

A Poor Excuse

We are not at all satisfied with Mr. Matheson's explanation about the Chignecto canal vote that went through unanimously at the Liberal Federation advisory council meeting; and we don't think, frankly, that the Opposition leader is satisfied with it himself.

A vote favoring our causeway, he says, was put through last year. But what about his fulminations last week against Works Minister Walker for holding up this project, and against the Shaw Government for pussyfooting on their causeway pledges?

But no. It had to be a resolution calling for "early completion" of a rival project of gigantic dimensions—a project that may be neither feasible nor desirable from a Maritime standpoint, and which Mr. Matheson himself has denounced as a "pipe dream."

The least our Island representatives at the meeting could have done was to support Mr. Marler, former Liberal Minister of Transport, who advised the council not to commit itself in such definite terms. Wasn't that sound advice? Mr. Marler, quite evidently, doesn't agree with our Liberal apologists that every resolution purporting to be "regional", however fantastic or detrimental to other interests, should be passed as drafted.

Milwaukee's Experience

Here is encouraging news for those who have been fighting the battle against prejudice and distortion of facts on the water fluoridation issue. It comes from Milwaukee, which adopted fluoridation six years ago, and whose city health commissioner has just issued a comprehensive, and quite factual, report on the results.

The report is based on a comparison of teeth of 12,530 Milwaukee school children in 1950, with 4,660 children in October, 1959. The children were all in the 5-14 age group. Dental hygienists examined their teeth. The average number of decayed, missing and filled teeth (the DMF index) has shown a "marked reduction" since fluoridation began July 22, 1953.

The DMF index for 7 year old children has been reduced 59 per cent. Less reduction occurred in older children, who were not exposed to fluoridation when their teeth were forming. The reduction was 34.5 per cent among 10 year olds and 23.6 per cent among 12 year olds. The survey showed that 42.8 per cent of the 5 year olds examined in October were free of any dental decay, compared with 24.7 per cent free of decay among 5 year olds in 1950.

There was "a highly significant difference" in the decay rate of permanent teeth of the children examined in 1959. Among 7 year olds, for example, 74 per cent were found in 1959 to have permanent teeth free from decay; the figure in 1950 was 51.2 per cent. At the age of 13, the average child checked in 1959 had 5.09 decayed permanent teeth, compared with 7.49 in 1950. Six year molars, the first permanent teeth, help determine the shape of the mouth and the position and health of other teeth. The survey showed that nearly 40 per cent of the 9 year old children in 1959 had no decay in their 6 year molars, compared with only 10 per cent in 1950.

The total cost of equipment, labor and sodium silicofluoride for the fluoridation program since its start has amounted to 5 1/2 cents a person a year in Milwaukee. Based on prevailing rates, the saving in dental care cost

for permanent teeth of children 6-13 was about \$718,000 in the six years. The cost of care of decayed baby teeth would have been another \$540,000, according to the report.

It also said: "It is not possible to calculate the saving in such important factors as impairment of ability to speak, faulty chewing, poor nutrition, impairment of facial appearance and possibly entry of serious infection through abscessed teeth." Moreover, all available evidence continued to show that fluoridation was "safe, as well as effective in preventing tooth decay."

These are facts, not propaganda. We commend them to the careful study of our citizens locally, especially those with limited means and large families, who have a particular stake in this issue when it comes up in the form of a plebiscite at the next civic election.

Aid For The Aged

Where there's a will to provide low-rental housing accommodation, there's always a way. In Stockholm, Sweden, for example, are eight modern apartment buildings occupied by elderly tenants. People call them "the houses that flowers built." Some 1,300 persons, mostly pensioners, pay modest rentals—or nothing at all—to live in the buildings which have recreation and hobby rooms, restaurants and doctors and nurses on call. Another 350 persons will be housed in apartments now being built, and 50 chronically ill patients will be cared for in a small hospital to be added later.

Responsible for this aid for the aged program is the 38 year old Stockholm Flower Fund. Its support comes from persons who make contributions to the fund instead of sending flowers to funerals. So successful has the idea been in Stockholm that it has spread to some 200 other communities in Sweden and to some other countries as well.

Florists would no doubt oppose the idea here, as they initially did in Sweden. But the American Swedish Monthly, published by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in the United States, notes that Stockholm today has more than twice as many florist shops as it did when the fund was established.

EDITORIAL NOTES

During 1958 Canada ranked seventh among the countries of the world in per capita meat consumption. Outranking us were Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay, Argentina, United States and Denmark in the order given.

Canadian politics is by no means free of nepotism, but it can't hold a candle to the U.S. Senate pay roll, as revealed in a recent report. 21 senators had a total of 27 relatives on their staffs. There were many cases in which senators succeeded in their careers with their "secretary" wife as an equal partner and valuable aide.

