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Nation of civil servants

SIMPLY because Professor C. Northcote Parkinson has the happy faculty of writing clear-cut witty prose many people seem to think that he is merely joking with his now famous First and Second Parkinson's Laws.

—Prof. Parkinson's First Law—"Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion"—is really no joke but an easily observable phenomenon in any organization where a large part of the staff is engaged in directing the efforts of others—any civil service is a good example of this, but there are many other good examples in private business.

The Second Law—"Expenditure rises to meet income"—can be attested to by any observant person who has ever received as much as a $5-a-week raise in pay, and is also particularly applicable to expenditure by government at all levels.

Getting back to the First Law, we have just read where the federal civil service has increased by 309 per cent since 1938, while the population level of Canada as a whole has increased by only 55 per cent.

Admittedly there have been other factors at work besides Parkinson's Law. There has been the tremendous proliferation of federal regulation of private business (not all of it a bad thing, but excessive in total), the great increase in social welfare measures (again not necessarily bad in itself, but costly and awkward to administer), and the heavy ownership by government of businesses in direct and indirect competition with private business.

But even granting the outside factors, consider a projection of this increase of the federal civil service, so far ahead of the normal population increase, and the whole thing becomes frightening.

With Parkinson's Law at work and dictating that in the civil service, as in any organization, the number of subordinates will multiply at a predetermined rate regardless of the amount of work that the staff will turn out, the prospect is that Canada will soon become a nation of civil servants. And as the number of non-civil servants falls in relation to the civil servants the tax load to support this will grow heavier.

Perhaps, just perhaps, Prime Minister Diefenbaker's proposed "Hoover-type" commission to investigate waste, extravagance and over-lapping of work in the civil service can mitigate somewhat the effects of Parkinson's Law. But when we consider the civil service increase—more than 10,000 persons—just since the start of the Diefenbaker regime, we confess to having doubts.

—The Calgary Albertan.

Victoria Report by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—The campaign for the next election will likely be one of the bitterest on the record—and we've had some plenty bitter ones, in our turbulent, fascinating political history.

It will be a campaign of personalities, with Opposition Leader Strachan concentrating on the Premier and Highways Minister Gaglardi, and they on him.

On the hustings, away from Mr. Speaker's pounding gavel and stern warnings, and determination to put up with no unparliamentary talk; your MLA's will really let go, if the recent session by any criterion.

Of course, your MLA's won't be MLA's during the campaign, for the House will be dissolved, and there won't be any MLA's. Your MLA's of today will be just candidates, but not quite like any other candidates who have not sat in the House. Sitting in the House, you see, gives a great deal of prestige.

At the recent session, even with Mr. Speaker presiding, the opposing politicians didn't hold back very much. They let themselves go; there was plenty of name-calling.

Mr. Strachan said Mr. Bennett's is an arrogant government, contemptuous of the people and of the Legislature. The Premier, hearing this, cried out "Smear, smear, smear;" all the CCF can do, he said, when on a hot spot, when embarrassed by the good deeds of the SC government, is smear everything and everybody in sight, if they're not CCF.

CCF Mr. Gargrave of Mackenzie said that in his dealing with Wenner-Gren the Premier is utterly unscrupulous—strong words for the legislative chamber. On the hustings the word unscrupulous could well be turned into the word crook.

Liberal George Gregory said Wenner-Gren's a scoundrel—nothing but a scoundrel. This was Mr. Gregory's way of calling the Premier a scoundrel, too.

Highways Minister Gaglardi said CCF'ers are bugs that will be exterminated by SC at the next election, and CCF'ers said Mr. Gaglardi's an ignorant clown.

The recent session, for days on end, seemed dull. But was it, looking back? Why, we had charges that the SC government's accepting what Mr. Strachan called political payola from the B.C. Electric and other big business, and we heard Mr. Strachan say that Highways Minister Gaglardi hands out patronage to defeated Social Credit candidates by giving them road contracts, a charge which Mr. Gaglardi denied vigorously, voice trembling, eyes popping, and shouting that Strachan should put up proof or shut up forthwith, which Strachan will not.

So, it's easy to see we're going to have a high old time when the election campaign gets under way, but when that will be nobody knows.

