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Dispute Over Unemployed

IT IS unfortunate, and perhaps will be disastrous, that while the B.C. and federal governments are disagreeing with each other about whose responsibility it is to assist the unemployed not covered by insurance, nothing positive is being done to reach a solution. The argument is obscuring the need.

Since B.C. is not the only province pressing its case and the problem has taken on national proportions, it might be well for all concerned to heed the recommendation of the Canadian Welfare Council that a federal-provincial conference be held to consider the matter.

"Much of the distress and suffering in unemployment is unnecessary and could be prevented," the Council contends. "What we require is a continuing public program supplementary to unemployment insurance and designed to meet the needs of those unemployed workers, whether many or few, who otherwise face hardship and destitution. Why have we not developed such an unemployment assistance plan? The answer apparently revolves around a jurisdictional dispute. The various levels of government for well over a decade now have not agreed as to whose obligation it is to meet the financial needs of the employable unemployed who are not covered by unemployment insurance."

It is true that the division of responsibility in cases where unemployment insurance does not apply has never been defined. The federal government maintains that responsibility for any residual program rests with provincial governments and is not beyond their resources. Provincial governments contend that assistance to the employable unemployed is a federal responsibility admitted in the federal proposals to the Dominion-provincial conference of 1945 and supported by various studies and reports. Municipal councils claim it is unfair to place the financial burden for this group solely on local governments.

Since some 20 per cent of Canadian wage earners are beyond the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Act, the problem is surely important enough to merit honest study instead of bickering. The hardships of unemployment are not material for political baloney. No party is going to lose face, and all will gain respect, if a meeting is held and a sincere effort made to reach an unselfish answer.

Lawless Lawyers

"WHO will watch the watchmen?" asked the ancient poet, and the question seems appropriate in view of some recent antics by the alleged guardians of law and order in various parts of the world.

Last month the attorney-general of Alabama was arrested on a charge of complicity in the murder of his elected successor; his alleged accomplices were the district attorney and a deputy sheriff of the town where the killing took place. Now from Panama comes the news that a prominent lawyer has confessed to shooting the late President Remon at the instigation of the vice-president. His reward was to be the post of minister of justice in the new cabinet.

There hasn't been anything quite like this since that unfortunate occasion during the Wars of the Roses, when the then Lord Chief Justice of England was accused of trying to murder one of his colleagues on the bench. His defence was that he didn't know it was against the law.—Lambton Journal.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

A London dentist insists family rows are a leading cause of dental trouble. Especially if they are rows about putting off the regular visit to the dentist.

Perhaps it is of reliable interest to you to learn that American and Canadian halibut fishermen last summer took an all time record catch of 71,030,000 total. There will be a common opening date, May 12 and practically the same seasons and regulations.

Examination of prisoners by a sub-committee from throughout Canada may show that in British Columbia, as well as in other parts of the country, in previous years, there remains today a pretty fair knowledge of affairs. For one thing there appears to be the conviction that corporal punishment is no deterrent to crime.

"Sweets in Diet Waste of Money" — heading. But they do add to the waistline.

As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

Poet and Prophet

I MADE my 1955 Beard of the Prophet quiz the toughest ever. But I have already learned the tougher they are the better the readers like them. More answers have come in this year than ever before.

Here is one answer, written in the form of poetry, which seems so good that I feel I must pass it on.

It comes from Mrs. Jean M. Barton, 7939 Laburnum Street, Vancouver.

She encloses the column which set forth the quiz for 1955. She does not think anybody will run a mile in less than four minutes, nor that War Veterans' Allowances will be raised, that there will be a war, or that Churchill will still be P.M. next year, or that South Africa will secede. She does think the Grey Cup will go back east, that the U.S. airmen will be released, and that some woman will be appointed a cabinet minister.

