

His Passing Mourned

During his ministry of almost a quarter of a century at the Kirk of St. James in this city, the Reverend T. H. B. Somers, DD, came to be very widely known and very highly regarded by all classes of our citizens. Some months ago, while seemingly in excellent health and with the prospect of many more years of fruitful service before him, he was stricken with an incurable ailment. It is now our sad duty to record his demise, to pay tribute to the Christian fortitude with which he bore his sufferings, to the noble example he set in his high calling at all times, and to the manner in which he identified himself with the vital interests of the community and province of his adoption.

Dr. Somers' services were in demand in many high offices of his church—as Moderator of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, Moderator of the Maritime Synod, Clerk of the Presbytery and Treasurer of the Ministerial Association, and also as official delegate from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He had been offered similar appointments to the general assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in England, Ireland and Wales. Duties of this kind he was eminently fitted to discharge, in a manner which reflected credit upon himself and all concerned.

But it was in his pastoral duties at home, in his zeal as a preacher and as a biblical scholar, and his active interest in so many worthwhile movements locally, that he was best known to our citizens. His devotion to his obligations was proverbial, as were his many acts of kindness and courtesy.

The province has indeed lost an outstanding citizen in his passing. But his mark on the religious life of the community will not soon be effaced, nor will his memory in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to know him.

Some Inside Dope

In Peter Newman's "Renegade in Power: the Diefenbaker Years," one of the major reasons given for the Conservative leader's downfall was his inability to get along with "the Establishment." This mysterious group of individuals looms large in "The Vertical Mosaic," a recently published book by a Carleton University sociologist, Prof. John Porter. The book contains a wealth of information about the linked elite who determine the destinies of the country behind the scenes, also about the carefully preserved differences among Canadians which make it harder for able individuals who belong to less fortunate groups to rise to the top and find a place in the magic circle.

With stacks of statistics the author shows that the further down the ladder one starts the longer and more difficult the climb to the top. Contrasting Canada with the United States in this respect, he finds that our country is more tightly compartmented than our neighbor. This means that there is less likelihood of moving from one group to another, and consequently slower general progress. A price we pay, he maintains, for preserving distinctions of race, religion and language, as well as for a more hidebound class structure.

On the economic level the writer claims that the "big middle class," so familiar to Canadians in theory, doesn't really exist, but that most investments are in the hands of comparatively few people, and that even if some savings were available the best stocks are extremely closely held by insiders.

Regarding politics Prof. Porter charges that Canadians have been so preoccupied with trying to preserve national unity that we have never developed parties representing sharp distinctions between right and left. As a result we produce politicians who are more adept at negotiating the differences between rival interest groups than what he terms "creative politicians."

One acute observation he makes is the place Canadians have given to political leaders who move from bureaucracy to Parliament without serving the traditional political apprenticeship. Also, in spite of the fact that there are a number of different elites in Canada in such fields as politics, economics, religion, higher education and labor, there is a tendency for overlapping. This, in view of the small scale of the Canadian scene, with comparatively few people in high posts, enables many of those in one field to be on close terms with others, and concentrates power in Canada, to an extent unknown in the U.S.

This view of the Canadian Establishment provides plenty of food for thought. It helps us to understand, among other things, why John Diefenbaker fell so hard when he fell foul of this powerful body. It also goes far to explain why he appears as a "renegade" in Peter Newman's biography, which reeks of Establishment views if ever a book did.

Nature Still Untamed

The drought situation in the central provinces has served to call attention to the fact that neither Ontario nor Quebec has taken advantage of the federal legislation to set up crop insurance programs, such as Prince Edward Island now has, and which were instituted in the first place for the benefit of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Emergency measures on a federal-provincial basis are now being considered, and there is no question that assistance for the drought-stricken farmers, in some form or other, is urgently required.

Vast areas of once-productive farm land in southern Ontario and the Ottawa Valley have dried up. Fruit, vegetable and cereal grain crops are threatened; pasturage and early hay crop is already ruined and the effects are showing in lack of cattle feed. Some farmers have put their herds on the market, fearing fodder won't last through the summer. The drought was described in the House of Commons on Wednesday as the worst in living memory in the affected areas.

This has occurred at a time when the prairie provinces—so often the victims of severe drought conditions—are getting more rain than they need. A wet, cold spring has delayed seeding in Saskatchewan, while in far northern Alberta continual rain has caused Lesser Slave Lake to rise three feet, forcing residents from their homes.

