

Right Man For The Job

On the announcement of the resignation of Hon. C.P. McTague as chairman of the Royal Commission on Transportation, it was taken as a matter of course that he would be succeeded by Mr. M.A. MacPherson, the acting chairman who presided at the Commission hearings in Charlottetown and elsewhere since Mr. McTague's illness. But now come rumors from Ottawa of a move to have Mr. MacPherson disqualified by virtue of his past service as counsel for Saskatchewan in freight rate arguments.

We trust that there is nothing in these reports, or, if true, that the move will get short shrift from the Diefenbaker Government. Mr. MacPherson is a Maritimer, and he knows freight rate problems, East and West, perhaps better than any man in Canada. By any test of competence or conscientiousness it is difficult to see where the Government could get a better chairman.

This view is strongly endorsed by the Winnipeg Free Press, which says: "The notion that Mr. MacPherson, because of past associations, is partial to one side in the present inquiry is not merely unfair—it is unsupported by anything that has happened in the course of the hearings. A man of character and integrity, he has presided over the inquiry with scrupulous fairness to both sides. In addition, when difficult questions have arisen—having to do, for example, with the production or admissibility of evidence—he has been careful to avoid snap decisions, seeking first to narrow differences and then, through consultations with his colleagues, to obtain the collective judgement of the Commissioners. Certainly there has been no suggestion to the contrary from either side in the dispute."

We have no doubt that our Atlantic spokesmen are in full agreement with this Winnipeg comment, which goes on to point out that the present hearings are unusually difficult because they involve not only a clash of interests but also of powerful personalities. On a number of explosive occasions, Mr. MacPherson by his intervention succeeded in lowering the temperature and keeping the hearings on a steady course. He is certainly the right man for the job.

Electronic Farm Bosses

Farms some day may have a silent hand to guide them. This hand will have a college pedigree but no degree, and will never leave the laboratory. It will be an adaptation of technology to farm planning, and will tell a farmer just what he should plant or grow on his acres, and how much he should expect for them. It will be a complex and expensive electronic computing machine.

This is what the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station envisages—the day when the farmer will send in facts and figures about his farm—his yields, costs, climate, types of soil, available water, and so on—just as today he gathers up various samples of soil from around his place and sends them in to get advice on the amounts and kinds of nutrients he should use to get the best returns from his land.

When the facts and figures are fed into the computers, from these electronic brains will emerge a farm plan that should—it is said—net the farmer the most return for his investment of time, labor, and money. He will get information to help him decide, for instance, whether to continue planting his allotment of wheat, potatoes, barley, or some other crop, or to cut down and turn to more livestock.

Such a system of planning already has been put to use on a limited basis in Texas. In Sherman County, near where the Texas Panhandle meets the Oklahoma Panhandle, a group of farmers are watching closely the re-

sults of a planned operation based on the findings of computers operated by a private farm service. The data fed into the machines included the size of farms, capital available, probable returns on various crops, labor costs, soil and climate conditions, and other bits of information. From this came 24 different plans, each tailored to a particular operation.

The Texas Experimental Station has started a computer project which will have a much broader impact than just producing information for farmers. It is gathering data on cotton production in three areas of the state, which will be fed in a sectional basis into a computer along with every reasonable level of prices and acreage restrictions. The experts expect the machine to produce information which could influence the economic future of each region under each price and acreage situation.

This may result in taking the uncertainty out of farming operations, but it raises a lot of questions of another kind. Are we entering an era when human skills will be subordinated entirely to scientific gadgets, that will do not only manual chores for us, but our thinking as well? Truly, "the old order changeth, yielding place to new; and God fulfils himself in many ways." But there is something terrifying about the dehumanizing of man's oldest industry in this fashion.

Orderly Selling Appeal

The attention of our farm readers is directed to the appeal which has been made through the Federal Department of Agriculture in advance of the change-over in government price support for hogs, from direct purchases to deficiency payments. Producers are warned against a last minute marketing rush on the part of those wanting to beat the January 9 change-over deadline.

Clogging the market would mean delayed slaughter, delayed settlement, and unnecessary shrinkage. Furthermore, it would probably create an over-supply of underweight hogs, which provide a product not wanted by the trade. Lightweight hogs are subject to discount of at least \$3.50 per hundredweight below the price for Grade A.

Even if the price does fall when the deficiency payment scheme goes into effect, the farmer will still gain by selling his hogs at market weight in that he will (1) get a better price from the packer, (2) get a Government premium on A and B grades, and (3) be eligible for the deficiency payment on A and B grade hogs.

The present offer-to-purchase program will take in all hogs marketed up to and including Saturday, January 9. The deficiency payment system will affect all hogs marketed on and after Monday, January 11. Producers who have not registered for participation in the deficiency payment program should apply immediately.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is a saddening thought that the Christmas-New Year season will open up, unnecessarily, new graves in the cemeteries. Men, women and children will be killed by impaired or drunken drivers. And of the two classes, it is the impaired rather than the drunken drivers who will likely do the most harm. It takes longer for them to wind up in a ditch, or fall asleep behind the wheel.

Here's a surprising trend in California education: Summer school is attracting more high school pupils each year. The state department of education reports one out of every four public high school pupils was enrolled in class during the 1959 summer. Educators pointed out there were 157 school districts offering summer classes in 1959, as compared with 116 last year.

The importance of immigration to Canada's prosperity was underlined in a speech recently by Immigration Minister Ellen Fairclough. Since the end of World War 11, Mrs. Fairclough noted, nearly 1,800,000 immigrants have come to Canada. In the years 1950-1958 immigrants have established 2,358 small businesses in Canada, have spent more than \$28 million in doing so, and have created employment for nearly 9,000 persons. On the farm front, in those same years the newcomers bought 3,879 farms and rented 849 others; purchase price of the farms was over \$43 million, and down payments totaled \$14 million. Not subject to exact measurement is the indirect contribution of 1,800,000 persons—better than 10 per cent of our present total population—as consumers.