✦ ✦ ✦

BUT here is how Mrs. Barton amplified her answers in poetic form:

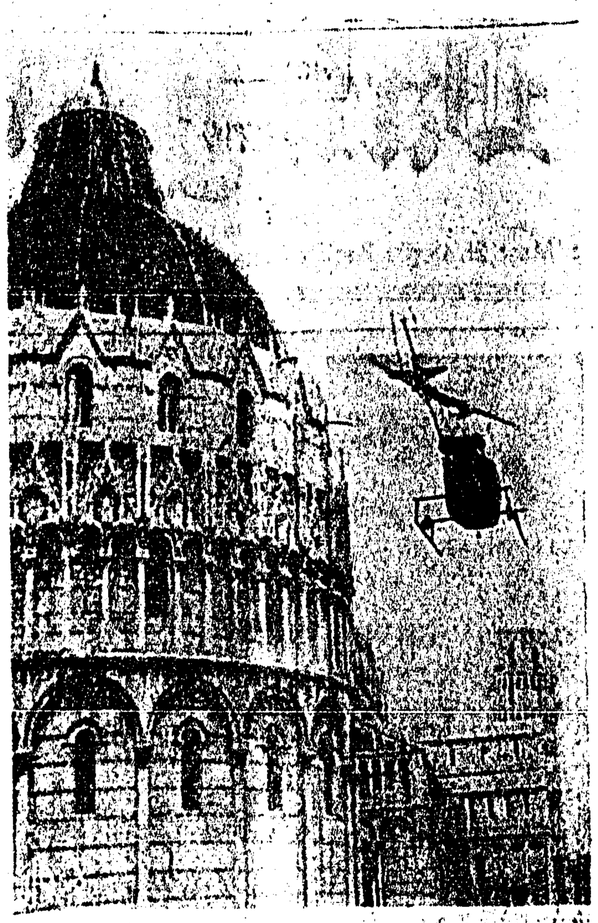
"I must admit I'm not a sage,
But years ago I came of age;
so . . .

1. I predict no one will outrun
   Rog Bannister . . .
   That's the first prediction to
   drop in your cannister.
2. Even though I'm a loyal gal
   of the West,
   I think in football the East
   is the best.
3. Frankly, I don't know how
   the poor vets stay alive.
   But I bet their pittance
   won't rise in '55.
4. Churchill I admire . . . as a
   statesman he's great . . .
   But I think he'll bow out . . .
   it's getting quite late!
5. Our styles change, from
   Paris we take our cue . .
   I think they'll change Premiers, but only two.
6. The U.S. airmen, after such
   a hard fight,
   Will surely be released . . .
   their freedom's their right.
7. My opinion's been asked, so
   I make this confession . . .
   I don't think South Africa
   will make that secession.
8. My faith in humanity is still
   alive . .
   West German forces will be
   there in '55.
9. The days of depression I
   clearly remember,
   Though not like that, there'll
   be less paid by November.
10. As for our wheat, there's
    sure plenty in store . . .
    And adding this year's, I'd
    say there'll be more.
11. With such clever women as
    Hodges and Whitton . . .
    I see a woman enthroned,
    from where I'm sittin'.
12. The Canadian Airlines sure
    know what they're about
    That's why I'll say one of
    them will establish that
    route!

As for YOU, Mr. Philpott of the West . . .
I sincerely wish you THE VERY BEST!
I'm a city-bred gal . . . I don't wear a beard . . .
JUST SEND IT TO SANTA . . .
HIS LAST ONE GOT SEARED
(They say a DOLL burned it—
she was too hot to handle;
But I think it more likely 'twas
burned by a candle.)
With it on his head he'll feel
like a moppet!
Better still, YOU wield it; try to
wipe out the strife
Of those who have missed the
best things in life.
This has really been fun, for
this gal of the pun."

✦ ✦ ✦

TOO bad that Mrs. Barton had no chance to win the Beard of the Prophet, because the increase in the War Veterans' Allowance is definitely coming through.



IN SHARP CONTRAST to the surroundings, a modern U.S. Army helicopter hovers over the ancient cathedral of Pisa, with the famed leaning tower in the background. The whirlybird was giving Msgr. Hugo Comozzo, Archbishop of Pisa, a ride over the seat of his diocese. It was the first time an Italian archbishop had seen his diocese from the air.

