

The Public Accounts

Under our present system of presenting government reports on a fiscal rather than a calendar year basis, the tabling of the Public Accounts in the Legislature is not such a lively event as it was in the old days. The Accounts tabled yesterday are for the year ended March 31, 1958, and much water has gone under the bridge since that time. Nevertheless, they are an important document and doubtless will be studied carefully before the budget is brought down later in the session. They show total expenditures of \$14,247,731, representing an increase in liabilities of \$1,778,043 during the year, bringing total liabilities up to \$23,369,648, and the net funded debt to \$16,769,216.

A better showing is made in ordinary revenue and expenditures, which are the controllable items in government financing. Last year the Provincial Treasurer budgeted for a revenue surplus of \$863,591 for the year under review. The accounts show an actual surplus of \$1,073,145, which is pretty good going, provided there has been no curtailment in necessary services. We note that less than the estimated expenditure was incurred in debt charges and in the departments of health, public works and industry and natural resources. There were increases (for the most part slight) over the estimates in agriculture, fisheries, education, highways, welfare and labor, legislation, justice administration and general government.

The tax sharing allotment brought in \$4,136,000 from Ottawa during the year—by long odds our biggest revenue item. Subsidies, health and welfare grants and other items under ordinary revenue brought total federal contributions to \$5,561,956. Liquor sales (less health tax) grossed \$2,915,486, leaving a record net sales profit of \$984,138. Gas taxes amounted to \$2,301,473, and health taxes to \$546,356.

These figures are picked almost at random from the Accounts, which are quite voluminous and doubtless will be given close scrutiny by the Opposition. They are worth careful perusal by the general public as well. After all, it is their money!

Newfoundland Problem

West Indian importers who have complained about the quality of Canadian fish have been told that it was all a question of price. The Jamaicans, in search of lower prices, had turned to Iceland for supplies. These were of a quality not suited to the Jamaican taste and were packed in hessian sacking instead of wooden boxes and casks. Buying is again being diverted to Newfoundland, and it is hoped to get sales back to the former levels. But the crucial problem has always been the lower living standards of other producing countries, in most of which, moreover, subsidies, either overt or hidden, enable competitive prices to be offered. This means that quality has to be maintained on a distinctive level, if the Newfoundland industry is to prosper.

The St. John's Daily News notes, with some concern, that warnings against the over-production of heavy-salted fish have gone unheeded. As a consequence, there has been a shortage of good quality "shore" fish which is the light-salted, hard-dried fish the English first made in Newfoundland in the middle years of the sixteenth century.

There have been two chief reasons for this scarcity. One is that women no longer help in the making of fish and trap crews, when fish are running, have not the time to do more than put their daily catch down in heavy salt. The other is that the reward for heavy-salted fish in the Maritime markets is almost as good as the return likely to be received for spending painstaking weeks in the making of genuine "shore" fish. Artificial curing

establishments are still too few to allow them to produce large quantities of hard-cured cod.

"It seems to follow," says our St. John's contemporary, "that we must either persuade buyers to pay a premium price to justify the time and effort consumed in curing good quality light-salted fish or else we should look for a subsidy in the form of a premium paid for salt cod on a quality basis. The alternative may well be the gradual extinction of the art of making good shore codfish." And that, as anyone knows who has sampled the product, would be a pity.

Grim Fatality Figures

In his report to the Attorney General, tabled yesterday in the Legislature, R.C.M.P. Inspector Martin states that although highway traffic enforcement remained approximately the same during the year, twenty persons were killed in this Province as a result of motor vehicle accidents in 1958, compared with twelve killed in 1957. The number of non-fatal and property damage accidents has also shown a considerable increase. There has, of course, been an increase in the amount of traffic and in the number of car registrations, and the Inspector regards the conditions on our highways as "reasonably good," though there is still room for improvement.

We would be inclined to say that there is much room for improvement. Twenty highway fatalities in a year is truly alarming. We are by no means singular in the mounting death toll attendant upon greater use of our highways, but we cannot afford to view it complacently. We do not at all suggest that the R.C.M.P. is doing so. They are carrying out their duties very efficiently—one result being that in 1958, 348 operators' licenses were cancelled or suspended by the department concerned as compared with 287 for the previous year. Also they are able to report that they received the cooperation of a large majority of the motoring public. But in this small Province there is no reason why that co-operation should not be 100 per cent. There is no reason why we could not cut the death toll by at least 50 per cent this year, and it would then be far too high.

Some accidents of course are due to unavoidable circumstances; but others—many others—could be avoided. We trust that safety campaign activities will be accentuated this year, emphasizing last year's tragic record as a warning.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ted Leather, former Canadian who is now a member of the British House of Commons, said in Vancouver the other day that "the control of Canadian labour by America unions is a most peculiar form of colonialism". The sooner Canadian workers realize the truth of this and do something about getting rid of the colonialism, the better it will be for all concerned—except, of course, American labour Czars.

With all the money that is available for armaments these days, it is discouraging to read that a five-year program to rid the world of malaria threatens to collapse because of a serious financial shortage. This warning comes from the World Health Organization, which says that unless additional funds are received, the money and effort already spent on the programs may be wasted.

The British and the Russians have at last come to an agreement on a problem. They have accepted indefinite adjournment of a three-year commission—Canada, India and Poland—supervising the Laos armistice. The three countries suspended the commission's work last July. Britain and Russia were appealed to because they were co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference which arranged the armistice.

Each year in Canada, reports an exchange, heart disease in its many varieties kills 65,000 people, roughly half of the total deaths from all causes. More than 1,250,000 suffer from it in one form or another, 300,000 of them seriously disabled. It strikes hardest at those between 35 and 54—the years of the prime of life. It is civilization's Number One killer, and it is gaining. In just over a quarter-century, while the overall death rate fell from 10.7 to 8.2 per 1,000 of population, the death rate of cardio-vascular diseases rose from 4.1 to 4.9 per 1,000.



HEADING FOR A SHOWDOWN

OTTAWA REPORT

A Commission Appointment

By Patrick Nicholson
 The Civil Service Commission has appointed to the post of Assistant Queen's Printer Mr. Clifford B. Watt, aged 53, who has been an employee in the Government Printing Bureau for the past seven years.

There are several aspects of that appointment which may well be the subject of probing by any M.P.'s keenly concerned for the smooth working of the administration of our Federal Government.

In the first place, the appointment was made by the Civil Service Commissioners, which is proper. But from that point the foregoing is pertinent to ask whether the Civil Service Commissioners are acting smart enough to make our civil service as efficient and economic as it should be.

The appointment of the new Assistant Queen's Printer was made on the recommendation of a board set up by the Civil Service Commissioners to interview candidates for the post.

The interviewing board apparently consisted of five members. Mr. J. Neville, of the Personnel Selection Branch of the Civil Service Commission acted as chairman. Other members included the following: L.M. Chesley, assistant deputy minister (Requirements Division) of the Department of National Defence; Lucien Lalonde, deputy minister of Veterans Affairs; R. Merold, production manager of the United States Government Printing Office; C.M. de Salaberry, superintendent of the administrative services branch of the Queen's Printer.

The Wavering Course

Arthur Blakely in The Montreal Gazette

THE main line of attack employed by the Liberals in the new session, up to the present, is that the Government is weak, indecisive, doesn't know where it's going and isn't too sure where it came from.

Opposition Leader Lester Pearson sounded the charge when he entered the Throne Speech debate.

"In our view on this side of the House," he said severely, "it (the Government) has shown a genius not for following a straight and steady course but for confusion and contradiction, for wavering instability and, if I may add, a determination to lean positively on one man and negatively on the previous Government. Its oscillating and uncertain moves, its lack of steadiness and sureness—and I will have a great deal of documentary evidence to support that statement this afternoon—are in startling and depressing contrast to the vigorous, confident and crusading words that used to pour, if at times a little bit incoherently, from the mouths of its members."

Printing Bureau To make him deputy head of the bureau, and in fact to make him now acting Queen's Printer, seems rather like appointing the cashier in a restaurant to serve as acting head cook. It is likely to end in both cases in a terrible hash and a nasty stew.

OUR COSTLY BUREAU
 Perhaps some M.P. will probe this matter of practical knowledge and experience in printing in our Printing Bureau. Surely this is urgently needed there, at the very top; for in many cases you, the taxpayers, have to pay two or three times as much for government printing as it would cost to have the same job performed on contract by a commercial printer.

The Act of Parliament establishing the post of Queen's Printer states: "No person shall be appointed to that post unless he has been actively engaged for at least ten years in the business of printing or publishing."

Yet the person now appointed to serve as acting Queen's Printer is an accountant. That he has accounted in a printing office seems to be stretching the definition. Many an accountant in a printing shop might be ill-formed enough to think that "a flat bed press" is a device for ironing a "mat".

This appointment merits study by our elected representatives. Do we need foreigners to appoint our top civil servants? Might not our government service sometimes be strengthened by hiring experienced outsiders, especially when greater experience could thus be obtained? And is the Civil Service Commission acting in the best interests of the taxpayers by methods such as those adopted in this case?

OUR YESTERDAYS
 (From The Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
 (Feb. 13, 1934)
 Stately old Government House seldom if ever presented a more pleasing appearance than yesterday afternoon when His Honour Lt. Governor and Mrs. DeBlois received for the first time since taking up residence in this historical spot. His Honour was attended by his private secretary, M. Alban Farmer, and his aides—Camp, Col. G. Elliott, Full, Major J.R. Paton, Major W.J. MacDonald and Lt. Campbell Scarth.

Mr. Milton Stewart was elected president of the P.E.I. Branch of the Life Underwriters Association of Canada at the annual meeting held yesterday in the office of Mr. B.H. Hughes. Other officers include vice-president, William M. Flynn; secretary-treasurer, Mr. George W. MacLeod; vice-president for Prince County, Mr. S. M. Hicks.

TEN YEARS AGO
 (Feb. 13, 1949)
 Full enquiry into the basis of electric light and power rates will get underway this morning, Mr. W.R. Brennan, secretary of

violently, killed by terrorists or British security forces.

Violence raged between members of the Greek community, which totals 400,000, and the Turkish community, 100,000. Turkish Cypriots demanded partition of the island while the Greek Cypriots called for union with Greece and later independence.

ADAMANT STAND
 Only recently, EOKA denounced both a British partnership plan for the island introduced last October and a United Nations resolution last December. The UN resolution merely expressed confidence that Britain, Greece and Turkey would continue their efforts to find a just solution.

It is against this background that the Zurich agreement has been reached after two months of quiet diplomacy. This work went on during the NATO council of ministers in Paris in December and at the European Common Market conference in January, not to mention talks in Ankara and Athens.

For Britain, the matter was of vital importance because Cyprus has been her chief military outpost in the Middle East since the British evacuation of Egypt. The emergency has so far cost more than £20,000,000 and involved a total of 40,000 police and soldiers in the island of vineyards, which is only 140 miles long and 60 miles wide.

School-Age Child's Needs

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
 DO YOU have a school-age child?

If you do, lets take a sobering look at what type of accidents present the most danger to him. It might help you drum home the need for extra caution during certain periods of his life. According to statistics prepared by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, about 8,000 children from the age of 5 to 14 are killed by accidents each year.

CANCER LESS DEADLY
 Cancer, the second leading cause of childhood deaths, claims only about one-third as many lives annually.

An average of 28 out of every 100,000 American boys, and about 12 of every 100,000 girls, of school age will be killed in accidents this year.

While all children should be well versed in all types of safety, and should be fully aware of all dangers, you might want to stress the need for special caution to avoid the common types of accidents for your youngster's articular age group.

MOTOR VEHICLES
 If your child is between 5 and 9, motor vehicles probably present the greatest danger to him. At this age, three out of every five motor vehicle deaths result from children being struck as they cross or play in the street or driveway. Therefore, you can't over-emphasize warnings against playing in the streets or crossing against traffic lights.

Motor vehicles also are a major accident threat for youngsters from 10 to 14. However, in this age group, the danger lies in a youngster being struck by a vehicle while he is riding a bicycle.

HOME DANGERS
 That the home can be a dangerous place is also proved by statistics. They show that 16 per cent of the fatalities among school-age boys occur at home. The figure for girls is even greater, 30 per cent.

As for the younger girls, fires are a frequent cause of home accidents. In fact, between the ages of 5 and 9, fires rank second only to motor vehicles as the cause of death among girls.

Drownings also bring tragedy to many homes. Boys are victims more frequently than girls. Drownings account for 24 per cent of all fatalities among boys between the ages of 5 and 14; a death rate four times greater than for girls.

CHEERFUL NOTE
 If there is any cheerful thought in all of these statistics, it is this: While falls account for a great number of school-age injuries, they are seldom fatal to children. Apparently they have more "bounce to the ounce" than we older folks do.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
 Q: When is the best time to take vitamin tablets—before or after meals?
 A: Answer: It really makes no difference. They are, however, usually taken with meals.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Getting ready to baptize the infant, the padre asked, "His name, please?" The mother answered, "Montgomery Alfred Van Christopher McGoof." The padre spoke to the server: "A little more water, please."—Galt Reporter

Canada's newest economic symbol is the plastic toothpick. It is being waved, like a red flag before a bull, in front of the outraged eyes of the British Columbia lumber industry. What the toothpick lacks in size it makes up in significance. It represents the inroads other materials are making into territory previously regarded as the exclusive domain of timber.—Winnipeg Tribune

The P.E.I. Public Utilities Commission stated last evening. The investigation of the Maritime Electric Company rate structure was decided upon some time ago and the purpose of the enquiry was outlined by the Commission at that time.

His Honour Lt. Governor J.A. Bernard will attend a public gathering in the Community Hall at Tryon on Wednesday to present to Donald Lord, North Tryon an Honourary Testimonial from the Royal Canadian Humane Society for "heroic action and presence of mind in rescuing Boyd MacDonald from drowning in the Mill Pond, North Tryon, on July 17, 1946."

Immigration Minister Ellen Fairclough has brought to light some interesting facts which should do much to dispel the impression that immigrants are harmful to our economy. That such thoughts should be voiced at all in a country where everybody except a handful of Indians and Eskimos is either an immigrant or descendant of one, is incongruous. But, in times of high unemployment particularly, immigration is a favorite scapegoat of those who are reluctant or unable to analyze the facts.—Sherbrooke Record

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Let's End Cruelty to Royalty

Royal hands and feet do more than double duty on tour. In sympathy with their unnecessary burdens, a top flight parliamentary correspondent in Ottawa, Robert McKeown of The Everling Patriot's Weekend Magazine, offers some constructive criticism on the traditional rut into which the Royal Tours have fallen during the past 40 years. His article is a plea to officials to prevent the Royal Visit this summer from being another fatuous and fatiguing endurance test. As Princess Margaret candidly stated on a recent tour, "One gets so sick of accepting bouquets, inspecting guards of honor and shaking hands."

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The Zurich Agreement

By Joseph MacSwain
 Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Zurich "summit" plan for an independent Cyprus follows months of patient behind-the-scenes diplomatic work.

egic base would remain safe for NATO.