

Misleading Estimates

Among the items 'of' federal spending listed for Prince Edward Island in the estimates tabled in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Gordon on Tuesday, one notes, as "heading the total," a sum of \$4,074,000 to take care of CNR deficits on the Borden-Tormentine ferry service for the calendar year 1964. This compares with \$3,894,000 forecast in the 1963 estimates. Every year these charges are increasing, which of course is a major reason why emphasis is being placed on the economic feasibility of the causeway project now in its planning stage.

But there is something objectionable about the way in which these ferry charges are presented in the estimates every year. In the first place, they are not CNR deficits at all. Since the 1930's this account has been chargeable to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. That is why they are provided for by direct federal appropriation. They do not appear in the operating accounts of the railway, and it is worth recalling why this change was made at the insistence of a former Conservative government of this Province.

At that time we were attempting to get the then exorbitant rates for transporting motor vehicles on the car ferry reduced. The railway objected. Ignoring the fact that the service was a vital link between this Province and the mainland—maintained under our terms of Confederation as a public service by the Dominion Government—the vice-president of the CNR wrote to Premier Macmillan that "we, as a railroad, cannot afford to overlook the fact that in reality every automobile we handle on the ferry is in competition with our own rail route."

Older readers will recall the storm raised by this statement at the time, and the showdown that was forced upon the federal authorities as a result. We have never heard this argument advanced since, and there is no question now that the railway is merely the operating agent for maintaining the ferry service as a national obligation. Why then should the balance of operating costs over revenues continue to appear in the estimates as a CNR deficit?

Why, indeed, should it be listed at all as a special expenditure for Prince Edward Island? This is an interprovincial service, in effect a rivalry between one province and another, and should be recognized as such by every financial minister in presenting his estimates to Parliament.

Digging Up The Past

Archaeology is reported to have become a favorite pastime as well as occupation in Israel. Young and old, professional archaeologists and amateurs can be seen almost all through the year, digging, measuring, and sorting pieces of pottery, glass and stones, trying to wrest long-hidden secrets from the soil of the Holy Land.

The Israeli government has given the lead in this enterprise. Its department of antiquities is involved, either alone or jointly with other institutions, in nearly 500 organized excavations. This is exclusive of the work being done independently by the Hebrew University, or foreign archaeological missions.

The two most interesting finds in the course of the last year or so were the Pontius Pilate Stone in Caesarea, mentioning for the first time the name of this Roman Governor of Judea in the days of Jesus; and the current "digs" at Masada, trying to reconstruct the day-to-day life of ancient Jews, died most tragic heroes, who perished in a suicide pact to avoid falling into the hands of the Romans in A.D. 73.

The name of Pontius Pilate was known until now only from the writings of Josephus Flavius and from the New Testament. Now for the first time, an archaeological mission of the University of Milan, Italy, has produced in Caesarea evidence that Pontius Pilate was an historic figure. The nearly one yard long stone bears a slightly damaged inscription in Latin, mentioning the governor's name and a dedication to the Roman Emperor Tiberius.

Later rulers of Caesarea, it is noted, must have found Pontius Pilate and Tiberius unworthy of the honor, and used the stone as one of the steps of the Roman theatre on the seashore, with the inscription face down. It was there that the archaeologists found it.

The Masada excavations, started last fall, have already yielded a wealth of interesting material. In addition to the unearthing of Herod's palace, the earliest mosaic so far in Israel was also found here at Tel Arad, an entire city of the Early Bronze Age of about 3000 B.C. was unearthed.

While elsewhere the remains of another city, built the days of King David or King Solomon, were found in trial excavations.

In Striking Contrast Only a few days ago, President Johnson signed a bill that will reduce taxes paid by American citizens by one-fifth and will cut corporation taxes by about nine per cent. This means that a gigantic total of eleven and a half billion dollars, which would normally be paid into the national treasury, will stay in the hands of the American people. The expectation is that the money will be put into circulation, thus stimulating the economy and justifying the huge cuts in federal expenditure that the tax reductions will necessitate.

In Canada the government is pursuing the opposite course. Defense spending has been reduced, but in other departments the estimates are for a record high spending program—6.6 per cent above that for the previous year. The estimates for public debt charges alone is up by over fifty million dollars.

Where is all this money to come from? It looks like higher taxes, or a still more staggering deficit for next year, or both. Finance Minister Gordon used to be eloquent in warning of the dangers inherent in such a policy. Now he will have to explain why Canada can afford to continue it on a still more extravagant scale, while our American neighbors—much better fixed financially than we are—find it necessary to do the reverse. We don't envy the minister his job!

Too Much Welsh

Under the above heading the Winnipeg Free Press notes that while French-speaking Canadians are demanding a greater degree of use and official recognition of their native tongue, the contrary situation prevails in Wales.

According to a report from Cardiff, Welsh television viewers are complaining bitterly over many CBC TV programs for Welsh consumption—some of them at peak viewing hours—are in the Welsh language; and hardly anybody can understand them. The demand is, therefore, for more programs in English, fewer or none at all in Welsh.

Inasmuch as Welsh appears, to an outsider, to be a rather difficult language to master, and only about one Welshman in four can talk or understand it, the request seems sensible. Our Winnipeg contemporary notes that it should at any rate be of interest—and perhaps some envy—in Ottawa. This is a problem in bilingualism which Mr. Pearson or Mr. Oulmet of the CBC undoubtedly would prefer to the one they have!

