pay their taxes? If the farmers and fishermen were not here on P.E. Island we would not have much need for Dr. MacDonald and other members of his profession. So I don't think he should in all fairness be too hard on our few farmer M.L.A.'s. I am, Sir, etc. TIGNISH RESIDENT Tignish Village.

Most Widely Spread Disease

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
TOOTH decay is a disease. Moreover it is the most widespread disease of all, with about 96 per cent of our population suffering from it at one time or another. Like most diseases, it is caused by bacteria. More specifically, it is caused, we believe, primarily by the action of certain bacteria on fermentable carbohydrates. The fermentation which results produces an acid that can dissolve the tooth structure.

REASON WHY Why is it that the tooth enamel isn't destroyed each time you down such carbohydrates? Why can you sometimes eat sweets and not be bothered at all? The ability of the acid to destroy the enamel is determined, at least in part, by the strength and kind of acid and the length of time it is in contact with the teeth.

We believe that the greatest damage is done within the first 15 minutes after the eating of refined carbohydrates.

NATURE'S WAY Nature, in her very wise ways, has provided a natural cleansing action for the teeth. Your saliva washes much of the acid and bacteria away.

However, it doesn't get it all. The structure and position of the teeth may provide shelter for the acid. Dental plaques also offer a shield to both acid and bacteria. A dental plaque, I must explain, is a gelatin-like substance that sticks firmly to the surface of the teeth.

About the only way to get rid of these plaques thoroughly is by brushing your teeth after each meal. If you can't do that, then chew an apple for dessert and rinse your mouth with water. The apple won't replace a good brushing, but the chewing action will help clean the teeth.

NO SIMPLE METHOD There is no one best method for brushing your teeth. Even the American Dental Association agrees to this. But the teeth should be brushed in a definite order to make sure that you clean all of them.

Brushing the upper teeth with a downward motion and the lower ones with an upward motion is a good way of doing it.

One of the best types of toothbrush is one with a small head and two or three rows of bristles, all the same height. It should be small enough to enable you to reach all the teeth with ease.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. M. D.: What does it mean when a person's normal temperature is only 97 degrees? Answer: A low normal body temperature may be of no significance. It may indicate a low metabolic rate, as occurs in cases where there is decreased thyroid activity.

ce McPhail, a cousin of Aunt Mary; Mrs. Charles McNeill of Montague, also a cousin, Robert C. MacRae of Seal River (later a merchant in Charlottetown, and then in Sydney, N.S.); her brother, as well as relatives of both of them, including at times; children of Captain Allan Finlayson, the noted navigator of the three ice-breakers, the Northern Light, the Stanley and the Minto, in turn.

Uncle William was a well-educated man. In one corner of his large dining room, he had a table holding such famous works as the Bible, Baxter's Works, Spurgeon's Sermons, etc. Moreover, there was a large volume on the American Civil War of 1861-65, with pictures of many of the principal battles showing the troops, on both sides (artist's drawings in action).

Another big book was named "A History of the Baptists". This was a new purchase, as I think I can remember when it was bought from the minister then in charge of the congregation at Uigg, some four miles south, in which my Uncle and Aunt worshipped.

STATUTE BOOK

Among the books on this table, also, were the two old volumes containing the Statute Laws of St. John's, (Prince Edward Island), as passed and collected from the year 1773 down, when it was a Crown Colony. It is my present opinion that Uncle William at the time he was appointed a Country Justice of the Peace, was presented with these by the Attorney General's Department, of that day.

In the fall of 1896, my uncle held an auction sale of his cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and poultry, having earlier in the year sold his farm to Michael Reid of near Hope River, Prince Edward Island. His father's large farm had been sold a few years before to Patrick Murphy, of near the same place.

