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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 6 FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1982

Mellowing Already

Prime Minister Pearson is already beginning to mellow with success. Who would have imagined, for example, the former leader of the Opposition saying, during the last hectic session of Parliament or at any time during the election campaign, that if elected he would strive to continue—and, "if possible," expand—the work of the Conservative government in the field of defense and production-sharing—a program which meant more than \$100,000,000 annually in U.S. defense contracts for Canadian firms in recent years.

Who would have imagined, prior to the election, telling a group of Canadian senior civil servants that he was "glad to acknowledge the achievements" of the Diefenbaker government in the matter of trade promotion, and that his own government would be "happy to carry on" the movement? This is another excerpt from Mr. Pearson's remarks before leaving Ottawa this week. His words were received with applause, and deservedly so. But they just go to show the difference, on which we commented recently in another context, between the perspective one gets in being on the inside looking out, and in being on the outside looking in.

Mr. Pearson now sees, and frankly concedes, good points in the Conservative record which he hopes to emulate, it is not surprising. It is to his credit that he has conceded them so promptly. There is no point in complaining that he should have seen them before, since it was his business to do so. His role in Opposition was to criticize. He will now, of course, have reason to complain if the same tactics are employed against his own administrative record. In the meantime, however, the general public will wish him well in his endeavor to heal old political wounds, and start on a more equitable basis in assessing national policies than it was feasible to do when appealing for votes.

Those Slow Britishers

In October each year the comptroller and solicitor to the City of London Corporation goes to the law courts with a bag of six horseshoes and 61 nails. This is a "quit rent" paid for land in Shropshire, in the northwest of England, for a vanished forge which used to be in the Strand in London.

One of the Chancellors of the Exchequer is sent off to a property company in Lincolnshire each year for a cheque for £75. It is to maintain a castle which never was, but was created by Charles II in order to get more money from the Privy Purse. The British Treasury continues to pay this sum as part of the obligations it took over on lands which now belong to the Crown.

Then there is at Finsbury in North London a small garden site. It belongs to the Metropolitan Gardens Association which each year pays one shilling (12 cents) or a "bunch of flowers in season" as a rental for the site. Even the modern property tycoons in Britain cherish old customs. One of them regularly claims from an East End brewer an annual rent of "one quart of the finest English ale" for a public

house he incorporated into a new Holborn office block in London. Such oddities go hand in hand with a remarkable aptitude for keeping abreast of the times. One shouldn't need to be reminded that Britain gave the world the steam engine, and created the industrial revolution which has had impact all around the world. More recently British inventive genius has been responsible, in large part, for penicillin, television, radar, the jet engine, to name but a few modern developments.

Now—to offset the need for trained instructors—British educators are giving increasing thought to stepping up the use of mechanical aids in teaching. Research into robot training and its educational possibilities has already been conducted by the universities of Aberdeen and Sheffield; and in the House of Commons the other day it was predicted that this method would become "one of the foremost weapons in our task to which we are committed, namely, the modernization of Britain."

Meanwhile, let's hope that in their zeal for modernization the reformers will leave untouched the old customs, which are still delightfully with the country as it moves bravely into the future.

Quebec Tax Demands

According to the Montreal Gazette, a federal-provincial conference is likely to be held this year to explore the troubled fiscal relations between Ottawa and the province. "Troubled" is the word. All provincial governments have made it clear that they would like a larger share of the nation's tax revenues, but Quebec has made some startling demands that have pushed other claims into the background.

Just before the April 8 election Premier Lesage served blunt notice that Quebec's "minimum demands" were exclusive occupancy of 25 per cent of the personal income and corporation fields, and 100 per cent of succession duties. These concessions would have to be made available to the governments of the other provinces; and quite apart from the deficit budgetary position in which the new Federal government finds itself, there is the gravest doubt that it could afford to surrender the many hundreds of millions of dollars involved, and still carry out its federal responsibilities.

Mr. Pearson has promised, however, to provide what is termed "full equalization" of provincial revenues from the direct taxes shared with Ottawa. He has also promised—with an eye to Quebec—to provide financial compensation to provinces which wish to contract out of any new federal provincial joint program. He has said that his government will, if the provinces wish, withdraw from joint programs that are well established—such as old age assistance and pensions for the blind and disabled. In withdrawing, Ottawa would compensate the provinces for their share of the cost by lowering its own direct taxation and increasing its equalization payments.