THE HONEYMOONERS

OTTAWA REPORT

Partnership For Prosperity

By Patrick Nicholson

Ten years ago, Canada proposed that the North Atlantic alliance should be a partnership for prosperity as well as for defence. Our Foreign Minister, Hon. L. B. Pearson, predicted that this alliance was "the foundation on which may be built an economic commonwealth, and perhaps even a political commonwealth, of the western world."

"No vision less than this will do," he asserted. Our European allies got that vision. But their hopes were dashed by the refusal of the two North American members of the alliance—Canada and U.S.A.—to make any move to implement this economic partnership, although it was included in the treaty which they had solemnly signed.

Nevertheless, inspired by such visionaries as Britain's Winston Churchill and encouraged by such planners as France's Jean Monnet, many of our European allies decided to move ahead without us laggards. They began the enthusiastic planning of a Brave New Trading World, which would see all their workers enjoying shorter hours, their pay exerting greater purchasing power, gadgets taking the drudgery out of their wives' home-making, and

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

"LITTLE WILD THINGS"

Sir,—Replying to Miss Carrie Holman's criticism of wild life shooting, I would gently remind this lady that many of her fair sex would be sadly disappointed if they were denied the privilege of showing off in their new fur coats made from domestic and wild animals, such as chinchilla, ermine, persian lamb, otter, the seal that cries like a human baby when shot, and hundreds of others including our domestic lamb which goes to the slaughter by the thousands right on P.E.I. The lamb is the most innocent of all animals, and the name has sacred connotations in our Christian religion.

In many ways the world seems hard. The farmer, for instance, must refrain from making pets of his animals, knowing well their destiny is the slaughter house.

Wishing Miss Holman the season's greetings, knowing well her high ideals in life. But those rabbits made a lot of choice meals right on Prince Edward Island. I am, Sir, etc., GLEN MATTHEWS, Alberton.

"NO ROOM IN THE INN"

Sir,—At this festive time we read a lot about that first Christmas day, because for centuries people had lived and died waiting hoping and praying for that great day that they did not live to see. Many grew weary gazing at the sky for a sign of the promised Redeemer and when that great day did arrive what happened? The Blessed Mother had to travel on a donkey in her painful state on a miles seeking a place to deliver the Saviour of mankind to the world. But there was no room for her in the inn; she had to go with the animals of the fields into the darkness of the stable and find a straw-filled manger for the Christ child who had come to redeem mankind. The same picture is flashed to us today. How many children are hungry and cold in stable-like shelters, how many unwanted children in shelters and orphanages; many whose parents are "living it up," big shots who brought or caused those children to come into the world. They did not ask to come here; now there is no room in the inn. A few months ago a party of Russian big-wigs visited this side of the Atlantic. There was plenty

Study Brings Welcome News NOTES BY THE WAY

Admittedly, the man who was first to eat an oyster was brave, as reputed. And the man who first attacked a grapefruit in a breakfast nook was by no means "chicken."—Hamilton Spectator

Disc jockeys who receive bribes for playing dubious records should be punished severely, notwithstanding the fact that they have already suffered considerable punishment through listening to the said records.—Sudbury Star

Hearing that a man in the village had reached the age of a hundred the reporter interviewed a neighbor. "You must be very proud of him," he remarked. "Oh I don't know," he replied. "The only thing he's ever done is grow old, and he's taken a mighty long time over that."—Hamilton Spectator

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Dec. 23, 1934) The C.G.S. Brant made an unsuccessful attempt this forenoon to open a passage through the harbour ice to allow the Rocky Point Ferry to continue making her trips. On return to her berth at the Marine Wharf exceptionally heavy ice was reported.

TEN YEARS AGO

(Dec. 23, 1949) Two retired railway men, Ross McEwen, former chief train dispatcher, and Chester H. Craswell, freight checker, received presentations at gatherings of fellow workers yesterday afternoon. The gathering for Mr. McEwen was held in the assembly hall at the station building. Mr. Craswell was remembered by fellow workers of the freight department in the freight office.

MAXIMS

Greatness is a two-faced coin — and its reverse is humility.

strept infections and subsequent attacks of rheumatic fever were compared with the frequency such conditions developed among children receiving anti-strep prophylaxis.

The doctors found that the older group had fewer strept infections and fewer recurrent attacks of rheumatic fever than did the younger group which was specifically being given drugs to prevent such infections.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. D. R.: I am 70 years old and in very good health, but the past year I have had blackout spells. They last one minute, no longer.

What causes these blackouts? I don't have high blood pressure.

Answer: "Black-out spells" in a person of 70 may be due to one of several causes such as hardening of the arteries, small strokes, heart disease or low blood sugar.

You should see your doctor, who may determine the cause in your case and prescribe suitable treatment to prevent these attacks.

THE AGE OLD STORY

He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that receiveth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Henderson & Cudmore SPORT SHIRT SALE H & C's own Joe Murphy has done it again... and just in time for last minute giving to o! He has gathered outstanding collection of the finest sport shirts from regular stock, manufactured to sell for from \$5.00 to \$7.95... In order to give your last minute shopping a big lift Joe is offering the top quality shirts at just 3.89. Drop in and see them today! \$3.89 I. Miller, Arrow, Bluestone, RaVela Plaids, Checks, Plains, Continentals SAVE ON THREE... 3 for \$10. HENDERSON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE