

Why No Mention?

In his address here last evening Liberal Leader Pearson, surprisingly, made no reference to the new national health scheme which is one of the main planks in his party's platform. This scheme is now estimated to cost the Dominion \$200 million, which is \$100 million less than the estimate given at the Liberal national rally in January, 1961, when it was first proposed.

The original plan, however, differed very considerably from the one now being put forward. Under it the federal government would pay the medical and druggists' bills incurred by all Canadians during a given year. The beneficiary would be obliged to include these expenses in his taxable income and pay income tax on them, thus in theory providing the treasury with a partial reimbursement. In the new version the plan will be carried out jointly by Ottawa and the provinces; the cost of drugs and medicines has been eliminated from the coverage, and the individual will have to pay them himself.

Originally, the Government was to pay everybody's full medical bills. In the new version, it will do this only for children under 16, most retired people and the unemployed. Others will have their bills paid only when they are above a certain, unspecified figure. The proposal for meeting the cost by an extra levy or the income tax has been dropped. Now the federal share of the cost will be paid from general revenue.

Commenting on these changes, the Toronto Globe and Mail predicts that the cost will be considerably more than the \$200 million estimate now favored. It notes that the British National Health Service, originally estimated to cost \$132 million annually, actually cost \$333 million the first year, and by 1960 had reached \$670 million; also that federal government costs under the Canadian hospital insurance system, which in the first year of operation, 1958-59, amounted to only \$55 million, increased to \$284 million in the fiscal year 1961-62.

Mr. Pearson maintains that not only is his party's plan "flexible and realistic," but that its costs have been carefully calculated. But by whom, and on what basis? Island voters who were waiting for enlightenment on this point were disappointed last evening; but perhaps there's still some tinkering with the plan to be done before it hits the campaign trail.

On Its Merits

Mr. Pearson has followed the example of his two Liberal federal candidates for Queens in this Province, Messrs. Ira Lewis and Allison Gillis, in charging Prime Minister Diefenbaker with political manoeuvring in promising the Northumberland Strait causeway just before announcing the June 18 election date.

We may expect that Mr. Pearson will be rapped sharply over the knuckles for this criticism by the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, which has just taken Messrs. Lewis and Gillis to task on the subject. Commenting on these gentlemen's attitude, it says: "Did they really think that the present certainty of the long-wanted causeway was spoiled in the minds of the voters by the political overtones of the announcement? Did they really think the electorate was so innocent that these were missed as an afterthought?"

ed that it would rise in anger to oust any administration which dared announce a public work two months before an election? If they did, they merely exhibited a lack of knowledge of human nature. Worse, they did nothing for that united Maritime front which, political affiliations notwithstanding, should almost invariably hold in matters of interest common to the four Atlantic Provinces."

In contrast, the Herald points out that the Hon. L. G. DesBrisay, New Brunswick's Secretary-Treasurer, said the only sensible thing he could say in his capacity as acting Premier (Liberal) of New Brunswick: "It will bring the two provinces closer together and do a great deal for economic development generally."

"At one stroke," adds our Halifax contemporary, "Mr. DesBrisay placed himself and his party on the side of virtue (is there any public man in the Maritimes AGAINST the causeway?) and left the implication, surely, that no matter if the Liberals win the next federal election, the causeway is assured. Further, since any person who can read a newspaper is aware of the excellent political timing of the announcement from the Progressive Conservative point of view, did he not gain a few points for silent magnanimity on this point?"

Of course he did; and we hope, before the election dust settles, to see the causeway project universally endorsed and removed, once and for all, from partisan bickering of any kind. It has won out on its merits as a project rating top priority on the national agenda, regardless of how political winds may blow. Let's keep it that way from now on.

Feeling The Pinch

What does the Soviet Union lack most? The theologian would perhaps have the best answer to that question; but in a material way, and from the standpoint of Premier Khrushchev's campaign for higher farm yields on which he has placed repeated emphasis, it is mineral fertilizer. The need for fertilizer has become so urgent that Khrushchev is considering the convening of a special chemistry plenum similar to the one he called in June, 1958.

