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Canada must pay to produce top athletes

IT isnt often that we agree with what a Social Credit member of the legislature has to say but when Skeena MLA Hugh Shirreff says Canada's athletic program is the cause for a good laugh, we must agree right down the line. Strangely enough we are in accord for the same reasons.

If the emphasis in Canada at the moment is on the egghead, which is good, what were we doing before the Russians panicked us into the realization that we had better produce some technicians and scientists? Since the days of Percy Williams, you can count on your hands the number of individual athletes who have won honors for Canada. Our hockey teams, once they realized that Russia wasn't fooling, haven't done too badly. But our runners, skiers, even our skaters with the exception of Barbara Ann Scott, our jumpers, rugby teams, swimmers tag along steeped in mediocrity behind the rest of the world. Once in awhile a Terry Tobacco out of a tiny town like Cumberland, Vancouver Island gives us hope, but we usually settle for second, third or fourth place.

It seems to us that somewhere between the high school level and university and perhaps afterwards there is a lack either of support or interest. Most of the good high schools have concentrated sports programs and the inter-city track and field and swimming meets produce a high calibre of competition.

After that the competitors seem to fade away. The Canadian universities fail to bring forth any athletic stars and those who do succeed after their high school years usually do so on their own. Even the University of B.C. rowing team which won Canada a gold medal in the Olympics had to finance itself to compete abroad.

Athletic scholarships are not the answer as our universities are crowded enough as it is. The answer appears to be Canada-wide government sponsored clinics which will provide good athletes with the opportunity to train and compete under the best possible instructors. Then perhaps, after a few years, Canada can hold its head up among countries of the Commonwealth, which though much smaller and possessing not a quarter of the resources and favorable living conditions that Canada does, manage to raise tough, keen and winning athletes. A country as rugged and proud of its strength as Canada shouldn't have to play second fiddle to anyone.

Mr. Fulton makes it clear

Justice Minister Fulton's blunt and forceful warning to Washington to stop meddling in what are purely Canadian economic affairs is a welcome departure from the habit of feebleness in our diplomatic protests which has been getting us exactly nowhere. In his New York speech, Mr. Fulton made it perfectly clear that companies operating in Canada, regardless of ownership or origin, are subject to Canadian law only.

Mr. Fulton charged that the recent U.S. anti-trust action against U.S. companies and their Canadian subsidiaries constitutes more interference in commercial affairs in Canada "than is fitting or acceptable;" that it interfered "directly, substantially and deliberately with matters that are essentially Canadian commerce in Canada." Such cases, Mr. Fulton added, "appear to illustrate a tendency apparent in the field of foreign affairs, as well as anti-trust, for U.S. authorities to regard foreign subsidiaries of U.S. parent companies merely as projections of U.S. trade and commerce" and thereby subject to U.S. policies, lawe and customs.

Some U.S. congressional committees, and some departments of the U.S. government think of American branch plants or subsidiaries operating in Canada as being in exactly the same category as American branch plants or subsidiaries operating say in California, Alaska or Kansas. They do not see mto realize that Canada is a foreign and independent country.

It is to be hoped Canadian officials follow Fulton's example when necessary. In the past, our people have usually been too namby-pamby.

—The Financial Post.

New boundary deal?

When the United States won the Alaska boundary dispute, with the help of the British arbitrator, it secured the Panhandle and shut northern Canada off from the Pacific. But the Panhandle barred Alaska from the headwaters of the northward-flowing Yukon, one of the largest potential sources of electricity in the world.

Now that it has all the powers of a state, Alaska is taking a second look at the Yukon and wondering whether the old boundary award is really as satisfactory as it once appeared.

Alaska needs Yukon power if it is to develop large coastal industries and some of its leading men think they know how to get it. If Canada were given a corridor through the Panhandle and a port on the sea, they think, the diversion of the Yukon might be approved in Ottawa.

If such a deal—unprecidented in American history—is actually proposed to Canada it will have to be examined with care. For we are dealing here with a huge national asset which, though unused at present, may be of incalculable value later on.

One aspect of Canadian policy is, or should be inflexible: If the Yukon is to be harnessed by international agreement Canada must be guaranteed a full share of the resulting power. Canada must be able to secure, when it is needed, years hence, far more power than the Canadian industries use today.

—The Victoria Times

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Dulles finding new friends in adversity

By ED SIMON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The news of the temporary withdrawal of State Secretary Dulles from the international scene left many Europeans feeling like an audience that has come to boo the villain of a melodrama and discovered that his place is being taken by an understudy.

In the Western alliance, Dulles is a man who commands respect rather than love. But, like many men before him, he is discovering new friends in his hour of adversity.