The contrast is even more marked in the United States. Eastern areas are plagued by a severe water shortage, while in Colorado the rivers are out of control, sweeping a way \$100 million worth of property and flooding towns in western Kansas, Wyoming, New Mexico and Montana. Last Saturday President Johnson declared the whole state of Colorado a major disaster area.

Both these extremes in weather conditions are cause for continent-wide concern, and for speculating, once again, on whether the astronomical sums spent in space research nowadays couldn't more profitably be devoted to finding means of safeguarding our farming communities against such visitations of nature. The problem might prove to be incapable of solution, but the fact is that it has never been faced on anything like the scale of the efforts that are now being made to put a man on the moon.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to the Windsor Star, it is possible to test a driver's skill by the use of his horn. The capable and experienced driver seldom, if ever, has to use it—except when the carelessness of another driver or of a pedestrian creates an emergency. The inefficient and reckless driver is the one who uses the horn most.

Good advice to tourists from the Duke of Edinburgh, following his recent tour in Asia and Australia: "I don't believe you really get into the mentality of a country until you eat their food in the way in which they eat it themselves. If you go to a country and eat your own food, you're only half way to being in that country."



THE RAINY SEASON

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Our All-Time Record Tax Burdens

A poll of public opinion shows that many Canadians criticize the Pearson Government because taxes are too high. This column recently gave facts and figures to show that Canada's all-time record tax collections this year are so burdensome that the average Canadian had to work from 1st January until 12th May to pay them. What that average Canadian earns during the remaining seven and one-half months of the year, he can spend on feeding, housing, clothing and caring for his family and himself.

Of course most taxpayers are two-faced pocket-pickers by the government which occurs every-time you go into a liquor store, or like the gentler but less excusable filching by the government even when you go to the drug store to buy medicine for your sick child. If the tax facts were allowed to be obvious to all of us suckers—say by having all our payrolls confiscated by Revenue Minister Benson and his provincial and municipal counterparts, up till mid May—we would soon throw the rouses out, and demand economy and efficiency in government.

LACK OF POLITICIANS While the public criticizes the government for taxing us too much while raising their own salaries, and for giving us too much indecision and too much nasty smell of corruption, one of the old-time Liberal MPs, 66 year old Alexis Caron, has something else to criticize. As a politician who was elected to the Quebec Legislature 30 years ago, and who has sat in the House of Commons under three prime ministers, he says bluntly that "the big trouble with the Pearson administration is that the men around him are not politicians—they do not have any political sense. Mr. Pearson is not a politician himself, so he should have some practical politicians in the cabinet to advise him."

That is as blunt and unanswerable a blast as this cabinet has heard, this "cabinet of all talents" of which about half the ministers have worked for governments in bureaucratic posts.

FAY GOVERNMENT BOOK A book about parliamentary debates, running to 587 pages, has just been published by the Queen's Printer. At that length it could reasonably be expected to be a stodgy script, obviously needing an index. But this book is an index: the index of the proceedings of the longest session of our House of Commons, which lasted from 18th February last year until 2nd April this year, for a total of 248 daily sittings. While even the index fills 587 pages, the verbatim Hansard report of the proceedings fills a record 13,192 pages. This report is without question the best value ever offered by a Canadian publisher, for anyone could subscribe, receiving the printed daily reports through the mail on 248 days for a total cost of \$3. At cheap printed rate, the mail charges on that alone would be \$7.44.

WORDS IN WONDERLAND "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

FINANCES ORCHESTRA TORONTO (CP)—The Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada, a licensing organization for Canadian literary and musical talent, has presented \$1,000 to the National Youth Orchestra Association. The money will be used to help pay for the orchestra's training session at Vict. Cariboo training session at Victoria College, University of Toronto, here beginning July 5, when 106 young musicians will arrive for a month's rehearsal before they begin a tour of Ontario and Western Canada.

er more nor less." I was discussing with some MPs the strange usages which are creeping into our language, by which speakers wrench the meanings of words just like that character in Alice in Wonderland. General George Vanier returned to Ottawa from a long tour of western Canada last week, so to greet our Governor General at Ottawa airport. Foreign Minister Paul Martin was, according to a commentator, "on hand." On hand, like a contortionist, or as the meaning calls for, at hand.

Another commentator proclaimed that Prime Minister Pearson will return to Ottawa hopefully on Sunday. On the contrary, he left Ottawa for the Prime Minister's conference "hopefully," but he hopes to return to Ottawa on Sunday.

