

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 4 MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1965

Tongue-Tied, Or What?

When Provincial Treasurer Farmer launched the budget debate in the Legislature on March 11 he noted that it afforded him "the usual opportunity to acquaint the House with the past as well as the projected fiscal position of the Province". Normally the debate is participated in by a large number of members on both sides, and only after it has run its full course is it customary for the Speaker to put the motion that he leave the chair and that the Assembly resolve itself into a committee of supply for consideration of the sums to be granted Her Majesty.

Of course, it is in committee that the House gets down to the real business of discussing and voting on expenditures, item by item, before passing them in full. The formal debate is but a prelude to this business, but it is of vital importance nonetheless. It provides the best opportunity of the session for ranging far and wide over matters of public concern.

It gives ministers of the Crown the privilege of reviewing all the activities of their departments; and as for the Opposition—Beauchesne quotes a precedent established by one Speaker in the House of Commons in ruling that "any member of the House may bring before it, on the motion to go into supply, any matter which, in his opinion, may be detrimental or disadvantageous to any section of the population."

This year the budget involved unprecedented expenditures and an estimated debt increase for next year of truly alarming proportions. Yet the debate came to an abrupt end after only three speakers had followed Mr. Farmer—Mr. Ferguson, Education Minister Dewar, and Mr. A. W. Matheson. Neither the Leader of the Government, who usually winds up the debate, nor the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Bonnell, saw fit to take part in it.

It was not, a case of Mr. Speaker Myers shutting them out by too hastily putting the motion; on the contrary, he acted with scrupulous deliberation and seemed quite surprised—as well he might be—at the lack of response on both sides while he waited, in vain, for the next speaker to rise.

We confess that we cannot make head or tail of this incident, and we believe that the public generally will share in our mystification.

Labor Congress Opposed

Health Minister MacNeill's criticism of the new scheme of continental free trade for automobile manufacturers, recently voiced in the Legislature, finds confirmation from an unexpected quarter. The deal has been defended chiefly because it promises an expansion of employment opportunities within the Canadian sector of the industry. Employment is a prime concern of the Canadian Labor Congress and one would expect that it would welcome the agreement on this ground. But its views, as set forth in a brief to the Federal Government, are by no means favorable.

Congress leaders first make the point stressed by Dr. MacNeill, namely that the removal of tariffs ought to be reflected in lower car prices. Despite tariff cuts of 17 1/2 to 25 per cent, the Government has taken no measures to compel or even to encourage price reduction. The industry is expected to save \$50 million annually under the plan, but the consumer will receive no benefit whatsoever.

"Some commentators," says the Congress brief, "have argued that the agreement, by exposing Canadian

producers to competition from the United States, will set off market forces which will bring the Canadian price down. This theory fails to recognize the simple fact that there is not likely to be competition, tariff or no tariff, between a parent firm in the United States and its Canadian subsidiary."

Moreover, "While the industry spoke of using its savings for capital expansion, the Minister of Industry had spoken of loans from the Industrial Development Bank for this purpose. It appears the Canadian public is being asked to bear a double loan of subsidization of one of the wealthiest industries in the country."

Attention is called to this brief by the Winnipeg Free Press, which says there is no doubt that the apprehensions of Congress leaders on the subject are widely shared. "The Government," it adds, "would be wise to recognize this. As the partner of industry in this highly important experiment, it should impress manufacturers with the importance of early and progressive price reductions. Such 'free trade' arrangements as the automobile scheme will have little appeal for the public if they mean in practice that the consumer is the forgotten man."

Sound advice from a good Liberal source, which merits very careful consideration.

Soviet Farm Woes

The Russians now realize that it will take years to overcome their backwardness in agriculture. Premier Kossygin conceded as much in an address before the Supreme Soviet, and the situation is reflected in the recent report on farm planning fulfillment in 1964. This report reveals further livestock losses and declining milk yields through lack of fodder, also a breakdown in the supply system, because the state now must return part of the collected produce.

The cattle herd has remained stationary since 1962 although the population increased by 6,400,000. The swine herd recovered a little from the loss of nearly 30 million head in 1963, but still is smaller than in 1960. The population increase since that time has been 17,800,000. The sheep herd also has declined for the second year in a row.

The three remedies which were to boost agriculture last year failed or did not work properly. These were: more fertilizer, more irrigation, more and better technical equipment. The central agency in charge of supplying the farms with machinery is stuck with more than one-half billion dollars worth of unsaleable agricultural hardware. Machinery delivered to the farms is of such poor quality that every year an average of 30 to 40 per cent of the price of a new tractor has to be spent on repairs.

In the Ukraine, figures have come to light which show that the income of the average collective farm peasant is pitifully low. Distributions in produce in that area last year yielded little more than one-half pound of grain per person a day. No wonder the Soviets are importing grain. Imports to date are believed to be only a beginning.