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Mrs. Lois Haggen, MLA for Grand Forks-Greenwood, her sessional duties for this year behind her, is now in action making plans for annual meeting of B.C. Historical Association, of which she's president.

Mrs. Haggen has placed a fine feather in her cap—she has been able to arrange the meeting, for the first time in the association's history, away from Victoria and Vancouver.

It's going to be a three-day affair, in May, in Penticton.

"There is much more to British Columbia than Victoria and Vancouver, important as those cities may be," says the charming Mrs. Haggen, who thinks the vast hinterland of B.C. has too long been ignored in favor of the giants on the coast.

A highlight of the meeting will be a paper by Vancouver school teacher Neil Sutherland on the life and works of Thomas Dufferin Pattullo, B.C.'s 1933-41 Premier, and one of the most colorful personalities in our political history.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Disarmament talks likely to drift until May

By ED SIMON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The tabling of a Western plan for disarmament control two weeks after the present negotiations began is another indication of the extraordinarily business-like pace of the Geneva talks.

To an outsider, it might appear that two weeks of questions and answers on general aspects of the rival Eastern and Western disarmament proposals scarcely represents a headlong approach to the subject, particularly when the discussions contain a strong element of repititious propaganda.

But many old Geneva hands confidently predicted that the 10-power talks would drift comfortably on at least until the summit conference next May with Russia and her satellites extolling the virtues of tackling disarmament before controls and the West emphasizing the necessity of defining controls before proceeding to disarmament.

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Until all diplomats become fluent in a single language, the inevitable pause for study of official transcripts prevents international conferences from achieving the cut-and-thrust of parliamentary debate. Attempts at on-the-spot rebuttal are impeded by the uncertainties of on-the-spot translation.

While the West's 10-point plan contains nothing intrinsically new, it offers fresh material for future question-and-answer sessions. The West, while anxious to get the Russians to spell out their idea of controls, has not previously attempted a systematic definition of its own views on the subject.

Judging by past performance, the Russians initially are not likely to depart from their present argument that a basic agreement on a disarmament treaty must precede discussion of controls. But a few peripheral points of agreement could emerge from the discussion.

Apart from an unexpected development in the current Macmillan-Eisenhower meetings, a decisive breakthrough will probably have to await the summit talks. But the delegates have a lot of ground to cover. Every minor agreement marks a step along the way.

A Bible Thought for Today

It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby my brother stumbleth, or is offended or is made weak. Romans 14:21.

PRINCESS MARGARET and her fiancee Antony Armstrong-Jones, who she will wed in Westminster Abbey May 6, are shown at the Royal Lodge at Windsor reading one of the many congratulatory telegrams they received after the announcement of their engagement. —U.K. Information Office photo.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

We are fouling the earth and sea with "atomic garbage" from nuclear power plants.

Walter Schneir sounds the alarm in the current issue of the Reporter magazine.

Barrels of radioactive waste are being dumped in the sea. Nobody knows how many of the barrels burst and spill their contents on the way down. Even those that reach the ocean floor safely are expected to corrode in 10 years.

Britain is piping quantities of atomic wastes into the Irish Sea. A British scientist has found levels of radioactivity at the water's edge more than 100 times the level of shore sand.

Shellfish and plankton soak up radioactivity and concentrate it thousands and millions of times.

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So--called low-level atomic wastes are being dumped in American lakes and rivers.

Scientist Louis A. Krumholz checked Oak Lake, where "partially purified" atomic wastes are discharged. He found that fish grew more slowly, died younger than was normal for the species. Strontium-90 had been absorbed into the bones of bluegills and crappies in concentrations 20,000 to 30,000 times that found in the waters of the lake.

A former common species, the white crapple, had died out. Another the redhorse, had nearly disappeared. Only 50 individuals were found, all three or four years old.

A muskrat that had been feeding on water plants near Oak Ridge had a huge amount of radioactivity in its bones. Much radioactivity was concentrated in the muskrat's cancerous right hind leg.

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As more nuclear power stations and nuclear ships are built, more waste will be discharged into the earth and water.

That's the picture. Soothing talk from America's Atomic Energy Commission won't stop the damage. And if the AEC finally admits being wrong, apologies won't sweeten a polluted world.

In a few years we may have power from nuclear fusion, instead of nuclear fission. Fusion gives off no poisonous wastes. Meanwhile, must we go on building nuclear fission power plants? This is the question that Walter Schneir poses.