The supply was inadequate even for last year's acreage. This year some 50 million additional acres have been planted to high-calory crops. At least as much new acreage is to be added next year. Organic fertilizer cannot make up for that lacking minerals, and it is particularly annoying to Mr. Khrushchev that insufficient quantities of mineral fertilizer tell only part of the story.

The composition of most mineral fertilizers turned out in Russia is 10 to 15 years behind foreign standards. Moreover, vast quantities are lost on the way from the factories to the fields because they are shipped in bulk unpacked. Storage facilities at rail terminals are hopelessly inadequate. New factories are not going up fast enough, and production of some of the largest existing plants is more than 25 per cent behind schedule.

The shortage is likely to become still more acute before 1964, when the mineral content of soils now planted to high-calory crops may be insufficient. Meanwhile, a race is on to do the virtually impossible. Mr. Khrushchev himself said of such sudden spurts in his report to the 22nd Congress: "The wish for something great can become the enemy of what is wise and realistic."

Which means, among other things, that putting the first men into orbit and exploding the biggest nuclear bombs will not make two turnips grow where one grew before, or relieve the smallest human stomach of its hunger pangs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Another 95,000 teachers will have to be recruited in England and Wales by 1970 if present educational requirements are to be met, according to a report published recently by the National Union of Teachers there. The figures do not take account of recent official proposals for educational reform; they are based on the requirements of the increasing child population, the tendency of pupils to stay on at school, the wastage of women teachers from the profession, and the need to train extra teachers



TUGBOAT ANDY

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Deficits Can Be Of Two Kinds

Finance Minister Donald Fleming has been justly criticized in economic circles because he has budgeted for a deficit of \$745 million in the accounts of our federal government this year.

By a strange coincidence, this figure almost exactly matches the deficit of \$734 million in our foreign trade in 1956, the last full year of a former Liberal government.

There is a close parallel in the size of these two deficits. But there is a very important difference between them, which has surprisingly been overlooked by our economists.

Yet to every Canadian, a deficit in our foreign trade represents a positive disaster; whereas a deficit in our federal government accounts is comparatively a trivial matter.

In fact, as Erhart Regier, the financial critic of the CCF-NDP in the House of Commons has said, "A budget deficit in itself is not an evil thing."

YOUR JOB AT STAKE The important difference between these two deficits is this. If our government overspends its revenue from taxes, it must borrow to bridge the gap; and that borrowing is almost entirely done from Canadians. But if our country overspends its revenue from exports, by buying abroad more than we sell abroad, that deficit must be bridged by importing foreign capital.

More simply, we must sell to foreigners shares in our oilfields or mineral mines or industries to pay for the deficit.

Thus a deficit in our budget is in effect merely a postponement of tax collections. But a deficit in our foreign trade means that we are selling a slice of our future earning power as a nation. It is like a farmer selling off 50 acres to pay for a holiday in California.

In the 95 years since Confederation, we have had 71 annual budget deficits and only 24 annual budget surpluses. The total of those deficits exceeds the total of those surpluses, and our governments have from time to time had to borrow money to bridge that gap. Thus our gross national debt today amounts to \$22 billion.

This is equivalent to a debt of \$12 for every Canadian. Ten years ago, our national debt was \$774 per head.

But only \$612 million, or about 3 per cent, of our national debt is in the hands of foreigners, and that is redeemable.

By another odd coincidence the total amount of foreign capital invested in Canada today is also about \$22 billion. But most of that is in the form of shares in enterprises in Canada, which we cannot normally redeem. Thus the earnings and control carried by those shares are permanently in the hands of foreigners.

TRADE TO BE BALANCED When John Diefenbaker, one of his first public pronouncements concerned our foreign trade picture. This must be corrected, he indicated. And in this he has been as good as his word. For whereas we had a deficit in foreign trade of \$734 million in 1956, last year we had a surplus of \$88 million, with our exports exceeding our imports in value for the first time in a decade.

Our foreign trade imbalance has been corrected partly by increasing our exports, and partly by fostering the manufacture in Canada of articles previously imported. Both these steps of course create more jobs for Canadians in Canada. It has been computed that the switch in our trading position between 1956 and 1961 has created approximately 205,000 new jobs for Canadians.

