

The House Prorogues

With its prorogation by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor today, another session of the General Assembly of the Province will have passed into history. If all the items in the 60-paragraph Speech from the Throne with which it opened on February 22 did not get a complete airing, at least it can be said that the discussions ranged far and wide, and this went for the financial topics covered later in the Budget presentation as well.

On the whole, the administration came off with credit, particularly in the Budget debate in which the Premier excelled himself in his remarks regarding our issue of yesterday. His review of the progress made in practically every department of government was convincingly documented with facts and figures, and he did well in conceding that errors of judgment had been made in certain instances. These, he argued, were unavoidable in view of the greatly expanded activities on which the ministers had embarked. Whether or not that was the case, his point was plausible.

On the other hand the Opposition was left at a disadvantage by the regrettable illness of its leader, Mr. Matheson. This was something which neither side could have anticipated, and undoubtedly it made a difference in the effectiveness of the Opposition presentation during the last critical days of the session.

This is not said by way of disparagement of Dr. Bonnell's efforts as acting leader, but simply to underline the fact that judgment and experience in a post of this kind are as important as they are on the government side, and that they cannot be acquired overnight.

However, there were points made by Dr. Bonnell and other Opposition speakers during the Budget debate which deserved more consideration than they received at the hands of government spokesmen. If the administration is in a better position than its predecessors with respect to available revenues, it has a double responsibility of checking extravagance and inefficiency all along the line, and certainly of doing more than making gestures in the way of implementing its budget balancing promises.

There's always room for improvement, as the old saying goes. To the Government's claim that "we've never had it so good" the Opposition has retorted, in effect, that "many of us have never been so dissatisfied because it isn't a great deal better still." These words carry their own warning. There are more ways than one of falling out of public favor, but complacency over one's achievements probably accounts for more governmental defeats than all the other sins of omission and commission combined.

Constant Communication?

According to the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the session now terminating, transportation continues to be of vital concern to the government and the ministers have been in constant communication with Ottawa with respect to the feasibility studies on "a seaway and concomitant projects." This being the case, they must have been aware that the seaway studies are still so far from being finished that "no definite date for completion can be given at this time."

Duration of the survey depends (as it has done for how many years now?) on "the outcome of the investigations still under way." Moreover, the damage caused by ice to the equipment for measuring wave heights was so bad this winter that "no significant results were obtained." It is only after the ice clears that this equipment can be repaired and the study continued. Nor has a full model study of the cause way yet been made, the work of the federal engineers being confined, so far, to two-dimensional studies of models of the causeway cross-sections.

Assuming government members here to be in "constant communication" with Ottawa on these matters, it is odd that the information above noted was not given to the transportation committee of the Legislature as an aid to its deliberations during the current session. Why did it have to come out this Wednesday in the House of Commons in the Liberal member for Northumberland-Miramichi? It is now too late for discussion of these answers in the Legislature this year, or for appropriate comment on the disappointment which this long-continued delay is causing, and on the need which it underlines for making an immediate start on a new breakthrough for the Borden-Torment route.

If indeed there has been constant communication between our provincial government members and Ottawa, we find quite inexplicable the further statement in the Speech from the Throne that "my government is satisfied with the progress made thus far and awaits with ever-increasing hopefulness a favorable report on this immense project." These words, in the light of the federal statement of Wednesday, are about as fatuous as any that could be found in the dictionary.

We trust, for its own sake, that the Shaw Government will hasten to assure our people that it is by no means satisfied with the progress made in implementing one of the major pledges on which it was elected three years ago. And if it adds a stern note of dissatisfaction at the inability of our own members at Ottawa to open their mouths on this subject—leaving it to Liberal members from other provinces to do their work for them—we don't think it would do any harm at all.