It is a question of world importance. It is too big a thing to be waffled away by press-agentry, as the AEC has tried to do.

If radio active wastes are as grave a problem as the Reporter magazine's survey would indicate, the building of nuclear power plants should be stopped now.

Canada and other countries should launch a protest in the United Nations General Assembly. They should work for a world-wide anti-pollution authority, with arms that could reach across international boundaries.

Other power sources besides nuclear fission can be found. And if there were no other power sources we would be wiser to return to candles and horse-drawn trollies, rather than clog our globe with nuclear filth.

gems of thought

The perfectly natural is the perfectly spiritual.
—Mary Baker Eddy.

How majestic is naturalness, I have never met a man whom I really considered a great man who was not always natural and simple.
—Charles G Dawes.

Naturalness in its deepest sense is the criterion of worth in this world.
—Sam Campbell.

Nothing so much prevents our being natural as the desire of appearing so.
—La Rochefoucauld.

What is true, simple and sincere is most congenial to man's nature. —Cicero.

Natural objects themselves, even when they make no claim to beauty, excite the feelings, and occupy the imagination.
—Karl W. Humboldt.

With the classics

The naked earth is warm with spring,
And with green grass and bursting trees
Leans to the sun's gaze glorying,
And quivers in the sunny breeze;
And life is color and warmth and light,
And a striving evermore for these;
And he is dead who will not fight;
And who dies fighting has increase.
—Julian Grenfell.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

On April 26, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada will celebrate its 100th anniversary as Canada's oldest regiment. It has at present three battalions—the first permanent force, at the regimental depot in Calgary; the second, permanent force on duty in Germany; and the third, or militia battalion, in Toronto the home city of the unit created by the Militia Act of Canada 20 years before Confederation.

From all over Canada, the United States and abroad, ex-members of the regiment who served with it or were raised by it in the first and second great wars will be foregathering at Calgary, Toronto and Iserlohn, Germany, for the formalities and celebrations of the centenary. Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein is coming to honor the regiment at the great dinner April 30 at the Royal York, in Toronto. On April 28 he will visit Upper Canada College to open the memorial doors of the new building of the college associated with the regiment from its inception. On Friday, April 29 the Rifles Ball will be held under two auspices, the officers' mess at the Royal York, and the sergeants' mess at Casa Loma. On Sunday, May 1, the Field Marshal will read the lesson and take the salute at the 100th anniversary church parade at St. Paul's Anglican church, Toronto. At Canterbury Cathedral, England, a regimental drum emblazoned with all the battle honors of the regiment will be hung in the Warrior's Chapel.

With three battalions alive and kicking, and some thousands of its veterans spread all over creation, here is tradition a hundred years old and amassing.

Laugh, or be dubbed

We were among those whose favorite reactions were spontaneous and unrehearsed, live and direct, when the television networks announced, a while back, that henceforth they were swearing off even the little bitty kinds of deceit.

We got a clearer, if not necessarily impressive, picture of what that meant when, after certain shows, we began to hear announcements telling us that the programs had been pre-recorded and that applause and laughter had been dubbed in.

Although we admired the candor, we wondered if the honesty drive wouldn't have been better served if the laughter and applause had been left out instead of branded as fake.

Now the campaign has gone a step further. The other night, after an alleged comedy show, it was announced that the show had been "taped before a live audience with reaction technically augmented."

What device or devices were used to augment the reactions of the live, but taped, audience, we do not know.

But our un-augmented reaction is that even the dubbed-in enthusiasm of a non-existent audience is to be preferred to the somehow hypoed enjoyment of live people who evidently didn't like the comedy enough to do what ought to come naturally. —Denver Post.

The fifth estate

By CASSANDRA, from London

The First Estate is that of the Lords Spiritual. The Second Estate is that of the Lords Temporal. The Third Estate is the House of Commons. The Fourth Estate (unlicensed and un-blessed) is the press. And the Fifth Estate, I suggest, is the trade union movement.

Never, ever, has it sunk so low.

It has good and great causes. It has, at the moment, burning grievances. But it is split asunder. Grudge rivals spite. Hesitation is married to doubt and allegations of chicanery over the ballot box cloud the malodorous air.

How the Tolpuddle Martyrs must weep.

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