Our economists in years past have bitterly, and rightly, condemned the growing foreign ownership of our industries. It is surprising that, among all their debate about the budget deficit, they have not yet spotted the far more important fact that we have corrected that former deficit in our foreign trade.

The "buy Canadian" policy is certainly paying off.

What's ahead for the bicycle? To police and motorists the cyclist is a disturbingly vulnerable misfit in the heavy, impatient traffic of a street like Carling Avenue. To children the bicycle is fun and mobility. Parents fear their children will get hurt if they ride in busy traffic, and a fear they will grow flabby if they take buses instead.

Ontario law bans bicycles from limited-access expressways like the Queensway. But on other roads the bicycle is still, in theory at least, recognized as a means of transportation. Its rider is legally entitled to use the roads, obliged to observe the traffic laws.

But police and traffic engineers believe that the bicycle is steadily losing its place as a vehicle and becoming more and more a plaything for children, a means of exercise and recreation for a few vigorous adult individuals.

So far at least, their numbers are not declining. Last year there were 18,400 bicycles registered in Ottawa. Ten years earlier there were 16,072.

Adult cyclists say that governments in Canada discriminate against the cyclist, that there should be more bicycle paths. There are a few. One follows Colonel By Drive to Hog's Back. Another follows the Ottawa River Parkway to Britannia.

But if there were more bicycle paths, how many would use them? The vast majority of cyclists are children. They now enjoy the sense of independence that comes with being able to jump on a bicycle and take off for the park or the corner store. Would it be as much fun if they had to persuade father to drive them and their bicycles out to the bicycle trail on the outskirts of town?

No doubt children will for many years go on riding their bicycles on the side streets of their own neighborhoods. But as a

Chromosome Is Held Cause Of Mongolism

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen MANY hereditary diseases are now blamed on a mismatching of the chromosomes. This includes various congenital anomalies, abnormal sex development, and mental deficiencies. Mongolism, for example, appears to be associated with an extra chromosome.

We obtain our original set of chromosomes from the union of the egg and sperm, each of which contributes 23. This is how the fertilized ovum gets 46 and explains how we inherit the body characteristics of our ancestors. Each chromosome contains the plans that govern the architecture of mind and body.

The fertilized ovum and its chromosomes divide into 2 cells, then into 4, 8, 16, etc., until there are millions. Every cell in the normal individual ends up with 46 chromosomes.

This can be demonstrated by removing cells from the inside of the mouth and preparing them properly for study under the microscope.

Women have two X chromosomes and men have an X and a Y. In this respect, the sex of the individual is determined the moment fertilization takes place. It is a boy when the resulting mixture contains a Y.

Mismatching or disjunction of pairs of chromosomes leads to more or fewer than the normal number or to sets of three instead of pairs.

This altered genetic balance interferes with development in a variety of ways. It might lead to the death of the fetus or to a congenital anomaly. None of these is the fault of the parents and they never should blame themselves when something happens to the baby because of scrambled chromosomes.

In many instances, the extra is an X chromosome. Many studies have been made on mentally deficient persons and it is surprising how often a mixed matchings have occurred. Females may have XXX instead of XX, and males may have XXY instead of Y.

Some day, perhaps, we will have a way of correcting these mismatches so that congenital lesions can be prevented.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

DEFICIENT THYROID SECRETION

R. F. writes: What do thyroid pills do for a person who has a minus 20 on the breathing test?

REPLY They replace the hormone deficiency in those with hypothyroidism and help them to feel warmer and less sleepy. They may raise the pulse and body temperature to normal and decrease a high blood cholesterol level. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on hypothyroidism.

EARACHE

J. B. writes: If a child has earache, is a heating pad over the ear good treatment?

REPLY Heat causes distress but the cause of the earache is a more important consideration. Infection of the inner ear, with pressure on the drum from accumulation of pus, requires drainage and stronger shots into a hip.

ARM OR HIP SHOTS

J. S. writes: Are weaker shots of penicillin given into an arm and stronger shots into a hip?

REPLY No. The hip is preferred because it is larger, softer, has fewer blood vessels and nerves to strike, and is less sensitive to the stretching effects of a small amount of fluid.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

There is no substitute for sleep.