A Scottish Plebiscite

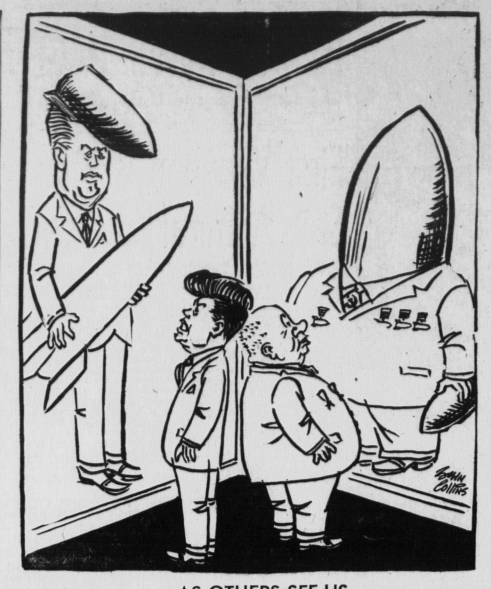
A committee of influential and distinguished Scots, headed by the Earl of Airlied and Lord Boyd Orr, has launched an appeal to raise \$290,000 to finance the taking of a national plebiscite of the whole of Scotland. The plebiscite will be carried out by a postal vote, its intention being to submit three alternative forms of government for Scotland to every adult, male and female, in the country so that they can express their views on how Scotland should be governed, and under what form.

The three alternatives for which the people will be asked to state their preference are: Independent Dominion status for Scotland, with its own parliament separate from Westminster, similar to that enjoyed by New Zealand; Home Rule for Scotland within the framework of the United Kingdom, with Scotland having its own parliament like that of Northern Ireland, but still having representation in the House of Commons; that the government of Scotland remain exactly as it is now.

This move to have a national plebiscite taken is entirely non-political. The 15 members of the committee include Conservatives, Laborites and Liberals. It seems that they are not in any way associated with the Scottish Nationalist movement which has been active for years in seeking home rule for the country.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Legislature was well advised to increase the penalties for infringement of the act in respect to the province's marked gas tax exempt system. This system is of great convenience to our primary producers, but it is with regard that abuses be strictly dealt with.



AS OTHERS SEE US

SOVIET REVERSAL

The Key Issue In Disarmament

By W. N. Ewer, United Kingdom Information Service

Even so, long range detection outside the frontiers of a "nuclear power" would not be sufficient. There is also the vital matter of identification, or verification. Without this, the mere detection of an a m b i g u o u s event would serve no purpose whatever. The government on whose territory it had occurred would only have to assert that it was true, or to deny it as a forgery. The government on whose territory it had occurred would only have to assert that it was true, or to deny it as a forgery.

Indeed, during the whole long negotiation, it has been fully accepted by the Soviet Union that some means of establishing beyond doubt the true cause of doubtful events was essential. It has been further accepted that for this a certain number of "on-site" inspections would be required. These would be carried out by international inspectors who would need to visit the locality of any event in order to verify that the number of such "on-site" inspections permissible in any given area would be very small. But they did not do more to the principle.

BAFFLING REVERSAL Now, however, they will not hear of "on-site" inspections. They will not hear of international "observation posts" in their territory—another point which for three years they had agreed to accept. They will not, in short, hear of any form of international verification that the terms of a "test-ban" agreement are being observed. This is an amazing reversal of the position which they had agreed to accept at the time when the whole basis upon which it had been agreed that a test-ban treaty must be founded, seems to make such a treaty

PUBLIC FORUM

KEEP PROBLEMS

Sir.—Some years ago I invested money in an abattoir which was proposed to start marketing of livestock, and since it did not start I heard the fault was the government's refusal to give a promised loan.

If this happened who is going to pay the loan? Besides, why can't we own a plant, what is wrong? The elected members in the House should thoroughly discuss this, giving more light on the matter which presently leaves us with no plant, and as the Minister of Agriculture states we are not getting our money back.

I am, Sir, etc. INVESTOR FARMER Kings County.

