

The Premier's Anniversary

The tributes paid to Premier Shaw last evening by his Conservative colleagues were, naturally, not unmixt with political sentiments. It would be surprising if they weren't, for the Premier has been responsible, very largely, for the two straight wins which his party scored in the provincial field after a long period of wandering in the Opposition wilderness. The qualities he possesses, and the confidence he is capable of inspiring in the electorate, are assets that no party in its right mind could fail to appreciate.

The occasion last evening, however, was of more than partisan interest. It was, chiefly, in celebration of the Premier's 75th birthday anniversary, and this was something in which all our citizens could, in spirit, most heartily join. For we are all, one way or another, indebted to Walter Shaw for the years of service he has given to his native Province.

We do not recall that he ever showed any particular marks of immaturity in his younger days, when, as deputy to successive ministers of agriculture, he shouldered most of the burdens of that department and had energy for a lot of extraneous activities besides. But he has mellowed, like a good fiddle, with the years, and ripened in wisdom and experience. We occasionally have a crow to pick with him, but that's another matter. He stands now at the summit of his career, and can say with Rabbi Ben Ezra: "Growth old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made."

Perhaps there will be higher summits to be scaled, and more honors to be won; but we use the term in its political sense, and in relation to the opportunities for public service which go with the key position of government leader. It is these opportunities, we believe, which the Premier Shaw values most highly; and we wish him, along with continued good health and spirits, every success in converting them into achievements.

Educational Roadblock

Under an arrangement recently completed, Canadian school teachers can now move between Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario without losing their pension rights. The portability of pensions for teachers in these provinces is probably only a first step in a process that will see portable pensions for teachers adopted as policy everywhere. This is all to the good, but it serves to call attention to another problem which should be tackled without further loss of time.

The number of pupils who move from province to province greatly exceeds the number of teachers; but, since there is no uniformity of curriculum across Canada, they lose their curriculum rights each time their parents make an interprovincial move. If we can have portable pensions, why not portable courses? The British North America Act gives the provinces responsibility for education. But this statute should not be made the excuse for failure to equalize educational standards between provinces, where the advantages are so apparent to all concerned. As it is, different provinces require different amounts of time to complete high school and this makes it difficult to place student transfers. Schools in different provinces study different

subjects at different times and consequently transfer students may repeat or miss some subjects. Moreover, some provinces place greater importance on certain subjects than do others.

A mother of five school-age children goes into detail about this problem in an article in the current issue of Imperial Oil Review. Her investigations led her to conclude that 20 per cent of the 110,000 students who annually move from one province to another have serious difficulty adjusting to new curricula. It produces failures and dropouts, puts a needless strain on students and parents and in some cases imposes the added financial burden of special tutoring.

There is clearly a crying need for some reasonable amount of standardization, but it threatens to be a long, slow process on a national scale. A few provinces could, however, make a start, as has been done with portable pensions for teachers, and thus get the movement under way.

Hot Line To Moscow

The Geneva nuclear test ban conference, about which External Affairs Minister Green had such high hopes a few weeks ago, has proved a flop. The big rival powers couldn't agree on the conditions, and each side blamed the other. But something did emerge which has intriguing possibilities. It came by way of a suggestion from the United States to the Soviet Union that an open "hot" line be strung between the Kremlin and the White House, so that in time of future crises communications could be almost instantaneous. This link would be part of a system for preventing war between the two nations by miscalculation or accident.

It seems like a very good idea indeed. It is recalled that at the most critical period of the Cuban crisis, when neither Washington nor Moscow knew for sure what the other might be planning, it became so necessary to speed communications that open radio broadcasts were used. The word teletyped on the verge of nuclear war and slow diplomatic communications with its coding and decoding of messages and endless translating increased the hazard.

Some have proposed a telephone which President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev could use; but Mr. Kennedy apparently has in mind a teletype system instead. He indicated as much at a recent press conference. Direct verbal communication would be fine if it wasn't for the language barrier. Simultaneous translations would be required. Teletype communications would be more definite, less open to misunderstanding, and more easily and concisely translated. We don't know what Mr. Khrushchev's reaction to this proposal will be; but, since he's always talking about wanting a summit conference, we imagine he'll have difficulty in turning it down.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Canada Year Book 1963 has just been received from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. More comprehensive than ever in its wealth of facts, figures and special articles, this edition runs to 1,231 pages and is invaluable as a reference work on every phase of Canada's history and development. It is indeed a library in itself, and at \$5 cloth-bound (83 paper-bound) can well be termed the biggest book bargain of the year.

As long as the sun is shining or the stars are visible, ducks can find their way through unknown territory to their favorite pond. This has been proved by a zoologist at California University, who carried out experiments with young birds. To test their navigational ability, the scientists put some young ducks in a circular cage with vertical walls from which they could only see the sky. After leaving the ducklings without water for a few hours, he placed a bowl of water in one of twelve compartments around the sides of the cage. Having trained the birds to find water to the East, he found that they were able to make their way to that point each time as long as the sky was clear and the sun visible from inside the cage. Similarly at night, when the stars were shining, the ducklings found the right direction.



"THE HECK WITH WORLD AFFAIRS"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Still Jockeying For Key Position

The House of Commons has before it Bill C-38. One Prime Minister, 16 Parliamentary Secretaries, one Speaker and 224 other Members must give their attention to this proposal to build a new railway track linking an area named Nepequig Junction, 15 miles away. Lucky the land which is so peaceful and prosperous that it can devote that wealth of governmental talent - at the estimated price of \$11,000 a stand-hour to such a trivial project! But Canada itself stands at its own Nepequig Junction too. Underpinned by the backwoods of surrounding New Brunswick? Or will it force ahead on some new line of prosperity amid the puzzling unexplored jungle of automation and the Transistor Age?

It is argued that parliamentary consideration of this proposed extension of the Canadian National Railway system is the price we must pay for our democratic system. Some voices here counter that it is a waste of time and money to be streamlined and updated. THE FUTILE 25TH When our W.P.A. go home for their Christmas adoration, they will have sat in the Commons for six working days. No fairness to them it can be said that nobody appreciates more than they do the 30 days they have revealed our 25th Parliament as being a futile exercise in government. Perhaps the only thing which it has done has effected more immediate or more sharp construction of the national problems than that.

PUBLIC FORUM

ELECTORAL REFORM Sir—Now that the elections are over, I would like to give a few of my own personal views, and suggestions on "Electoral Reform" through the columns of your valued paper, which to make clear at the outset that I am writing for myself and not for any party or group nor for any other individual. First, I believe that Provincial Elections should be held on a fixed certain day every four years and in the event of by-elections becoming necessary due to a vacancy, they should be held on the same fixed certain day in the intervening or off-years; and if this day happened to fall on Sunday or on a statutory holiday, the election would be held on the next free day. I think this would be equally fair to all parties, and would cut out the possibility of snap elections and would give the Government in power more confidence and security while in office between elections. It would also have many other advantages.

I think there should be Official Voters Lists for all Provincial and Federal elections; and that there should be official enumerators, one from each constituency, who would be conducting party in each constituency. These enumerators should mark clearly on their lists those who had Councilors' votes and those outside the districts with property votes in the district be given a sufficient length of time and notice to get their names on the lists for the polls in which their property is situated; and that these lists be final and official copies and that they be mailed to each and every voter in the poll. That the lists be closed on a set day before the elections, and that these lists be posted in certain places as for Dominion elections and that for a week before the elections, they should be a certain place in each Poll or District where electors could see the lists and have their names inserted if they were inadvertently omitted. I think that everyone within the bounds of any Electoral District should be given a list, over the age of 18 years or 21 years as the case may be should be given a list, without exception of any kind for any reason. And it should be a voter's privilege to reason change to get to the poll on that day. I believe that whatever changes are to be made in the number of candidates, there should be no less than 30 members. That the fifteen Districts, five in each County, with the same boundaries each sending two members to the Legislature should be continued as it is now and if necessary, should have members added in the more thickly populated Districts. That no consideration should any County have less than five Districts and no District less than five members. I think all these suggestions would be equally fair to all parties and to all electors and workers and to all concerned. I am, Sir, etc. E. L. CROFT, Charlottetown.

Body Changes With Seasons

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen WEATHER affects health and most northerners are aware that the cold months bring their challenges. There are more accidents because of fewer hours of daylight and more hazardous roads and sidewalks. In addition, we must face the medical problems peculiar to winter.

The human body seems to change with the seasons and diseases common in summer are likely to disappear when autumn sets in and winter is not far off. Polio is replaced by influenza. Other disorders, such as heart disease, become more prominent. Winter also brings man-made hazards associated with overcooling and air pollution. Numerous infections spread by direct contact under crowded conditions are easily passed along in buses and subways. The same applies to homes and apartments where the occupants are packed in like sardines.

As the cold months approach, membranes, making them more susceptible to bacterial invasion. Children and infants, humans, and gases also aggravate existing diseases, especially in the elderly. It is the price we pay for progress. Some of the perils of winter are the cold, the flu, and the common cold. These can be minimized or eliminated. Everyone with a respiratory infection should follow the golden rule and do everything possible to avoid spreading the disease to others. Teach the children to do the same. But because they are more susceptible to colds and usually bring them home.

Maintain a high resistance to infection by eating properly, practicing cleanliness, obtaining ample sleep, and avoiding excesses. Flu shots help prevent influenza, and the same is true of treatment of a cold not only lessens the chance of complications but also shortens the illness.

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

DON'T BLAME FATE J. S. writes: "I read the truth in the statement that if you were meant to be heavy, you will be heavy."

REPLY This is a good ball but who decides whether a person is meant to be stout? The tall man with a big frame may be heavy but is necessarily obese, and weight stems from muscle mass rather than fat. On the other hand, there are stout individuals who feel better when overweight and who live a normal life expectancy. Obesity runs in some families but there is a question whether the condition is hereditary or whether it is due to eating habits.

A LIFE-LONG PROCESS E. L. D. writes: "Do the arteries of the heart and kidneys harden for a long time before they break?"

REPLY It has been said that the arteries begin to harden as soon as we are born. Evidence of this condition has been found in young men killed on the battlefield or in highway accidents. Ordinarily, arteriosclerosis may exist for years before causing trouble.

F. A. writes: "Is ice cream a PINT A NIGHT?"

REPLY If you mean, does ice cream contain calories, the answer is yes. It is also high in fats, which may raise your cholesterol level.

James P. Cullen, yesterday was elected president of the Laborers' Protective Union, No. 218, at the annual meeting in the Union Hall, Charlottetown. Daniel Coughlan was re-elected vice-president.

TEN YEARS AGO

Prince Edward Island joined with the other Maritime provinces in this year's record movement of Christmas trees to Eastern and Southern United States. The province contributed 13 carloads of the trees moved by rail, local CNR officials said.

W. S. McMurphy, yesterday was named supervisor of the Vocational Training School - succeeding Ralph MacLean, who has resigned to take up a continuous naval duty as Personnel Selection Officer.

Fur Jackets

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Books make wonderful gifts for the children. Among their many advantages is that Daddy and Mommy can get them to get them on Christmas Eve. - Caddy Herald.

Uncle: "You boys of today want to make too much money. You know what I was getting when I married you aunt?" Nephew: "No, and I bet you didn't!" Uncle: "Money don't speak the same language." Dr. Charles E. Larsen, Mills College professor of history and government, just back from a world Fulbright tour. In his absence his young son inquired about his father and was told, "Daddy's going around the world." "Oh," the boy said with unfeigned interest, "how many times?" - Portland Oregonian.

U.S. Administration officials have been pushing a drive to make manufacturers put more information on their product labels. Consumers will be better protected. One harassed senator, who prefers to be nameless, said: "I'd rather vote for a law requiring consumers to read the labels we now have." - NEA Service.

The Sino-Soviet Split

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer

In the view of Western intelligence sources, the rift between Russia and Red China has become extremely serious. Communist aggression in the West, though as President Kennedy has said, is not as serious as it once was, is still a danger to the West, though as President Kennedy has said, is not as serious as it once was. The two Communist capitals are hammering at each other with vicious verbal assaults, followed by gradual diplomatic withdrawals. The latest in the report of departure of some new trade delegations from Chinese centres.

The attempt by Communist diplomats are worried. Attempting to outfox one Communist diplomat by another. The report of departure of some new trade delegations from Chinese centres.

The Moscow-Peking fight has emotional impact because it strikes at the heart of Communist ideology. A period of human instability may develop as Communist adherents face two Meccas and wonder which is authentic.

A Mystery Story

Cape Breton Post

An ill wind in a weekly magazine's garbled account of the stand taken by Adlai Stevenson in the Cuba crisis deliberations of President Kennedy's closest advisers, finally blew some news to prove that an oft-repeated old adage is not mere cliché, this is to say, after all, not a title phrase.

Thanks to the zeal of the Washington news hounds who enjoy nothing more than exposing the fallacy of a rival's big words, the truth of Mr. Stevenson's part in the supposedly secret Security Council's ponderings has been brought to light as if never would have had not some as-yet-unidentified person sought to ruin the man who is President Kennedy's chief delegate to the United Nations.

The historical fact is that Stevenson from the start favored the measure finally decided upon by the president for dealing with the Cuba missiles base crisis - the measure that was used and that succeeded. Measures that have failed in others in the secret convale-

Advertisement for Maritime Central Airways Ltd. featuring an illustration of a plane and text: "From all of us to all of you... with hearty good wishes for the holiday season, and with warm appreciation for the privilege of serving you, now and in the years to come. Management and Staff Maritime Central Airways Ltd. Prince Edward Island"