Using an index system which takes 1934-39 price levels as a base, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports farm products prices at a figure of 235.9 for October, as compared with 239.7 for September; and, more significantly, with 236.2 for October, 1958. The same report shows that farm products prices in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces are below the national average; while in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, they are above it.

Though frustrated in their campaign for a pay increase, Canada's civil servants have received a consolation prize in the form of an elaborate new medical-surgical insurance plan. It embraces not only the Civil Service, but the armed forces and the R.C.M.P. and dependents of each. Under the new plan—which will be voluntary—the Government will contribute half the overall cost. The first year's cost to the treasury is estimated at \$11,000,000. Mr. Fleming hopes to make it effective by July 1.

Those planning the Canadian Centennial seven years hence, says an exchange, should take a look at the way Saskatchewan celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1955. The celebration was decentralized. Even the smallest communities were encouraged to write local stories and hold local ceremonies. The same thing, but on a larger scale, could be done for Canada's 100th birthday. Especially for children and teenagers, a much more immediate sense of Canada's history and achievement will be communicated by a local celebration than by something they see on television.



NO LONGER THROGGED

OTTAWA REPORT

An Economic Challenge

By Patrick Nicholson

The report just prepared by the Canadian-American Committee on "The Growth of Soviet Economic Power" should be required reading for all adult Canadians.

It would be a better anti-soporific than black coffee, and might speed up our necessary return from payola, hucksterism and jealous materialism to the proven Christian virtues and honest standards.

I am frankly no lover of the kind of socialism advocated by the Socialist Party in Great Britain, and recently so convincingly rejected at the polls there. But I do feel considerable agreement with Socialist "Nye" Bevan there when he pleads for a political system which will give us realistic national priorities.

Here we are straining not every effort, but those of our capabilities which we care to put forth in a 40-hour week, towards achieving an outboard motor in every cottage and a television set rather than a college degree for every child. Meanwhile, our cold war enemies got their thrill from contemplating the Soviet flag implanted upon the Moon, and the world supremacy which they are battling unopposed to obtain for their children.

And what will we leave our children?

Not one Canadian father is so craven that he would each year increase the mortgage on the family home, so that he could live consistently beyond his means and leave his children to pay off his debts. Yet, as a glance at our trade figures year by year will show, that is exactly what we are doing collectively as a nation.

We cannot pay for all our purchases; we are short of about \$1 billion each year as a nation. So to pay this debt, we mortgage each year a further slice of Canada; and to pay the interest on that mortgage each year we sell off a little chunk of what is left.

It is going to be a honey of a birthright which our grandchildren will inherit. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who predicted that the Twentieth Century will belong to

Canada, will whirl in his grave when he learns that the Twenty-First Century Canada will belong to Wall Street.

THE STAGE IS SET

Against the background of a nation going soft and a national economy going into the red, we now have this report on the sensational growth of Soviet economic power, and its consequences for Canada.

The Soviet gross national product is now about half that of the U.S. But it is increasing by about 10 per cent year, or three times as fast as that of the U.S. Hence Russia is approaching the point where she will be a surplus producer in many lines. When she makes a serious attempt to become a leading world trader in wheat, wood products and base metals, Canada will be the first exporter to suffer from this competition, and we would suffer more than any other exporting nation.

Our dependence on export markets is perhaps the highest of any country in the world: one in every four Canadians owes his job to our foreign customers. Russia's coming trade offensive could throw as many as one million Canadian workers permanently out of their present employment.

To meet this threat will require the marshalling of all our resources. There is no sign yet that the government is even beginning to think in terms of what Nye Bevan calls "national priorities" to this end.

due to the export grain rates. And in this the West is undoubtedly right. The railways have rather conveyed the impression that were it not for the fixed grain rates they would be able to manage. This may not have been their intention. But a large part of the Canadian public has gathered this idea. The West, therefore, is determined that the whole story of the railways' unremunerative services should be told, so that the subsequent remedy should not be identified in the public mind as a handout to prairie wheat farmers.

because it wants to concentrate on one thing at a time — and it judges the grain rates to be most significant of all — and partly because it doesn't want to divulge certain information to its chief competitor, the CNR.

WESTERN CASE Yet the West has a strong case. Granted that the railways are not seeking to load extra costs on the prairie farmer — for a subsidy now seems to be the approach — the West still objects to being labelled as the sole reason for such a subsidy. It contends that the problems of the railways are by no means solely

About Plastic Surgery Cases

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. PLASTIC surgery may help hide the ravages of a few years, but it can't perform miracles. As one noted plastic surgeon told a recent meeting of the International College of Surgeons in Chicago: "Plastic surgery of the face can turn back the clock, but can't stop it."