THE VOTING AGE

Sir.—I read in a paper the report of the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform. The point that struck me was that the Commission was of the opinion that the age of 18 was the absence of recommendation to lower the voting age to eighteen years.

We are doing this age group a great injustice by denying them the right of the franchise. This age group is considered fully matured in so many other respects that the fact that they are 18 is an insult to their intelligence.

May I point out many and various ways in which persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one are considered mature citizens.

They are old enough to be school teachers, and have the responsibility in a practical way of organizing their own lives. They are old enough to hold positions of responsibility in the business world, and to be equal pay with those over twenty-one.

I am, Sir, etc. WILFRED INMAN Charlottetown.

NOTES BY THE WAY

'Eat Less' Said Top Requisite In All Dieting

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen THERE are three rules to follow if you really want to lose weight. The first is to eat less. This may be old stuff to you, but it is the chronic dieter but there is no alternative. The second rule is to eat more of the right things. This means scientific discoveries and highly tested reducing plans. The third rule is to exercise. This will not fall off like hair or skin particles. They must be burned up as energy and eliminated through the body as carbon dioxide and water. This cannot be done unless the individual reduces the caloric intake and forces the body to use up its own tissues for energy requirements.

But eating less is as hard to do as quitting smoking. Many overweight persons can control themselves for a week or two but thereafter it becomes more and more difficult. In addition, those who lose weight often have trouble remaining slender. This may explain the popularity of drugs and other measures to curb appetites. These are temporary crutches. What would reduce needs is motivation. This is the crux of the second rule. Anyone who wants to slim down should give the matter considerable thought before undertaking the campaign. Think it over. Consider the pros and cons. It must be a goal which will power, new clothes, feeling weak for a certain period of time. The compensations are a sense of well being, agility and avoiding the serious ailments later in life.

Think it over. A complete change in eating habits will be needed to keep the figure, because losing weight is only half the battle. The third rule is never go back to the old eating habits that brought on obesity in the first place. There is no sense in kidding yourself if you think that dieting stops when the desired weight is reached. We don't call it a diet at this time. It is a new way of eating—going into the habit of consuming smaller portions, avoiding dessert, and ceasing to eat when you are full.

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HEAR HEATH MACQUARRIE M.P.

Report from Parliament Hill

An automobile driver was so happy to pass the German-Ugoslav border that he kissed a customs official on both cheeks. Unaccustomed to such emotional outbursts, the customs man thereupon investigated the car thoroughly and discovered a trunk with a secret compartment containing contraband jewels and gold. The driver's premature relief cost him a \$500 fine. — Munich Press.

The Age Old Story

By grace we are saved through faith, not of works, lest any man should boast.

CFCY Radio Saturday, April 7th at 7:45 p.m.

ton PERFORMANCE ACADIA



PERSON TO PERSON

M. S. writes: If a person took just one sip from the other side of the glass of an open person's cocktail and, unknown to the person taking a sip, the person drinking the cocktail had cancer could the person take a sip get cancer from the glass?

SLEEP COMFY

A. G. writes: Is it better for older persons to sleep on the side or the back?

FLASH PHOTOS

R. M. writes: Does taking a flash picture affect a baby's eyes?

REPLY

No, but use a screen over the flash bulb to guard against flying glass in case the bulb explodes.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Young children should be kept under constant supervision.

change in Notice of Power Interruption

The electric power interruption scheduled for Sunday, April 8th, has now been advanced to Friday, April 6th, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

This emergency interruption is necessary to permit the Department of Highways to drive bridge piling and make repairs to the Dunk River Bridge.

The areas affected will be Bedeque Corner to Wilmot Valley, and St. Eleanor's to Tignish and adjacent districts.

GIVES UP DRIVING

WATFORD, England. (Reuters)—A 60-year-old man gave up his driving licence on Friday. He had driven 210 Thursday when he pleaded guilty to two charges of careless driving. "I shall not drive again," said Joyce told the court. "I am very sorry." "We shall be revoking it," said the judge.

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