LETTERBOX

UNSTINTING SUPPORT

The Editor,
The Daily News:

On behalf of March of Dimes and Children's Hospital I wish to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation to the people of Prince Rupert for their unstinting support for the March of Dimes, which is sponsored annually by The Vancouver Sun in aid of the sick and crippled children of British Columbia.

The $2078.52 contributed by the residents of your city has placed Prince Rupert among the leading contributors in British Columbia.

The members and officers of the Prince Rupert Elks' Lodge, No. 342 and the Ladies of the Order of Royal Purple, groups which co-operated to spearhead the drive in your community, did an outstanding organizational job under trying adverse weather conditions, which prevailed during the period of the campaign.

Their work on behalf of the little patients at Children's Hospital is deeply appreciated by all of us at March of Dimes headquarters.

Appreciation also goes to the members of the Prince Rupert Teen Club, Teen Town affiliate in your area, who also worked purposefully on the appeal. You will be interested to know that these teenagers raised a total contribution ($240.57) which places them in contention for top Teen Town March of Dimes honors in British Columbia.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Prince Rupert Daily News for its timely and vigorous coverage of March of Dimes activities in your community.

In conclusion may we say on behalf of the little patients at Children's Hospital: "Thanks to all of you, from all of us."

JACK A. HUTCHINGS,
Field Organizer,
Vancouver Sun
March of Dimes.

C. O. "SYD" HURLY, whose appointment as director of sales for Chrysler Corporation of Canada Limited, is announced by A. J. Snaw, vice-president in charge of sales. Mr. Hurly is assuming direct control over all the corporation's sales, advertising and merchandising activities. Born in Toronto 40 years ago, he has been associated with Chrysler of Canada since 1936.

WINTER DUCKS

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Man. (CP)—A flock of more than 200 ducks are wintering in this area. Ralph Bailey, ardent duck hunter, recognized them as mallards. The birds are keeping the odd small pothole open and eating off the few bare stubble spots in the fields.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

On the admittedly debatable assumption that political footwork is regularly the villain in the Parliamentary drama, this present session should be uniquely zero.

It's a situation that is wholly novel within the memory of the most veteran MP. While a few individual Commoners may be laboring from force of habit at the business of keeping the voters sweet for the next election, the major political parties have checked their weapons and apparently forgotten what they did with the checks. If the present unnatural trend of things continues, the danger is imminent of Parliament winding up as one big mutual admiration society. And that mightn't be in the best interests of the nation's voters.

The reason the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives, instead of burying the hatchet in each other, are just burying it period is, as might be suspected, one of mutual self-interest. Both parties face highly uncertain outlooks in their own leadership. As a result, an atmosphere of uncertainty pervades their rank-and-file. The PC's don't know for certain whether Hon. George Drew is going to be able to return permanently to his old post. The possibility—even the probability—that he will not do so encourages pre-occupation on the part of the rank-and-file with the internal party situation. The Liberals have a similar problem in reverse: they aren't sure now that Rt. Hon. Mr. St. Laurent intends to retire before another election. The prospect that he may remain acts as a brake on the plans that the party otherwise would be making to meet the future.

In addition, both of the old-line parties are undecided about the problem presented by the CCF. The Conservatives are afraid of the CCF flaring up under the stimulus of unemployment and costing them the support they otherwise hope to draw from industrial workers. The PCs have decided, in short, that the time is ripe for them to devote all their energies to a restoration of the old two-party system. To that end, they have been disposed to grant a truce to the Liberals in order to concentrate more effectively on the Socialists.

The Liberals, for their part, are having some difficulty in making up their minds over a return to the two-party system. They don't know whether they would gain more by taking over the Socialists than they would by remaining right where they are, namely a comprise party to the right of the Socialists but in a sufficiently middle position to attract the support of all voters who are not extremists, Liberal, Conservative and Socialist alike. That's a strong strategic position and the Liberals aren't changing it lightly.

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