NOT FOR EVERYONE Nor is everyone a candidate for plastic surgery. Persons with high blood pressure, heart disease and certain other illnesses probably shouldn't undergo any type of surgery unless the doctor feels that it is absolutely necessary.

Generally, sagging cheeks and neck are the first and most common signs of age. Laxity of the skin and gravity act together to bring this about. CHEEKS SLIDE DOWN The skin is firmly attached to the corners of the mouth and to the nose. The cheeks, therefore, slide downward, producing a deep groove at the corners of the mouth and the sides of the nose. At the same time, the edges of the jaw become full, causing the familiar jowls. The loose skin and fat beneath the chin also sag, causing double chins and neck wrinkles.

Another sign of age is the deep lines radiating from the mouth. Baggy eyelids, as I have pointed out before, usually are inherited and are not necessarily a sign of age or dissipation. However, all of these unflattering conditions usually can be improved through plastic surgery.

Whether it is worth the effort and expense, of course, is up to the individual patient. REWARDING RESULTS Dr. Michael M. Gurdin, chief of the department of plastic surgery at the Cedars of Lebanon hospital in Beverly Hills, California, says that when patients are properly selected and the surgery is skillfully performed, "the results are a happy and rewarding experience for the patient."

Most persons, he says, will look good years later. And, he adds, they always will look younger than they would have looked had not the surgery been performed. QUESTION AND ANSWER Answer: Foot symptoms such as you mention are not unusual in hot weather. Light, ventilated shoes, frequent changing of hose and the use of a foot powder and foot baths will help to minimize the trouble.

MAY TV COMMONS DEBATES LONDON (Reuters)—The government will investigate the possibility of televising a limited daily period of parliamentary debate, Prime Minister Macmillan said Thursday. The idea first was aired in the House of Commons last month. It produced a major division of opinion irrespective of party loyalties.

COMET This comet youth that showers light across the fitful dark of night, Burns with a momentary hiss into a charred Prometheus. Blackness before and blackness after. And in between, the comet's laughter in a showy flight.

Youth knows it cannot be a sun, And thus will not pretend it's one; Youth is content to be a flare, And plummet through the fretful air; Wants but to ride in flame and see Its self-consumed celerity— Glad when the wanting's done.

—Jacob C Solovay in the New York Times

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SOURIS: Leave Charlottetown at 2.30 p.m. daily except Sunday, 8.00 a.m. Tues., Thur. and Sat., and Souris at 7.30 a.m. daily except Sunday, 1.30 p.m. Tues., Thur. and Sat.

ELMIRA: Leave Souris at 5.45 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thur. and Fri., and Elmira at 6.30 a.m. Tues., Wed., Fri. and Sat.

GEORGETOWN: Leave Charlottetown at 2.30 p.m., Mt. Stewart Jct. 3.45 p.m., and Georgetown at 7.00 a.m., Mt. Stewart Jct. 9.15 a.m., daily except Sunday.

MURRAY HARBOR: Leave Southport at 3.00 p.m. and Murray Harbor at 7.00 a.m. daily except Sunday.

LAKE VERDE-SOUTHPORT: Taxi service will leave Charlottetown station at 2.45 p.m., daily except Sunday, to connect with train leaving Southport at 3.00 p.m. for Murray Harbor. For passengers from Murray Harbor, leaving that station at 7.00 a.m., taxi will be provided from Southport to Market Square in Charlottetown. Taxi included in rail fare.

TIGNISH: Leave Summerside at 12.25 p.m. Mon., Wed. and Fri., and Tignish at 8.30 a.m. Tues., Thur. and Sat.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

There are times when puppy love finally leads to leading a dog's life.—London Free Press

Boy Friend: "I'm not rich and don't have a yacht or convertible like Harry, but I love you, dear." Girl Friend: "I love you too, but tell me more about Harry."—Galt Reporter

The recent Tory convention here went on record as favoring a distinctive Canadian flag and a national anthem, but did not stipulate what flag or anthem should be chosen. Some mighty hot arguments have been dropped in the government's lap as a result.—Ottawa Citizen

The fire department in Rheinfeld is having trouble recruiting volunteers. However, whenever there is a fire, dozens of citizens come out to watch. The mayor has therefore ordered police to make a list of all male spectators at each fire. Each man whose name appears three times on the lists will be automatically drafted as a volunteer fireman.—Der Stein, Germany

The Age Old Story For a thousand years in the night are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

COMET This comet youth that showers light across the fitful dark of night, Burns with a momentary hiss into a charred Prometheus. Blackness before and blackness after. And in between, the comet's laughter in a showy flight.

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