

The Major Issue

According to a Canadian Press dispatch, the premiers of the Atlantic Provinces will stand together against any major weakening of Canada's federal government at the federal-provincial conference which opens at Ottawa today. They will need to, for this would seem to be the major issue with which the conference will have to deal. And it is by no means certain that even by standing together they will be able to stem the tide.

Writing in the Winnipeg Free Press Mr. Bruce Hutchison, one of Canada's ablest journalists, says that the Quebec premier is demanding a new financial pact. He says that because he is desperately in need of money to finance his costly commitments and other Quebec into the twentieth century. His request for 25 per cent of the nation's income and corporation tax fields, plus all estate taxes, would cost the federal treasury \$200,000,000 a year. Of this amount Quebec would receive about \$50,000,000.

Quebec also proposes to reverse the whole centralizing momentum and dismantle the existing power structure of the nation by transferring many of its administrative functions from the federal to the provincial governments. It does not suggest that all provinces must accept these arrangements; it merely claims its own right to "contract out" of various federal functions, most notably the contributory old age pension scheme.

"Far more important than its financial costs," says Mr. Hutchison, "the redaction would threaten the capacity of any federal government to govern. Without sufficient revenue or constitutional power, federal government would be unworkable, national management impossible, national unity destroyed."

But he claims that this campaign to devitalize the Federal Government is by no means confined to Quebec. It is enthusiastically supported in other provinces, especially rich British Columbia. It would emerge at this point in history even if Quebec nationalism did not exist. The federal system, quite apart from race, is straining at the seams.

In the Free Press writer's opinion, the financial differences between the provinces and the Federal Government, though daunting, are negotiable over a period of years because neither side is likely to push its case beyond the point of compromise. This would appear to be the only hope of averting disaster.

And on this assumption, Prime Minister Pearson's task will be to act as a mediator. It is going to be as difficult a job as has confronted any federal leader since Confederation. His success or failure can break him and his government, but his fate is a small incident in history. It is what happens to Confederation that counts.

Far From Depressed

Some idea of what we're losing through Ottawa's failure to include any part of this province in the "depressed area" provisions of the Income Tax Act may be gathered by what is happening in Brantford, Ontario. A report out of that area states that Brantford Township expects substantial industrial growth next year because of the district's designated area status.

Since the Brantford district was first placed on the list, six firms have expressed interest in building there while one company has made a verbal agreement on an offer of

14 acres of land on which to build a big plant in 1964. It is interesting to note, too, that the Brantford Township council lists six companies which have either moved into the area or expanded during the past year. On top of this, a \$750,000 motel is going up opposite a spanking new shopping plaza while a \$1,500,000 general hospital residence and nursing school is going up on the other side.

Brantford, it seems, is far from depressed, and it appears to be headed for a boom as a result of the tax concessions it will enjoy under the federal assistance plan. This is good news, for we are all concerned in the prosperity of every part of the country. But by the same token, why haven't we been deemed worthy of benefiting under the same arrangement?

The explanations given at Ottawa for making fish of one and flesh of another in this matter have been anything but convincing. Finance Minister Gordon has given assurance that he would reconsider the designation of Brantford as a depressed area before 12 months expire. We should insist on him taking a second look at our claims for consideration in the meantime.

His Passing Mourned

The late Mr. Donald A. MacDonald, MBE, was widely known and respected throughout the Province. He took a leading part in promoting the poultry industry during World War Two, also the credit union and cooperative movements, and in the postwar efforts to establish a centralized potato marketing system. Mr. MacDonald was a controversial figure during his period as chairman of the potato marketing board, but none questioned his outstanding ability and integrity. He was a man of many talents, and there is no doubt that he would have made his mark in any occupation. He was also a keen student of public affairs, a firm believer in the future of Prince Edward Island and a zealous promoter of its interests at all times.

His passing, at the comparatively early age of 52, has been a shock to his many friends, with whom The Guardian's job of extending the sympathy to his bereaved wife and family.

Co-ops In Japan

Interesting to all concerned in the co-operative movement here is a news item just received from Japan intimating that the movement there, begun 63 years ago, has grown at such a rate that today some 99.5 per cent of Japan's farmers belong to the nation's 10,890 agricultural co-operatives.

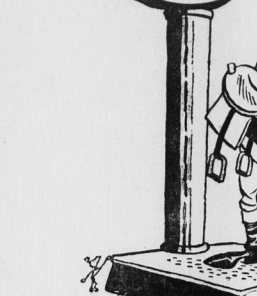
The basic reason for this success has been the small area of most Japanese farms. The average farm size is only 2.5 acres, and on such a small area, the farmer is not able to prove machinery and other requirements on his own. It's a case of him working co-operatively, or not working very long at all.

The largest of the co-ops is one in which 100,000 families are engaged in the growing of Mandarin oranges. The co-op handles most details of collection and distribution, owns a high fruit processing plant and has assisted farmers, as well, in establishing dairying farms and poultry raising activities. Its gross sales in 1962 exceeded \$8,250,000.

As a segment of the Japanese industry, the co-operatives are an influential group, with officials and employees numbering more than 312,000. But their political influence is also great. Some 200 of the 700 members of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors are candidate endorsed by the agricultural co-ops.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Aldous Huxley, whose death at 69 was reported from Los Angeles last week was one of Britain's outstanding writers. His best-known work, "Brave New World", sold nearly a million copies since its publication in 1932. In it he provided a chilling picture of the 25th century, in which society had become mechanized. He wrote more than 40 books including "The Devils of Loudon", "Point Counter-Point", "Eyeless in Gaza" and "After Many a Summer Dies The Swan" were widely acclaimed and read. Huxley's paternal grandfather was the great Victorian naturalist, Thomas Huxley, and he was a brother of the noted biologist Julian Huxley.



WEIGHING IN

OTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Automation Problem Looming Larger

Is automation a curse or a blessing? George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, recently described to the convention of that labour organization in New York how he had answered this question in his own mind. "There is no element of blessing in it," he said. "It is rapidly becoming a real curse to this society."

In that same week, our federal government faced a want-of-confidence motion in our House of Commons on the very valid grounds that it had "failed to propose any plans for the fundamental economic and social changes required to deal with the chronic and growing problem of unemployment caused by automation and technological change."

But while organized labour was cursing automation, and our federal government was ignoring it, the government of the province of Ontario was considering its responsibility to its workers who produce approximately half of all Canada's manufactured output, was staging a high level Labour-Management Workshop as a first step towards taming this great technological development, and harnessing it for our good.

ONTARIO GIVES LEAD

It is pointless to curse scientific progress which can be turned neither back nor aside, as Mr. Meany did. It is unforgetfully negligent to ignore a government to adjust to and while this new monster destroys new methods of life on earth. So the Ontario Government is acting as a responsible government should, in focusing our attention on this inevitable change, and studying means to turn it—as it can be turned—to the advantage of us all.

Under the parliamentary system of the House of Commons, such as a constitutional in Canada, these functions are divided between the Governor-General, representing the Queen, the prime minister, the Cabinet's first minister.

Under the U.S. cabinet system, secretaries are directly responsible to the president who is held accountable for his administration at elections every four years—and indirectly at mid-term congressional elections.

AUTOMATIC TRANSFER

When a U.S. president dies, power is transferred almost automatically to the vice-president, or falling him, to a stated list of inheritors under the constitution.

X-rays Locate Deep Lesions

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Detecting breast tumors early is the answer to this serious illness. More than 50,000 women develop these lesions annually and half of them die within five years. A least 80 per cent could be saved with surgery.

Most cancers of the breast are discovered initially by palpating the tumor. The physician may find the lesion during a routine examination but the majority are spotted by the woman herself, especially if she practices self-examination. This procedure is done at the end of each bath and should be continued monthly after the menopause.

Another technique is mammography, in which low voltage X-rays are used to visualize deep lesions. This method is safe and painless—the film can be studied in detail. Now and then it is possible to distinguish between benign and malignant tumors. Occasionally, a lesion deep in the breast is seen on X-rays long before it can be felt.

The importance of early diagnosis may mean the difference between life and death. Mammography may be suggested after a breast "lump" is found, to obtain clear information on its characteristics and extent. The outcome of the procedure may determine whether the physician will recommend surgery, irradiation, or chemical treatment.

This type of X-ray also is of value where there are changes in the nipple: a discharge, eczema, pain, tenderness, fullness, dimpling, thickening, or retraction. These abnormalities are not necessarily associated with cancer but a relation is possible. There are no known methods of preventing breast cancer; the alternative is early recognition and prompt treatment.

SHRINKING

Mrs. D.C. writes: A 19-year-old friend tells me she cannot reach as high as she could previously. I'm sure I am shorter and I'm just in my twenties. Is it possible for people to become shorter?

REPLY

Not at this age. This is something which, with each decade, something happens to remind us that we are not as young as we used to be.

KIDNEY DISEASE

J. B. writes: What are symptoms of nephritis?

From nose to headache, puffiness of the eyes, and increased blood pressure. The urine may contain substances which are variable in acute nephritis, the victim passes small amounts of dark, concentrated urine whereas in chronic nephritis, there is frequency of urination.

SAW HANDS

COLCHESTER England (CP)—Police stopped a car in this Essex town after a woman reported seeing a car with a hand saw in the trunk. They discovered the hand saw, belonged to the owner who was driving in the trunk to trace a noise.

WRONG NUMBER

TAUNTON, England (CP)—Mrs. Diane Parsons, receptionist at an optician's office here, figures she has replied to a "wrong number" more than 7,000 times since last December. The local directory listed her employer's number as that of the railway station.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A good wife laughs at her husband's jokes, not because they're clever, but because she is—Calgary Herald.

"Here's one name on the committee that I never heard of." "Oh, that's probably the person who actually does the work."—Toronto Star.

The world never lacks born leaders. What it always needs is more discriminating followers.—Ottawa Journal.

If some folks were really as sour as they look we'd all be a worse pickle.—Chatham News.

The brain is a remarkable organ. It starts working when you are born and never stops until you get up to make a speech in public.—Ottawa Journal.

Times certainly change. We can remember when wickedness was considered wicked—Brandon Sun.

The reason it's difficult to reassure children is that they are so much like grown people.—Gall Reporter.

The need for a good general education becomes more imperative as technology advances. It's not much use having the machines if we can't read the instructions.—Edmonton Journal.

The more no-confidence votes in the House of Commons, the more confident the Pearson government seems to get.—St. Thomas Times Journal.

Hal Banks says he wants justice, and here's hoping that it's exactly what he gets.— Windsor Star.

OPEN TUNNEL LONDON (CP)—London's third road tunnel under the Thames River has been opened. It cost £11,000,000, is being financed by tolls and bypasses a 10-mile route through crowded central districts.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO (November 25, 1938) Dr. E. Hess, of the staff of the Fisheries Experimental Station, Halifax, arrived in Charlottetown last night. He will give special lectures at the extension course for fishermen, now in progress at St. Dunstan's University. Next week special lectures will be given by Dr. Finn, also of Halifax.

Dr. T.T. Monaghan who recently opened an office in Charlottetown has at the urgent request of the citizens of Sherbrooke, N.S., returned to resume his old practice in that locality. TEN YEARS AGO (November 24, 1953) J. Elmer Blanchard who was found to be the Bar of this Province last summer will open a law office today at 165 Queen Street, adjacent to the firm of MacPhee and Trainer. Mr. Blanchard is a Lieutenant in the P.E.I. Regiment and had a tour of duty with the Royal 22nd Regiment from 1949-50.

Colonel Gilbert Best, Field Secretary of the Sab in a Army in Canada, will be guest speaker at the official opening of Sunset Lodge New Wing on Friday afternoon. Col. Best has filled positions of responsibility in various parts of Canada, and in 1945 was appointed his present position.

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Charlottetown

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