"It's Been So Quiet"

Arthur Blakely in The Montreal Gazette One of the pleasant surprises of this parliamentary year, to date at least, has been the smooth, efficient, relatively trouble-free performance of the new-style redistribution commissions. "It's been so quiet," said one interested veteran member of Parliament, "that you wouldn't know that redistribution was going on at all."

It has been, of course. But even the redistribution commissioners themselves who accepted, with some trepidation, responsibility for this most sensitive of political chores, have been surprised at the quiet response of public and politicians to their findings. It may be that the controversy is still to come. But this seems, on the face of it, unlikely. The pattern should, by now, have been established. The redistribution commissions of seven of the 10 provinces—including Ontario and Quebec—have already reported their recommendations, complete with maps. Only the findings of the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba commissions are still to come. Only those who don't remember the shrill screams of pain and outrage which marked earlier redistributions will find nothing remarkable in the gentle murmuring which have attended this one. In theory, perhaps it should

Debt A Good Thing?

Ottawa Journal 1. The national debt is an economic asset? The net debt of Canada at March 31 was \$15,549,000,000 which is \$479,000,000 more than at the same date in 1964. Charges on the debt, representing interest and other charges payable annually, will be \$1,048,200,000 in 1965-66 or \$50 for every Canadian. That \$50 has to be provided by taxation and those who feel concerned about the national debt argue that reducing it would reduce taxation. Finance Minister Gordon in a recent House debate looked kindly on the existing debt situation, offering these opinions: 1. Interest on the debt is a Government expense paid by taxation but almost all the debt is held by Canadians and Government bonds issued to obtain money for Government outlays are a secure means of investment for people's savings.

Shakespeare The Fink Toronto Daily Star One of the more puzzling developments in the Communist world is the anti-Shakespeare crusade which has developed in China. The senior official in charge of literary activities at Peking has issued a statement demanding that Shakespeare be "exposed and criticized" on the ground that he preached class harmony and expressed objections to class struggle. This hostility is hard to understand. Our William was not a political propagandist, but one would have thought that his portraits of kings and nobles and merchants of Venice were caustic enough to satisfy the most zealous revolutionary. The Russians Communists have always admired Shakespeare and his plays are frequently presented in Moscow. We suspect that the ban may have less to do with Marxism than with the unpredictable reaction of the Oriental mind to Western classics. After all, it was an earlier Chinese government, long before Mao Tse-tung, which suppressed a translation of Aeschylus' Fables on the ground that stories in which animals talked "detracted from the dignity of the human race."

Gallbladder Disease

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Do we need the gallbladder? Probably not, considering the millions of healthy individuals who have lived comfortably for years without the structure. The liver might disagree because it manufactures bile and sends it to the gallbladder for concentration and storage until ready for use. This function is taken over by the large duct that connects the liver with the small intestine. It dilates to take the place of the removed organ and releases the bile as needed for digestion.

The gallbladder is not a complicated structure, but has the misfortune of being subject to infection. In addition, there are certain dangers associated with concentrating bile because the chemicals are in danger of crystallizing and forming stones. The end result is a thickened gallbladder which may harbor a few large or a hundred small stones. Tests at this stage show that it is not functioning properly and in all probability the liver is doing well without the reservoir.

Many persons are in this predicament. Some develop acute attacks of inflammation and are plagued with colic when the stones try to escape. Others have indigestion, with bouts of vague abdominal distress. Surgery solves the problem. The liver is spared additional damage and the victim relieved to know that his troubles are over. There are an equal number who have the same abnormality but never are bothered. The gallstones are found accidentally via X-rays taken as part of a routine examination or because of trouble in a neighboring organ. What can these individuals expect?

There is a 50-50 chance that nothing will happen and the man or woman will live out his or her life without the slightest distress. On the other hand, one-third to one-half can expect severe symptoms or complications within six to eight years. The results of an operation, when all is quiet, are excellent, but the mortality rate goes up when complications occur and surgery is needed to save life. The decision is up to the individual.

HEALTH SPA E. J. writes: I am considering a vacation at a health spa. They feature protein diets and steam baths. I am 15 pounds overweight and in the menopause, with slight hot flashes. Is this method safe for me?

REPLY Yes, provided you otherwise are healthy. The steam baths are taboo for those with heart trouble or hypertension but will not make your flashes any hotter.

EYE TENSION X. P. writes: Is high tension in the eyes the same as high blood pressure?