EDITORIAL NOTE

Troubled with a serious unemployment problem, Kenya has come up with a quick answer: it has directed all employers to increase their labor force 10 percent.



WHO'S WALKING WHOM?

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Discreditable Showing On Both Sides

The episode of "Firing-pin Paul," safeguarding harmless drill rifles under the pretext, has made the government look foolish. And the Parliamentary Opposition's petty backstabbing at this trivial episode has revealed its own foolishness. But if some of those Opposition nazers had shown the initiative to walk to the nearest hardware store, they would have found a real stick to flog the government.

Defence Minister Paul Hellyer was responsible for it. He planned to lock the national stable door after three armories in Quebec had been raided for military rifles. This included the removal "for safe-keeping" of rifles of all classes held by non-active service units.

The fine half-century tradition of the Ashbury Cadet Corps included the presence of an honour guard as part of the Governor General's Foot Guards, and very smart young schoolboys look in their Guards uniforms of scarlet tunics and buff breeches. They were drilled, the boys practice with the school's stock of 150 Remington-Union Carbide rifles as their firing-pins have long since been removed for safety.

BUMBLED RAID

Nevertheless an armed detachment of the police raided over 100 miles from Kingston to remove and guard those ineffective rifles. Even more bumbling than the Fenians, who made the last previous military raid upon Ottawa, those Kingston raiders travelled in faulty military transport which broke down en route, so they invaded the school at the Nazi-like hour of 12.30 a.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

BETTER LAW NEEDED Sir—The liquor question is again being hotly debated on the radio. I have a suggestion to become such a political football, with our vote-seeking members afraid to make a stand on the subject, that the "status quo" is, in all probability, the best.

Enlightened medical opinion on alcoholism is that it is a distressing, affecting ailment of the population as a whole. It is a non-communicable disease such as diabetes.

Some weeks ago, in this column, the point was well taken that there should be a law controlling sugar vending outlets for the protection of diabetics. Because of the "status quo" protecting alcoholics who are similarly victims of a disease.

On Friday, Feb. 26th, the TV program "The Defenders" dealt convincingly with the lack of success prohibition and temperance workers have enjoyed in the past. On the other hand, the organization has been successful in criminalizing the nature of the disease, has had marked success.

A FARMER'S THOUGHTS Sir—I believe an attempt should be made to make muslin mud available to farmers. Nothing has ever quite taken its place for grass and hay. It is don't have to keep applying it for every crop, and it is available for taking.

Let's urge our legislators to base their judgments on authoritative findings on alcoholism rather than on the whimsical thoughts of some other provinces have done.

I am, Sir, etc. CHARLOTTETOWN MOTHER

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Aggressive Children

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Aggressive young children are a problem, provided their behavior stems from an eager, unmet need to express their physical body. The energy and interests of these types ought to be directed wisely by their parents into constructive channels.

But these boys can be loud, boisterous, and bossy. Mrs. Martha Hardy, a kindergarten teacher in Abington, Ill., handles this situation by instilling challenging activities along with added responsibilities. The problem is more difficult when the aggressiveness stems from rebellion—often against severe discipline in the home.

Parents and teachers can minimize the aggressive behavior by not expecting a five-year-old to act like a 10-year-old. Let him enjoy his own childishness, such as it is. He will grow up eventually but meanwhile, love and understanding are all important.

Another type of aggressiveness comes from a lack of discipline in the home. These children push to see how far they can go before they are taken in hand. They actually are trying to find the limits of misbehavior and what they can get away with. They want guidance, attention, and love—but, most of all, they want to be heard.

CONGENITAL DEAFNESS Mrs. N. writes: Would a hearing aid help a child who was born with deaf ears?

REPLY There are instances in which these children have been able to understand the spoken voice by learning to lip-read. But the volume of the hearing aid. The results depend upon the condition of the nerve of hearing.

ABDOMINAL HERNIA J. B. writes: My doctor recently advised me to have a ventral hernia. I don't explain this condition or what to do about it. Can you fill me in on this disorder?

REPLY This is a hernia in the abdominal wall, usually in the middle just above the navel. It is a protrusion of the abdominal contents through a weakness in the abdominal wall.

Our Yesterdays (From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 5, 1939) His Honour Lieutenant Governor DeLois is receiving a letter from the Hon. E. W. Ham, former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

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Interruption Notice There will be an interruption of electric power east of St. Peters Bay on Friday morning, March 6th, weather permitting, between the hours of 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m.

Interruption Notice This interruption is necessary to connect new voltage regulating equipment in our Dingwall Mills substation.

Maritime Electric Company Limited Have been common in the recent storms and power blackouts. Our dwelling policies include coverage for loss resulting from this hazard.

Bursting Pipes Have been common in the recent storms and power blackouts. Our dwelling policies include coverage for loss resulting from this hazard.

Hydraman & Co. Ltd. Dial 4-6567 Charlottetown

NOTES BY THE WAY

Now that Paris and Peking are on friendly terms, France has begun importing pink wine from China, while China is buying champagne from France—Montreal Star.

That Cuban Embargo

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer In the lexicon of U.S. export controllers, soybeans and cattle may be considered food but not the kind of food that can be exported to Cuba.

Despite complaints reported to the contrary, there is as yet no firm indication that any American company is negotiating to sell large quantities of U.S. goods to Cuba. There were reports to that effect last week, but they were not confirmed.

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Mrs. [Cartoon]

Mixed [Cartoon]

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