During the Suez crisis, when the wisdom of military action against Egypt was heatedly debated on every street-corner, the disputants were united in the conviction that Dulles was largely to blame. He had been too friendly, or not friendly enough, to the Egyptians. He had been obsessed with, or oblivious of, the danger of Communist penetration in the Middle East.

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Similar sentiments were heard after the crisis arose over West Berlin. There was [illegible] lest he provoke war by being unduly firm with the Russians. There was also fear that he might appease the Russians by being too firm.

Yet when Dulles took to his hospital bed, the chorus of sympathy was swelled by voices unaccustomed to singing his praises. Randolph Churchill, who favors a tough line against the Russians, said "he has saved peace without betraying freedom."

The Daily Herald, a London newspaper which favors European disengagement, said "his unswerving devotion to his cause and his country compels the admiration of the Western World."

In retrospect, it appears that Dulles has taken pains to put his house in order before applying for sick leave. His recently completed tour of Western capitals presumably gave him ample opportunity to compare notes on a common approach to cold war problems.

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The announcement from the White House made it clear that the 70-year-old secretary had no intention of delegating any more than day-to-day responsibilities to his subordinates. He would be "available for consultation" and would concentrate on "the complicated and grave problems" of West Berlin.

Presumably, Dulles expects an early report from Prime Minister Macmillan on his impending visit to Moscow. And, the White House laid special emphasis on the assurance that the tough old warrior expects to be back in his seat when the big four foreign ministers hold their next conference.

By that time, most of his old critics will have applied themselves again to the duty of pointing out the error of his ways. But their current expressions of esteem offer an object lesson to those who live in hope or fear of a breakup in the Western alliance.

All aboard

By G. E. MORTIMORE

Whenever someone is kind enough to write a letter to this column, I put it aside carefully to answer. As you have already guessed, I often put it aside so carefully that I can't find it again.

I don't throw it away. I have a horror of throwing anything away. If I were more ruthless, and not so kindly disposed toward inanimate objects, my life would be better organized.

The letter is there, mind you. But for the time being, I can't turn it up. The letter is just as thoroughly lost as if I had sealed it in a lead envelope and dropped it in the sea.

The person who wrote it waits for a reasonable time, then dismisses me as a boor and forgets the incident.

Months or years afterwards, the letter works its way up through the shifting mass of debris to the surface, and I find it in the time-honored way, while looking for something else.

My response to any sort of letter is much the same as that of a dog to a bone. After I have chewed it for a few minutes and barked several times with joy, I bury it for safety, and forget where it is.

I don't care how bad a letter it is, either. The thing can be reeking with abuse and maggoty with errors of fact, but it tastes like porterhouse to me.

Someone has taken the trouble to write the letter. That person may despise me. However, he or she was interested enough to send a message. That's the thought that makes even a mouldy letter taste good.

However, if there is one kind of letter that I enjoy less than others, it is the missive without a name.

Often a letter needs to be made clearer, or to be cleansed of libel, before it is of any use. You can't print the stuff, because it isn't fit for the public eye. And you can't write to a person who identifies himself only as "Eternal Vigilance," or "Ech."

From now on, anonymous letters will still be greeted here with small yelps of pleasure, but (unless in extraordinary circumstances) they will not be printed.

If a citizen wishes to make his views public through this column without his name, he can sometimes do so. However, I must have the name for myself, so that I can contradict the writer and tell him that he is a scoundrel, too—a likable and public-spirited scoundrel, of course. This means you, "Nauseated."

The flag

From the Port Elgin Times

We feel obliged to record our opinion that Premier Leslie Frost performed an act that was long overdue when he chose to fly the Red Ensign as Canada's flag at Queen's Park. It has been in use as Canada's flag for at least 85 years and we have looked on it as such both here and overseas (especially overseas) for a long time.

Like the Premier, we saw service in the Kaiser's War when it was generally recognized as the distinguishing emblem of Canadian troops. We also served under it in Hitler's War. With those precedents we see no reason why it should not be in more general use at home.

'Vahse'

From te London Free Press

Experts who are studying variations in Canadian pronunciations have found that our common tongue is spoken in some uncommon ways. In Toronto you buy coal oil; in Montreal you ask for kerosene. If you announce for the CBC you say "shedule." Otherwise it's "skedule."

