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Dental Clinic Needs Help

THERE is cause for considerable anxiety in the disclosure that the dental clinic is running into a financial hole.

Here is a service which is functioning without fanfare, yet is indispensable to the health of our community. In a period of little more than a year it handled 1,000 visits by children. While not all of these cases needed attention, this does not in the least mitigate the value of the clinic.

The important consideration is that this is a service established to examine the dental condition of children before they go to school or while they are in the first grade. By such examination it is possible to single out those children whose teeth do need attention and so prevent many troubles which would otherwise afflict them in later years.

Although the benefits are great, the amount needed to save the clinic from financial difficulty is small. With half of the approximate yearly cost of \$2,200 coming from the provincial government, and another \$700 raised from the small charge on those treated, a grant of about \$400 would do the trick.

This is a small price for the value received. A child deprived of the service might in later years have to pay that much alone to have the condition of his teeth corrected. It is a cause which some organization or group of organizations might well make its special duty to help.

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OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MCLEOD

Government economists are casting anxious eyes south of the international border these days. The news from there is a trifle disquieting. Business experts in the Republic are taking what they term euphemistically as "an economic slowdown" for granted early in the coming year.

The obvious question for Ottawa experts under the circumstances is: What effect will a United States slow-down have on the Canadian economy?

There was a time not so long ago when the answer to such a question would have been automatic. In the days before the Canadian economy reached its present maturity conditions here reflected fairly faithfully the state of affairs south of the border.

But the year 1949 made Canadian economic history. For in that year the United States experienced a short but quite sharp recession. And for the first time Canada didn't share its experience. Instead, the Canadian economy continued unfalteringly to climb to new heights.

What are the prospects of the Canadian economy riding out the backwash of another United States business storm, if one blows up briefly in 1954?

Government experts profess a good deal of confidence in the situation. Basically, they are relying upon the difference in the steel industries of the two countries, both of which serve as fairly accurate barometers of the economic weather ahead. The United States steel industry is headed definitely to lower levels. There is the expectation that it may drop from its present 95 per cent ratio to a ratio possibly as low as 80 per cent. Canadian steel faces no such prospect. It is booked solidly for the last quarter of 1953. In fact, it now is certain that it will carry a considerable backlog of orders into the first quarter of 1954.

In addition, the Canadian economy is showing other noteworthy evidence of current strength. The boom in housing continues. Labor income continues to rise and is currently about 9.5 per cent above a year ago. Unemployment is down to a new minimum figure of less than 3 per cent. And savings bank deposits are up.

Government experts are satisfied that if a slow-down does come to the United States, the Canadian economy will continue to give a good account of itself.



As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

• Hats On, Men

ONE of the penalties of being elected MP is that you have to live for most of the year in Ottawa.

That means you have to be equipped with everything from ear-muffs and red flannel underwear for the winter, to electric fans and mosquito netting for the summer.

It is particularly hard on those of us from the banana belt on the Pacific coast, for we have to bear down and do what no true blue west coaster ever does on his own free will. Buy a hat.

WHEN I try to tell effete folks back east that he-men in B.C. don't wear hats, they won't believe me. But it is true, and one reason why he-men don't wear hats is because a good many of them just don't own headgear of any kind. They borrow hats if they have to go to funerals.

There are men who have been born and brought up in B.C. who have never had a civilian hat on their heads until they borrowed the mortar-boards for their UBC graduation.

All of which has naturally caused consternation in the ranks of those who make hats, or sell them.

As a matter of fact the hat advertisers have something when they say "successful men wear hats." Leaving aside the point that successful men are often stuffed shirts, it is true that many a man owes his success to his fame, and owes part of his fame to his hat.

Winston Churchill is one example. Two or three generations before the now grand-old-man was using his cigars and his V-sign as advertising stunts, the same Churchill, as a brash young man was using his bizarre hats for the same purpose.

Field Marshall Montgomery owes much of his success to his stern character, and tricks like beginning a lecture at the staff college by saying: "Gentlemen, from now till the end of my lecture no one is to cough."

But Monty himself took good care to violate all the rules for orthodox dress. He scorned the regulation brass hat or steel helmet. His famous beret was just the most spectacular of his

numerous infringements of the army rules about what the well-dressed officer was ordered to wear.