At no time have the federal Liberals contemplated a retreat from the direct tax fields on such a massive scale as the Quebec government is now demanding. But Mr. Pearson will have to cope with this demand, which Premier Lesage says he intends to press "unflinchingly." Also deeply involved will be Hon. Maurice Lamontagne, president of the Privy Council, and designated as the federal cabinet minister directly responsible for federal-provincial relations.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This evening the Prime Minister and Mrs. Pearson are dining with Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip at Windsor Castle, where they will stay until tomorrow morning. It will be a high-water mark in their London visit, and we venture to say that they have with them the very best wishes of Canadians of all political views.

The biggest gas oven in Switzerland has just been installed in the kitchens of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle. This oven occupies an area of some 100 square feet and weighs three metric tons; it requires cooking utensils over three feet in length and has been designed for the preparation of 1,000 meals an hour.



EBB TIDE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

The biggest trade promotion ever launched by any country was all but swamped Canada from coast to coast with buyers and exporters representing an estimated \$15 billion in annual international trade. "Operation World Markets" was proposed by former Trade Minister George Hees in a number of months ago, and was planned by his earger and efficient staff of departmental officials, led by Assistant Deputy Minister Le A. Brown, who has accumulated immense know-how in this field.

Part One, which was called "World Markets," brought 171 buyers from 54 foreign countries to tour 152 Canadian plants, to see what we have to sell. Part Two, the National Sample, brought 508 buyers from all States of the Union, from Western Europe and the West Indies, to see the products of 386 Canadian producers displayed at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in Toronto.

Part Three brought 136 Canadian Trade Commissioners from their posts all around the world, to confer together in Ottawa. And at "Operation World Markets" those Trade Commissioners held 12,261 interviews with representatives of 140 Canadian exporters to explain to them what they could sell in which foreign markets.

OUR NEED TO EXPORT Canada must export, or die economically. For eight years in a row, the Canadian government bought more goods from other countries than we sold to them. On top of that trade deficit, we always have substantial minus signs on our balance of trade. Our payments for transportation trade items, such as tourism and the payment of dividends and interest on foreign capital, insurance and shipping payments, and the like. A big country, our position will be substantially foreign capital invested here, must achieve a surplus of exports over imports to pay our way. And we must sell abroad as much as we buy, otherwise we are creating jobs and importing unemployment.

The "George Hees" era at the Department of Trade and Commerce began to correct our unacceptable trade picture. In 1981, the first year of his nine years, we sold more than we bought. But still not enough.

THE POOL CORNER A SUMMER EVENING (North River, P.E.I.) The sun is low, beneath the Western hills. And shadows stretch long fingers across the plain. The wild duck nestles quiet by the rills. And folk seek sweet rest from labor's pains. Then one by one, the stars swing into view. Those distant twinkling orbs of lesser light. On sleep's green meadows softly fall the first time this year. And evening gently melts into the night. Between red banks, the old North River flows. On dancing feet, to meet the ocean's flow. Walk high in the sky the pale moon throws. Her silver beam, on hallowed shores below. 'Tis scenes like this that gladdens the tourists' eye. When from the sweet town's hills, the sun sets low. Here where the Gulf Stream sings its lullaby. And Nature's beauty she knows no rival.

Weather permitting, observers along the 1983 eclipse's path of totality will be rewarded by the sight of the corona, a partly white, luminous halo around the sun. Observers also will look for the sun's prominences on the sun's surface and are actually hotter than the earth's dimmest jets of gas that erupts from the sun's surface. Immediately before and after the eclipse, the sun's rays, gleaming in an orange glow, form a brilliant string of lights known as streamers as "Baily's beads." The moon's shadow will first strike the earth on the Japan-

Typthoid Panic CAUSES PANIC

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen THE RECENT typhoid outbreak here is not to be too complacent about some of our old enemies. The disease is still a danger to make the front pages of many newspapers today but only one time more than one-third of all patients seen by physicians were victims of this disease. The disease is caused by the days of modern sanitation and the typhoid vaccine.

The infectious organisms that plague us because there are many typhoid carriers in the United States follow each a potential source of a widespread epidemic. How troublesome the disease is depends on where they live, and what they do.

Those who handle food for public consumption and dairy workers are the most menacing. Others who contaminate the water or milk supply. Food becomes a source of infection because the dishes are washed with infected water or the carrier spreads the germs via the hands. Travelers to countries where sanitary conditions are poor must be on the alert.