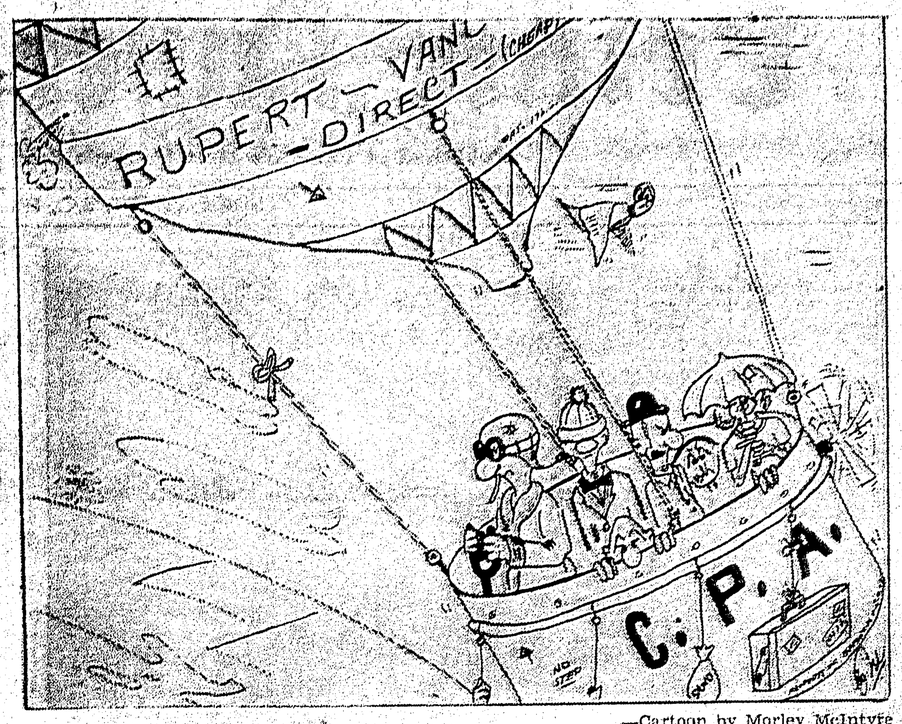
We didn't realize, though, that the word "vase" has regional pronunciation too. It was always our understanding that a "vahse" was just a vase that cost more than ten dollars.

Love

From the Charlottetown Patriot

Most of us become embarrassed by talk of love. We tell ourselves that life is hard and that it will beat us down unless we grapple with it fiercely. Our response is to the call of realism, even though it be stern, and not to tenderness, lest it seem soft.

Yet it remains permanently true that love, not hate, is the ultimate strength; and that only goodness, which is something quite different from exhortations to do good, leads to the growth of that which is good in the minds, hearts and deeds of men.



—Cartoon by Morley McIntyre

Illogical indulgence

From the Victoria Colonist

One of the most hotly disputed statutes in Canada is the Lord's Day Act, under which many things done as a matter of course by millions of people every Sunday are deemed to be unlawful. It is a law above all others which is more honored in the breach than in the observance; yet for 53 years it has stood on the statute books of the Dominion unaltered.

Now to heighten conflict as to what a citizen may or may not do on the Lord's Day, along comes the Supreme Court with a ruling saying in effect that the law does not apply to everybody. Because it is an agent of the Crown the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has been held to be exempt from the provisions of the Lord's Day Act though its functions and activities differ in no relevant way from those of its competitors operating as private companies. This is the same as saying that the government if it operated a hardware store could do business on Sunday when all others must close.

Parliament in 1906 when it passed the act surely could not have contemplated anything so absurdidly illogical as this. Succeeding governments have lacked the courage to submit the Lord's Day Act to revision in the light of the changes which have taken place in the way of living during the past half-century. Aside from all the other inconsistencies which have appeared from time to time, the discovery of this technicality making possible the granting of a discriminatory indulgence should convince the present government that the law needs to be re-examined. There is little point in attempting to enact a Bill of Rights while the Lord's Day Act in its present form remains in force.

Civic questions . . . and answers

This is one of a series of questions on city affairs, problems and projects to which Mayor P. J. Lester has offered to provide answers. Questions should be sent to "Civic Questions and Answers," City Hall, Prince Rupert, together with name and address. The answers do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper.

Q. What is the purpose of the parking restrictions on city streets from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m.?

A. The basic intention is to encourage car owners to construct off-street parking. It also assists in making snow removal easier.

Not fantastic -

From The Montreal Gazette

Even two years ago it would have sounded fantastic for anyone to declare that space law is a requirement for future peace. But the developments in space probing have been tremendous during the last 15 months.

Mandatory suspension

British Columbia traffic authorities searching for ways to reduce the numbers of traffic deaths and accidents due to excessive speed might find it profitable to study the state laws of New Jersey.