Ironically, the big hope for the immediate future is a sharp increase in the private output of farm produce. In 1959 already the collective farm population spent over 28 per cent of its work time on its private plots. Now that restrictions on private plots have been lifted and private production for the market is encouraged, the share of the infinitesimally small private sector is likely to increase.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada, notes the Canadian Highway Safety Council, has 316 cities and towns with populations exceeding 5,000 and 90 of them completed 1964 without a fatal traffic accident.

Once again the Canada Pension Plan bill has been delayed, pending French translations of committee hearings on the measure. Last Tuesday Labor Minister MacEachen said the best estimate he could get was that it would require an additional four weeks to complete the translation. This raised a storm of criticism and on Wednesday Mr. Pearson announced that with a "crash program" it could be finished by today; that is, in six days instead of a month. A Conservative member referred in the debate to "this stumbling government." It was, as the Ottawa Journal remarks, an apt description.



"WE'RE CHANGING EVERYTHING"

THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Slowly Changing With The Times

National Geographic Society

The English the saving goes, love a lord—but not necessarily the House of Lords. The upper chamber, an example of the British genius for adapting old institutions to modern needs, has been a favorite target of critics and reformers.

An old joke tells of the peer who dreamed he was delivering a speech in the House of Lords and woke to discover that indeed he was Prime Minister Herbert Asquith called Lords the "lethal chamber." A few years ago a left-wing lord delivered his maiden speech. His topic was the undesirability of the hereditary chamber.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson recently ran into difficulty in creating several new peers. He had to speak sharply to some lifelong equalitarians who balked at being elevated to nobility in order to serve the Labor Party in the House of Lords.

The British plan to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Parliament in 1965, though historians believe the House of Lords is older and the House of Commons a few years younger. In any case, there is no doubt that Commons now is stronger, but it took centuries of gradual reform.

The Lords' right of veto over measures proposed by Commons once was theoretically unlimited. Today, the Lords have no control over money bills, and may block other legislation for only one year. The lords still play an important part in revising non-financial bills passed by Commons.

Though its power is limited, the House of Lords cherishes the quality of its debates. A peer once discoursed brilliantly on the breeding habits of whitefish. In conclusion, he noted that the last time he had spoken in the House was 30 years before in a debate on fisheries.

The Lords reached peaks of eloquence before admitting women to membership. Earl Ferrers declared, "Why then should we encourage women to eat their way, like acid into metal, into positions of trust and responsibility which previously men have held?"

Besides some three dozen life peers and peeresses whose titles die with them, the House of Lords includes the two archbishops and 24 senior bishops of the Church of England and more than 800 hereditary dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts, and barons. Baronets and knights do not sit in Lords.

In practice, only a hundred or so lords take an active part in the work of the House. The others, called "backwoodsmen," appear only when an interesting issue, such as capital punishment, is being debated. Lord Escher, who called himself a "persistent absentee," once defended the missing peers, saying, "Absenteeism is deeply imbedded in our national way of life."

The late geneticist, J.B.S. Haldane proposed a "phased out" peerage: a son should not inherit his father's title, but one degree below it. Noble lines which by cross fertilization and hybrid vigor (marrying actresses, and the like) revived their stock would undoubtedly earn

Linguistically Crippled

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Since taking greater interest in our underprivileged, we are discovering that one of their major disabilities is inability to speak acceptable English. Sociologists speak of the "functional illiterates" or "linguistically crippled." When young, they fall behind in school. When older, they find it difficult to hold a job.

Many of them are not retarded or culturally deprived. A young Puerto Rican in New York, for example, may share his family's intellectual and artistic interests and yet—because of deficient English and a consequent shyness—become a school drop-out.

The same is true of Mexican-Americans, Indians, Cuban refugees and Southern Negroes whose "substandard" dialect makes it difficult for them to get along in the North.

The problem is compounded by their trouble in learning better English through conventional instruction. Happily, the U.S. Office of Education is coming to the rescue by encouraging unconventional teaching. At the outset, this method does not reject the "bad" English of these Americans.

POPcorn KING

CHATHAM, Ont. (CP)—Henry Couture, of Dover township in Western Ontario, started growing popcorn on five acres in 1943. He now has 150 acres, and is one of the largest popcorn producers in Canada. Most farmers are put off trying the crop, he says, because 50 bushels an acre is a good yield for popcorn, while field corn grows 100 bushels an acre.

Y'S YOUNG ACES

WINNIPEG (CP)—About 180 of the 1,000 youth members of Winnipeg Central YMCA are taking part in a three-year experimental program of giving intensive training in one sport to groups of youngsters. The 12- to 14-year-olds are already dominating local competition in swimming and gymnastics.

Preventing Migraine

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen. Ninety per cent of chronic headaches are vascular (migraine) or muscular (tension) in origin. Many victims have psychological problems that bring on an attack. Sansert, and tranquilizers such as Miltown and Librium, are preventives and are useful when the individual cooperates by avoiding tension, anxiety, and hostility. Aspirin and ergotamine are used after distress develops.