HOW MUCH of the success of our own Mounties was due to the choice of a hat which is now recognized everywhere as something as distinctively Canadian as the maple leaf?

What would the changing of the Queen's guard be like without those bearskin busebys? How could you spot a successful oil man, or one who has made, or hopes to make a killing in oil shares, if it were not for those hats?

How would prairie football fans, on their annual invasion of the east, ever identify themselves as wild and woolly westerners, if it were not for the ten-gallon hats?

One reason for the decline in good manners in this part of the world may be not that women lost their seats in the street cars but that males quit raising their hats to female acquaintances on the street—for the obvious reason that they had not hats to raise.

So fellows, break down and buy a hat. Why should I be the only one to finance National Hat Week?

GMC SALES SET RECORD

NEW YORK (AP) — General Motors Corp., biggest manufacturing corporation in the world, sold more products in the first nine months of 1953 than in any full calendar year in its history. Sales for the nine months were just under \$8,000,000,000. The volume for all of 1952, the previous record year, was \$7,549,000,000.

Net income for the nine months came to \$453,000,000 after provision of \$1,006,000,000 for income and excess profits taxes. Earnings on the common stock were equal to \$5.08 a share. This compared with \$387,000,000 or \$4.32 a share in the first nine months of 1952.

Indian Students Allotted Aid

OTTAWA (CP) — At least 700 young Canadian Indians will get federal government assistance in advanced studies this year, by tuition grants totalling some \$300,000, Citizenship Minister Harris announced Tuesday.

The announcement came during the second day of a three-day conference here between the Indian Affairs branch and 19 representatives of Canada's 156,000 Indians.

Mr. Harris said assistance previously given by his department to Indians learning trades or attending university has had "very satisfactory" results.

For action—try Classifieds

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Roy H. Thomson, Chairman of the Board of The Scotsman Publications Limited, Edinburgh, Scotland, and proprietor of Thomson Newspapers in Canada, today announced the appointment of James Muir of Montreal as a Director of The Scotsman Publications Limited. Mr. Muir was born at Peebles, Scotland, and emigrated to Canada in 1912. He is President of The Royal Bank of Canada; Vice-President of the Montreal Trust; a director of the Canadian Pacific Railways; Standard Brands Inc., New York; Capital Investment Corp., Montreal; and other companies. He is a Freeman of the Royal and Ancient W. Burgh of Peebles, Scotland, and a Doctor of Civil Law, Bishop's University, Canada.

It is a matter of great regret...

that the final offer of the Pulp and Paper Companies of British Columbia has been rejected in the Union's Referendum, although it is understood that some of the Mills voted to accept it.

In those mills where the forthcoming Government supervised strike vote finds for strike action, it must be expected that a strike will ensue. Preparations for plant close-down are already being made by Managements.

This year's wage negotiations were broken off by the Unions. They requested a Conciliation Board. The Board recommended a 4c general increase in a majority award which was accepted by the companies but rejected by the Unions. Since then, in the interests of continuing good management-employee relations, the companies have made the following final offer:

1. An across-the-board increase of 5c per hour.
2. An additional 3c per hour to Grade A and A plus mechanics.
3. The increases to be retroactive to July 1, 1953.

The 5c increase will bring the base rates to \$1.55 an hour—the highest in the Pulp and Paper Industry of Canada, as well as being the highest base rate in any primary industry in British Columbia.

Should a strike come in the Pulp and Paper Industry of B.C. affecting 4,500 employees, it would be the first industry-wide strike since Group Bargaining began in 1937. The industry and its employees have long served as an example of enlightened industrial relations in which a spirit of compromise and understanding has successfully avoided the disastrous waste involved in lost wages, lost production and lost markets, during the strike action.

SIGNED BY—

Alaska Pine and Cellulose Co. Ltd.,
Woodfibre Division.

Alaska Pine and Cellulose Co. Ltd.,
Port Alice Division.

Columbia Cellulose Co. Ltd.,
Watson Island.

Howe Sound Pulp Co. Ltd.,
Port Mellon.

MacMillan & Bloedel Ltd.,
Harmac Division.

MacMillan & Bloedel Ltd.,
Port Alberni Division.

Pacific Mills Ltd., Ocean Falls and
Powell River Co. Ltd.,
Powell River.

Elks Falls Co. Ltd.,
Duncan Bay.