

### The Week at OTTAWA

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OTTAWA (CP) Negotiations toward the long-sought financial agreement between the federal and provincial governments are again at a standstill with the Dominion-provincial conference adjourned indefinitely and the nine premiers, unable to agree with the Dominion or among themselves, back in their home capitals.

The conference, which had indulged in hypothetical horse-trading of the taxation fields for 9 months, broke up abruptly after a hectic week in which discussions were carried on in public. Reporters found the open sessions a 10-ring circus.

Table-mates in a common endeavor to agree were the Liberal governments of the Maritimes, the Union Nationale government of Quebec, the Progressive Conservative government of Ontario, the CCF government of Saskatchewan, the Social Credit government of Alberta, the Coalition governments of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the Liberal Federal government heads.

Tempers flared, premiers shouted, sudden outbursts of personalities boiled to the surface. But on the whole, the delegates were patient in their efforts to agree.

The main points of disagreement on which the conference adjourned were between the Dominion, Ontario and Quebec.

The Dominion asked exclusive rights in the personal income, corporation and inheritance tax fields. In return for this it proposed a \$15 grant to the provinces based on population and gross national production. It was ready to share succession duties if the provinces accepted reduced subsidies, and give up gas, amusement and pari-mutuel taxes if no financial loss was involved.

The Dominion also offered to take a major part in health and social welfare expenditures, employment projects and bear the main cost of unemployed employables.

Premier Drew of Ontario said his government was prepared to "rent" income and corporation taxes if the Dominion moved out of the succession tax field and abandoned gas, amusements, pari-mutuels, security transfers and electricity. He also asked that the Dominion assume full cost of relief to unemployed employables and pensions for the aged and blind.

Premier Duplessis of Quebec also was prepared to "rent" income tax rights and part of corporation and possibly some other taxes but his government was not willing to give up succession duties.

It was these three divergent stands the conference failed to reconcile. The Maritime provinces, while not satisfied with the plan entirely agreed among themselves and with the Prairie Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia, that the provincial subsidy should be based on fiscal needs rather than on population. The Prairie governments, each with their own lesser interests, generally found the federal term a satisfactory basis on which to begin operation. Manitoba was the province most in favor of the Dominion proposals.

British Columbia was ready to accept the federal plan provided the returns to the province were not less than they would be if the province was collecting taxes at rates existing before 1942.

While it was evident no agreement between all the provinces was possible, the conference ended on a more cheerful note than the 1941 Dominion-provincial conference. Finance Minister Hoey intimated the federal government was prepared to study new ways of bringing about a standard basis of financial relations among governments. He said the government would study the matter and decide at a later date what procedure might be suggested.

The man-on-the-street, while somewhat confused by proceedings, was confident he understood what to him was the main point. No matter which government collected which taxes, he was going to have to pay them. At one point in the conference Justice Minister St. Laurent voiced the feelings of the average Canadian—he said the taxpayer wanted a reduction in taxes, and wanted it now.

Main parliamentary business since the Commons resumed April 29 following the Easter recess has been States-Secretary Martin's citizenship bill. While receiving the general approval of the House, the bill picked up many shades of opinion on citizenship and its movement through the Commons was slow.

Main issues debated concerned a strong feeling on the part of most Progressive Conservatives that British subjects of the United Kingdom and other self-governing Dominions should receive special treatment. Such suggestion was strongly opposed by various members of other parties.

British Columbia members, on their part, lost no opportunity to state their opposition to Japanese. They secured an amendment insuring that the bill would not supersede orders-in-council for the deportation of Japanese or orders prohibiting their residence in coastal areas.

—Before the backdrop of these main

arguments, and many smaller ones, Mr. Martin gradually piloted his bill through the Commons.

The Commons-Senate committee of 35 members which has the task of choosing the design of a distinctive Canadian flag is slowly fighting its way upwards through a pile of more than 2,400 different designs. It is believed a majority of the members favor as a general design a flag containing both the Union Jack and the Maple Leaf.

Agriculture Minister Gardiner hinted last week that the government may replace the present milk subsidy of 55 cents in winter and 35 cents in summer with an equitable, year-round standard rate. The summer rate became effective April 30th.

#### CAUSES OF SHORTAGE OF FARM MACHINERY

In order to obtain more concrete information on the problems concerning farm machinery, the National Committee on Agricultural Engineering requested the Dominion Department of Agriculture to undertake a survey of the situation. The work devolved on the Economics Division and its findings have been published under the title "The Farm Machinery Outlook in the Prairie Provinces." In a foreword dealing with the causes of the machinery shortage, H. L. Patterson of the Economics Division says the ability of farm operators to obtain farm machinery of the best adapted types and sizes has become a necessity, if production is to be maintained at a high level in western Canadian agriculture.