The pain of a migraine headache is caused by dilatation of a single artery in the head. This may be triggered by the nervous system but the exact mechanism is unknown. The tension headache stems from a sustained and painful contraction of scalp muscles. Pain occurs during the immediate period of frustration or anxiety, rather than following it, as takes place in migraine.

Migraine frequently is preceded by a variety of symptoms, including visual defects, slurred speech, dizziness, ringing of the ears, and numbness and tingling of the skin on one side of the body. Many tend to accumulate fluid in the tissues, which is eliminated by the kidneys as the headache subsides. The cause of this cyclic change of fluid balance is not known.

Many migraine victims are perfectionists and methodical. Their personality and life experiences play a role in the cause of the distress. They come from families where they were pushed to perform beyond their capabilities. Many are sensitive and feel depressed, inadequate, and frustrated. Discomfort develops when a stressful situation cannot be overcome because of circumstances beyond their control. They improve when they acquire insight into the problem, modify their goals, and avoid or alter stress-producing situations.

In the past, most headaches were blamed on eye disorders, sinus troubles, high blood pressure, and brain tumor. These causes are not common and when arthritis of the neck and allergies are added to the list, the total probably accounts for less than 10 per cent of all headaches.

VOICES AND SPIRITS

M. D. writes: What happens to the chemicals of an apparently healthy body should it have the misfortune to "feel the touch of a vanished hand" or bear a voice from beyond the grave?

REPLY: Nothing, except that the chemicals will pray that their master will consult a psychiatrist.

FEVER BLISTERS AND PREGNANCY

Mrs. F. B. writes: Can fever blisters during pregnancy harm the fetus?

REPLY: We do not know whether these lesions will harm the fetus in the early months of pregnancy. They might affect the eyes of the baby if they are located in the birth canal.

THYROID DOSAGE

E. M. writes: Are three grams of thyroid extract daily considered a large dosage?

REPLY: Yes, but it is surprising how much thyroid some tolerate without becoming jittery or developing palpitation. You should have a metabolism or protein bound iodine test.

COOKING AND BAKING SODA

Mrs. W.C.T. writes: If a little baking soda is put in vegetables and meats while they are cooking, does it kill the vitamins?

REPLY: No. Baking soda is sodium bicarbonate and does no harm unless the individual is on a low sodium diet.

NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.

The margriet is a familiar,

NOTES BY THE WAY

According to the vice-president of Lions International, all North Americans look alike to Latin Americans. You mean all the men look like Rock Hudson and all the women like Shirley Maclaine? — Hamilton Spectator.

A woman went into a pet shop to buy a drinking bowl for her dog and the storekeeper asked her if she would like one with the inscription, "For the dog." "It really doesn't matter," she replied. "The dog can't read and my husband never drinks water." — Montreal Star.

Gromyko In London

By Harold Morrison, Canadian Press Staff Writer

Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet diplomat who managed to survive Kremlin upheavals, spent four days in London trying to pry the British government away from the arms of Washington. Outward signs suggest he failed.

The joint British-Soviet communiqué that followed his talks and the Soviet foreign minister's own press conference statements indicate he didn't give an inch on South Viet Nam or other major issues. And it would seem Prime Minister Wilson and Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart also held fast.

What, then, was the point of the talks? A top British official said they had their value—they helped clear the air. Britain now knew exactly where the Soviet Union stood and Gromyko could carry home a positive report on the position of Britain's new Labor government.

K's MESSENGER BOY

Gromyko, who was once dubbed by deposed Nikita Khrushchev as the Kremlin's "messenger boy," likes to give the impression he is merely transmitting views and he could not make any major decision before consulting the Soviet collective leadership.

However, British officials think Gromyko now carries more authority than he likes to disclose and if he gave nothing away at this London performance, it was generally because he does not do so. On such issues, when asked to give a definite answer, he simply replies.

Ottawa's Princess

Ottawa Journal

It is only 22 years in time but a hundred years in change since Princess Margriet was born in Ottawa and everyone in this capital, from Prime Minister Mackenzie King to the Rockcliffe milkman who knew the other two little Dutch princesses was delighted.

In the days of anticipation, when all the arrangements had been made for Princess Juliana to have her baby in the Civic Hospital, in rooms formally declared Dutch territory, for the occasion, the great hope was that it would be a boy. Netherland's royalty has been uncommonly blessed with girls and it was really no surprise when the word came from the Civic that the third child was a daughter.

News that Princess Margriet is to be married brings back to Ottawa memory of how her birth brightened the dark days of war. Her proud grandmother, Queen Wilhelmina, spoke to Holland by radio soon after the birth and said:

"May it soon be given to Margriet to grow up in her country amongst her people and like her namesakes which bloom in the fields always be a living and ever renewing tribute to all those who made the great sacrifice which one day will prove the seed from which a really free and great country and kingdom will emerge."

The margriet is a familiar,

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