In that state speed limits range from 25 to 50 miles an hour on streets and highways. Under a new law which went into effect at the beginning of 1959 any driver exceeding the speed limit becomes liable to mandatory suspension of his licence. For a first offence the period of suspension is a fixed 30 days, which is doubled for a second offence. A third conviction calls for revocation of licence for an indefinite period. That is the law, and from now on the New Jersey traffic courts have no say as to whether a speeding driver shall keep or forfeit his licence.

This system of mandatory withdrawal of driving privileges is not an experiment. It has been adopted by the State of New Jersey three years after being put into effect in Connecticut. Legislation directed against excessive speed, as the chief cause of traffic deaths and serious accidents, was adopted in Connecticut in 1956. Since then the licences of nearly 22,000 motorists have been suspended.

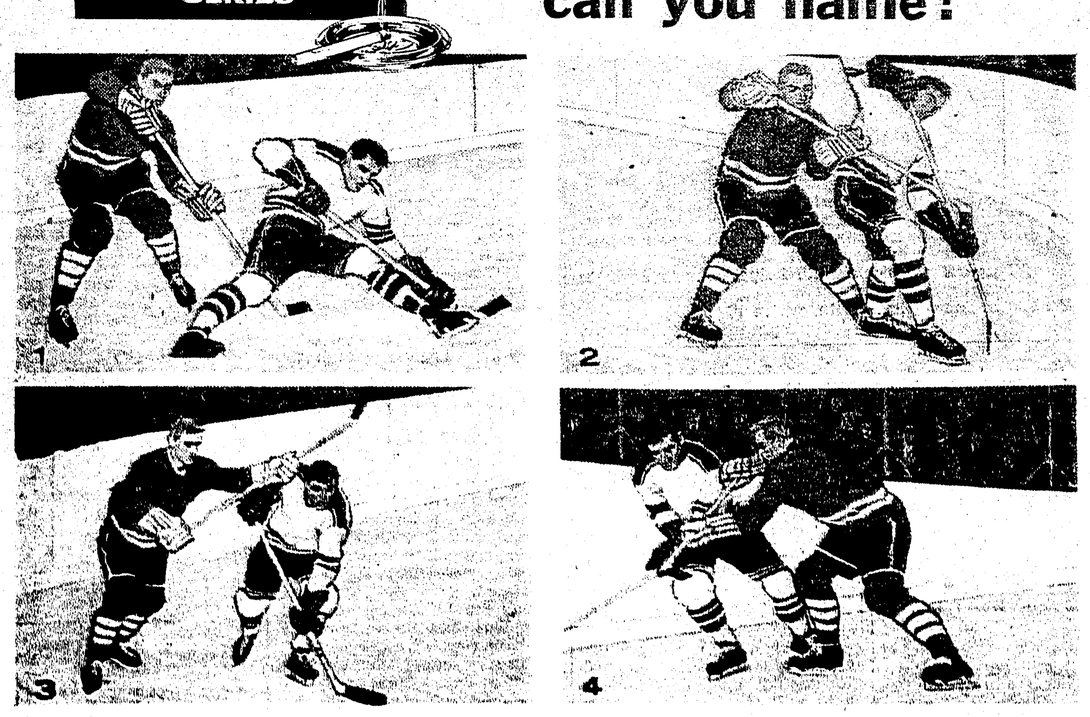
In New Jersey the new law against speeding has been described as hysterical by some of the automobile clubs. The significant fact remains, however, that last year Connecticut was rated as the safest state in which to drive. The attainment of that record by a state which used not to have a paricularly good one would appear to be more than a coincidence.

Anguished pleas in court show that lawbreaking drivers generally value their licences more than their money, and suspension is viewed as worse punishment than a fine, even a fairly heavy one. In this province the practice of letting speeders off with fines appears to be an ineffective weapon against dangerous driving.

The Boy Scout movement in Canada numbered more than 250,000 in 1958, compared with 110,000 in 1949.

ANOTHER ONE OF THE Sportsman CIGARETTE SERIES

How many of these hockey infractions can you name?



1. TRIPPING. Most common of penalties. Called on player who trips opponent with his stick, leg or arm.
2. HOOKING. The use of blade end of stick as a "hook" on opponent's body. Player may hook opponent's stick.
3. HIGH-STICKING. Carrying of sticks above normal shoulder height. Often called on two opponents simultaneously.
4. CROSS-CHECKING. Misuse of the stick when check is delivered with both hands on stick and stick off the ice.

Whether you're watching from rink-side or at home, take time out to light up a Sportsman. From the very first puff you'll know that this blend of rich Virginia tobaccos gives you the clean, smooth smoke you're looking for.

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