This necessity has been given special significance by the apparent shortage of machinery, explains Mr. Patterson. The demand seems to have increased much more than the production has declined. The situation developed, first, by reason of the combined effect of drought and depression in the 30's. These conditions rendered the farm operators financially unable to replace machines when needed, and, because drought curtailed the amount to be harvested, there was less need for harvesting machinery. When crop yields improved and prices became more favorable, it was inevitable that more machinery would be needed.

A second factor in the situation was the manpower shortage during the war. This shortage made it imperative that each man on a farm use his time and efforts most effectively in producing food requiring the use of additional machines. A third factor is the accelerated trend towards the use of improved types of machines recently developed. Any increase in the efficiency of operation may lower the cost of production sufficiently to more than offset the price of the new machine. For this reason many farmers feel that they cannot afford to use their older type machines until worn out. All these factors, plus the greatly increased purchasing power, has created a large demand for certain types of farm machinery in excess of the quantity that manufacturers can at present supply.

There was very little in past experience that could serve as a guide to requirements, and many leaders in the equipment industry recognized the desirability of obtaining more concrete information concerning the farm machinery situation hence the survey.

#### NEWS ITEM HELPS SAVE BABY'S LIFE

SYDNEY, Australia (CP) — A cabled item from New York newspapers may have helped to save the life of three-year-old Raymond Muller of suburban Arneliffe. Raymond was dangerously ill with nephritis, a kidney infection. Doctors at Campden Hospital expected him to die.

His mother remembered reading of a similar case of a New York patient who had responded to being fed with a broth made from watermelon seeds. She asked the doctors to try it. They did and Raymond began to improve. He's now home but his condition is still causing some concern. The broth treatment is being continued. Just what part the watermelon broth has played the doctors don't know yet.

### CHUM

Broadcasts both services from The People's Church, 100 Bloor East, Toronto, each Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Dial 1050 or 105. Listen in next Sunday. Dr. Oswald J. Smith, Pastor.

CANADA'S ORIGINAL AROMATIC PIPE TOBACCO  
**OLD CHUM**

#### BUDS OF THE ANCIENT SEAS

Now that spring is here the welcome sight of unfolding buds is one that everywhere meets the eye. Most of us nowadays think of buds only in connection with flowers, shrubs, and trees, but Dr. M. Fritz of the Royal Ontario Museum states: "Millions of years ago, at the time our great coal swamps, sea-buds or 'blastoids' were among the characteristic shell-fish in the oceans. They are now known only as fossils, having become extinct soon after the time of their greatest development.

Blastoids are closely related to sea-lilies and also to starfish, though they do not greatly resemble the latter in outward form. The animal itself was lodged in a limy cup, which was supported on a hard, limy stem that fastened it to the sea-bottom. From the cup extended numerous slender, flexible, food-gathering arms. The five areas in the cup to which the arms were attached resemble the petals of a flower about to unfold, hence the name blastoid meaning 'springing forth like a bud'."

#### MOON-STRUCK HEN

PEMBROKE, Ont. (CP) The night the moon reached its first quarter a hen on the farm of Joseph Laforce celebrated by laying a crescent-shaped egg. The egg was about two inches long and three-quarters of an inch in diameter at the widest place.

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#### HIS STILL ALIVE

EDMONTON (CP) — A United States Army sergeant tasted all food served to Foreign Commissar Molotov when the Russian was here enroute to the San Francisco conference—and the sergeant is still alive.

#### SWEDISH RELIEF

STOCKHOLM (CP) — Sweden has sent more than 400,000 tons of food-stuffs valued at \$40,000,000 to needy countries in the last two years. It was officially announced. The grain and sugar and butter went mainly to Finland and Norway.

Tasty Snacks That Save Butter  
Solve with IT!  
**SALADA TEA**

## NOTICE TO ALL HOG BUYERS IN ONTARIO

THE Ontario Hog Producers Marketing Scheme has been approved by the Ontario Government, and became effective on and after May 1, 1946. Under this scheme, all buyers of hogs for processing or for resale to processors are required to comply with the following regulation—

"No buyer other than a processor shall buy hogs except under the authority of a buyer's licence."

Applicants for licences to buy hogs should complete the form below and return it, with the \$1.00 licence fee, to

**THE FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BOARD**  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario

To the Farm Products Marketing Board

(Name of applicant)

make(s) application to the Farm Products Marketing Board for a licence to engage in the business of a buyer of hogs under the Farm Products Marketing Act, 1946, for the period from April 1st, 1946 to March 31, 1947.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Ontario, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1946.

APPLICANT

ADDRESS

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BOARD, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO, ONT.

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