TO CALIFORNIA

Soon afterwards, he set out for San Dimas, California, to the home of A.A. McLean, a former Islander, who had married his younger sister, Grace Forbes, a few years before. He probably thought that the mild California climate would benefit him, as his broken leg, the result of a runaway horse on farm, had him often in pain. He had travelled by the C.P.R. to Vancouver, and then South, when going, and, on returning, visited Massachusetts to meet his niece, Jessie Hayden, and the other members of the Hayden family there. After returning to the Island, he finally settled on property he purchased on Longworth Avenue, in Charlottetown, where he passed away in the year 1913, his loving wife, Aunt Mary, having predeceased him in the Springtime of 1906. Both now sleep in a plot in the People's Cemetery nearby.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The American Congress is thinking of banning subliminal commercials—those that can't be seen—from television. More to the point: is it thinking of doing anything about those which can be seen?—Ottawa Journal

A Toronto speech consultant has told an audience of 300 women that they should learn to listen. He warned against merely pretending to listen while in reality keeping the ears a dead mind closed to the speaker's ideas. Wisely perhaps, he did not add that this strategy is the husband's prerogative, a form of camouflage forced on him by circumstances.—Victoria Times

There is a note of grim frankness about the report of a commission which was appointed by the state of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to reorganize its civil service and make it more efficient. This week the commission announced that the job was beyond it, and resigned. It's explanation: "There are so many state employees that it is impossible to find work for all of them."—Toronto Globe and Mail

Not long ago wise farmers in Western Ontario kept a woodpile beside the back door. Transients and hoboes asking a handout had to cut wood before they ate. This wise provision has been lost in the scramble for state welfare, and more's the pity. It was one of the last remaining symbols of personal responsibility.—London Free Press

A report from Ottawa which states Soviet submarines could roam Canadian Arctic waters without detection leaves us cold. In World War II some German submarines penetrated the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Upper St. Lawrence River. There were also landings of foreign agents on the coast of the United States from submarines. If it comes down to cases we assume that Soviet aircraft could also fly over the Canadian Northland without detection. Maybe have already done so—Suburbia/Star

The private pavilion of the Charlottetown Hospital should be completed early this fall, according to word received from the construction supervisor, Mr. William J. Hennessey, yesterday. Although the exterior of building has been almost completed, there remains considerable work inside the building to be done.

Rev. John Sutherland Bonnell, B.A., B.D., will have the Degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him at Pine Hill Convocation next week. Dr. Bonnell who was born near Charlottetown, is at present ministering at Westminster Church, Winnipeg, where he took charge in 1929.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 11, 1949) A preliminary warning was issued at last evening's City Council meeting by Councillor M.A. Farmer that, where the facilities are available, all houses must be connected with the City sewage disposal systems in the very near future. Now that planning supplies are available, it is the intention of the city to enforce the present law which applies to both new and old houses.

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The Age Old Story

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

An Affront To Buddhism

The New York Times

Over the longer period of time the Red Chinese assault on Tibet may be more important for its religious rather than temporal significance. The Dalai Lama, who has been forced into exile, is much more than the uneasy ruler of a so-called "autonomous" state within the area of control that Peiping has established. He is the spiritual head of one group of Buddhists and is venerated as such. The attack on him, therefore, is not merely aggression. It is sacrilege.

This helps to explain the enthusiasm with which the news of the escape of the Lama was greeted in India. India is not primarily Buddhist, although the Buddha was an Indian prince and began his sojourns from India itself. But Gautama Buddha is profoundly respected in India and his faith has made some rich contributions to Indian culture. Buddhism, itself, is something of a reinterpretation of Brahmanism, India's prevailing faith, and does no violence to its origin.

Throughout Asia, aside from India and Indonesia, Buddhism is the most important religious concept. Some countries, such as Burma and Ceylon, are almost wholly Buddhist. Thailand is likewise a repository of much such Buddhist tradition, as are Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Most important, at this point, is the fact that there are at least two hundred million Buddhists in mainland China.

The Chinese Communists have tried to make propaganda out of their supposed tolerance for the Buddhist faith. They have insisted that Buddhist priests and scholars be "productive," in their scheme of values, but they have not waged the sort of desperate campaign of extinction against the Buddhists that has marked some of their dealing with Christians.

Few of the Chinese Buddhists are Lamiasts, in the Tibetan sense. Some peripheral areas do have their lamaseries and it is, of course, significant that the "living Buddha" is invariably found on Chinese soil. But beyond that lies the Buddhist conception of life and its values. This has been an integral part of the thinking of millions of Chinese for two millennia.

A frontal attack on a symbol of this concept and this faith, such as the expulsion of the Dalai Lama, goes far deeper than the question of the political disposition of Tibet. Red China has again taken a stand as the opponent of religious faith, as such. This is not only the way of madness. It is the path to eventual destruction.

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