As a rule, men or women with a known case of typhoid fever are warned to avoid contact through convalescence and the discharge are examined periodically until the physician is certain all the typhoid organisms within the body are dead. The majority of carriers who fails to report a case to health authorities.

RELAXING THE VALVES C.M. writes: Does medicine have a hiatus here? Temporarily, by relaxing the opening of the stomach, the upper part of the stomach protrudes above the diaphragm.

HEADACHE AFTER J.N.B. writes: It is unusual for severe headaches to continue three months after a brain concussion.

ALL IN GOOD TIME Mrs. A. writes: Will a flatulent condition in pregnancy develop so that she can nurse her baby?

BREAKFAST PORRIDGE Mrs. A. writes: Is a breakfast of oatmeal and fruit healthy for an elderly couple?

NO, THIS IS A GOOD BREAKFAST. "Buy now, pay later" is a potent cause of anxiety.

The Solar Eclipse National Geographic Society

Like an airplane's shadow sweeping along the ground, the shadow of the moon will trace from Japan eastward to the Atlantic Ocean on July 29, 1982. The moon passes across and eclipses the face of the sun, its dark surface and is actually the northern islands of Japan, the North Pacific, and parts of the Atlantic Ocean.

Professional and amateur astronomers, their ranks swelled by the plain curiosity, will converge on the eclipse's path. The State of Maine and Canadian provinces are the best places to watch a tourist attraction. Total solar eclipses, though rare, are a spectacular sight to witness. The band of totality frequently passes over some of the most scenic places. Clouds or bad weather can blot out the view.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Women's skirt fashions are two inches lower this year. We shall see more skirt and less blouse. — Stratford Beacon Herald.

The married couple who eat a good breakfast early 'likely to have serious domestic troubles," says a psychologist. Well, perhaps so — if they eat in silence. — Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

The first blizzards that show up under the melting snow are an odd lot. The earliest splash of color comes from three red wooden mittens, two lefthanded, that were sewed at random on the front lawn a couple of months ago. — Ottawa Journal.

Spain has published its 1982 figures on bullfight casualties. They show 107 deaths and 270 wounded. That's 27 bulls down in four months. The bulls are stepped upon or otherwise made eligible for spurs; it's a statistic that is not to be taken too seriously. The fact is that the aficionados are putting out a lot of romanticized guff when they build up a bullfight as a spectacle of human grace, skill and courage. — Detroit Free Press.

Setback In Italy

Italian voters are playing both ends against the middle and parliamentary democracy may have a chance to survive. In the weekend election, confounding most forecasts, extremist parties and far left registered gains at the expense of the moderate centre. This has dominated Italian politics for nearly two decades.

The result is something of a setback for the centre, but it is seen—for the Christian Democratic Party and particularly for Premier Ciriaco De Mita's celebrated "opening-to-the-left" experiment.

Fourteen years ago, seeking greater political flexibility, Fanfani boldly brought his centrist party into association with Pietro Nenni's socialists, accepting the left's political platform.

Our Yesterday's (From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO May 3, 1958 New York, May 2 — A special Pulitzer prize in the form of a bronze plaque, was awarded to the Editor-in-Chief of the New York Times, Arthur Hays Sulzberger, for his leadership in defence of the freedom of the press in the Province of Alberta.

POOR VOTE RED One of the puzzles of Italian politics is the durability of Communist electoral magnetism. Italy is booming, but one of every four voters follows the Togliatti ticket.

LEN DOUGLAS Dr. was elected president of the Charlottetown Branch of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L. at the annual meeting last night. Members of the retiring executive presented reports, all of which showed considerable work done, and activity in all departments.

WORKMEN are scheduled to begin excavating this morning on the site of the extension of Sunset Lodge. The contract has been let to Vail Brothers. This announcement was made by the local Advisory Board of the Salvation Army.

FLYING BUTCHMAN RESTAURANT "Your Island Steak House"

Table with 2 columns: City and Price. Rows include Charlottetown: \$2.20, Sackville: \$2.90, Moncton: \$3.70, Truro: \$4.30, Saint John: \$4.80, Halifax: \$5.20, Antigonish: \$5.90, Sydney: \$9.50, Dartmouth: \$12.15, Montreal: \$13.00.