REPLY In both instances the word tension is used to denote increase in pressure. In glaucoma the eyeball fluid is involved; in hypertension it is the blood going through the vessels.

DOG LOVER R. D. writes: Is there a harm in having a dog sleep in the same room with a human? My husband insists it is harmful to respiration.

REPLY It is not harmful to respiration unless the individual is allergic to animal dander.

THIRSTY? Mrs. W. writes: What would make a person want to eat ice all day long?

REPLY Many persons have perverted appetites. Other examples include a desire for starch and soil.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Swim with a buddy in deep water. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (June 25, 1940) Vanquished France officially laid down her shattered arms today, victim of the military might of Germany, attacked by Italy. General mourning was proclaimed throughout the Republic on this saddest day in its history. German bombers, losing not an instant in striking at Britain now that France has fallen, ranged all over the island early today, bombarding southeast and southwest England and forcing London to its first genuine air raid alarm of the war.

TEN YEARS AGO (June 25, 1955) The 102nd anniversary of the Presbyterian congregation in Summerside on Sunday, June 25 will be observed with special services. At the morning service the Rev. Lawrence E. Blaikie, minister of Brookfield Church will be guest speaker. The Rev. E.H. Bean, B.A., B.Th., B.D., Kensington, will be the guest speaker at the evening service.

GAVE CASH FOR SOULS Under the Tokugawa regime, 17th-century Japan offered rewards of \$15,000 for betraying a Christian missionary or for a convert's freely recanting.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Ontario farmers now are busy in their fields. We can't contemplate this scene without wondering what has happened to all the horse flies. Certainly they can't get any satisfaction from biting at tractors or other power equipment.—Windsor Star

Russians Turn Thumbs Down

By Carman Cumming Canadian Press Staff Writer Russia's "nyet" to the idea of a Commonwealth mission on Viet Nam apparently closes off yet another possible road to settlement. Taken along with the unofficial rejections by China and North Viet Nam, it amounts to a Communist statement that their side isn't interested in peace feelers at this stage. So the four Commonwealth leaders who were ready to visit capitals on both sides of the firing line can take their place in the growing group of statesmen who have tried without success to find a way out of the Vietnamese shambles.

JOHNSON'S MESSENGER China has brushed the newest proposal aside on the grounds that the mission would be a messenger for the United States, out looking for a way to get the Americans "off the hook." While this is probably true for the western Commonwealth members, the mission idea still remains the most broadly-based attempt yet made for a start toward peace. Peking will have a hard time convincing the non-aligned world that the leaders of Pakistan, India and Ghana, for example, backed the mission only in Washington's interests. The picture more likely to be left in the minds of the non-aligned countries is that Peking is refusing talks because it believes its own side ahead and doesn't want to stop while it's winning.

On The Air? Vancouver Times The idea of broadcasting the proceedings of Parliament, as a contribution to the democratic since the days when microphones were as big as saucers. Now Mr. John Diefenbaker, who used to be opposed to the scheme, has given his qualified approval to experimental radio and television broadcasts from the House of Commons, and so has the Prime Minister. Mr. Pearson thinks it might be a way of improving Parliament's public image. Any man who knows his Parliament will shudder. What the public reads and hears about the proceedings of Parliament—such dignity as remains—would not be enhanced much.

Take EPA's 'COMMUTER' FLIGHT to HALIFAX LEAVE CHARLOTTETOWN 7:45 AM RETURN CHARLOTTETOWN 9:55 PM Have your business day in Halifax the EPA Commuter way. Convenient departure time! Gets you back home the same day! No overnight stopover to take you out of your office two days when one can do the job. More people every day are travelling EPA's Commuter Flight to Halifax. You try it next time. You'll enjoy a real touch of hospitality with Eastern Provincial Airways.

Advertisement for Eastern Provincial Airways featuring the EPA Commuter Flight to Halifax. It includes a drawing of a jet airplane and lists departure and return times: LEAVE CHARLOTTETOWN 7:45 AM, RETURN CHARLOTTETOWN 9:55 PM. The ad also mentions that the flight is convenient for business days and offers hospitality with Eastern Provincial Airways. At the bottom, it lists the head office at 5400 Steeles Ave. E., Scarborough, Ontario, and other regional offices: SUNDERS, CHARLOTTETOWN, HALIFAX, SYDNEY, TRENTON NEW GLASSBORO, TWIN FALLS, WARREN, SEVEN ISLANDS, CHARLE D'ARNAULD, MAGDALENE ISLANDS.