NOTES BY THE WAY

One happy feature of the old fashioned waltz is that you do not have to worry about how you'll get untwisted. — Chatham News.

President of woman's club to fellow members: "Before reading the financial report, the treasurer wishes to remind you that she didn't ask to be treasurer." — Chicago Sun-Times Syndicate.

Taxes are necessary to pay for the services and facilities required by an advanced society with high standards. It is not by chance that countries with the best standards also have the highest taxes. They are interrelated. — Windsor Star.

One of the dangers of operating a provincial hospital scheme in which everybody is insured by chance that countries with the best standards also have the highest taxes. They are interrelated. — Windsor Star.

The other day, a 21-year-old secretary in an English rope manufacturer's office accidentally posted with an income tax return a kiss curl she had cut off her hair. The tax man gallantly returned the curl with this note: "I am very touched by the lock of hair enclosed in the envelope and for one fleeting moment I indulged in the fantasy that someone loved me." — Hamilton Spectator.

The old philosopher says "Don't complain about the boss being dumb. You might be out of a job if he were smarter." — Galt Reporter.

The British are experimenting with a detergent which will dissolve in sewage disposal systems. If that won't work, perhaps we shall have to return to using those old-fashioned cleansers, soap and elbow grease. — Toronto Star.

It's a lot pleasanter to see powder go on with a puff than off with a bang. — Chatham News.

A retired potato inspector won the potato championship at the Ottawa Valley Seed Fair. Who said critics can't practise what they preach? — Ottawa Journal.

Cliches have to be updated from time to time. Comparing a road to a washboard, for example, doesn't mean much to a generation that has never seen a washboard. — Vancouver Province.

Snakes are feared more than any other living creatures as killers of men and yet the stings of bees, wasps, hornets and yellow-jackets take more lives than the bites of all the poisonous snakes put together. In a period of a few years surveyed by the U.S. National Office of Vital Statistics, 85 people died from the effects of insect stings and 71 from the stings of poisonous snakes. Bees take about as many lives as rattlesnakes. — BC Wildlife Review.

New Crisis In Argentina

By Carmen Cummings Canadian Press Staff Writer

The annulment of Peronista-Communist election victories at the bidding of the military may mark only a new phase rather than the end of Argentina's political troubles.

The many backers of former dictator Juan Peron, after all,

most seven years in the wilderness, are not likely to accept a new banishment quietly.

And even if the military does succeed in closing ranks and imposing order on the country, the resumption of normal democratic government will be difficult.

The annulment decree, signed by President Guido Tuesday after five weeks of tangled manoeuvring, voided the March 18 vote in which Peronistas elected five provincial governors and supported four other successful candidates. It also wiped out the results of earlier provincial elections back to last Dec. 17 and ordered federal appointees to take control of all 22 Argentine provinces.

But the decree, which followed military takeovers in three provinces, made no mention of the 47 Chamber of Deputies seats won by Peronistas in the upset vote March 18.

The results stunned military leaders and led to their ouster of President Arturo Frondisi, who had convinced them it would be safe to lift the ban on the Peronistas and let them run in the election.

OPPOSE PERONISTAS In the last few days, while sharply divided among themselves, the armed forces have been unanimous in insisting that the Peronistas must not be allowed to take office.

For a time last weekend it appeared that the upper hand had been taken by Guido and a group of "legalist" officers who wanted the elections voided only with congressional approval.

On Sunday, however, the navy chief moved 500 marines into Buenos Aires and demanded that Guido sign the annulment decree on his own authority.

Peron's followers can hardly be blamed if they see injustice in a system that allows them to vote only if they cast their ballots in the right direction.

Even before the annulment decree they had promised general strikes and even violence if their winning candidates were not allowed to take office May 1.

If they carry out their promises now the resulting crisis could be one of the gravest ever faced by the crisis-plagued country.

TONIGHT at The Community Centre, Ch'town Queens County Conservative Nominating Convention to select candidates for the 1962 federal election! Time of Meeting . . . 8:00 P. M. GUEST SPEAKERS Lunch will be served . . . everyone welcome!