

Editorial Page

The Ugly Truth

The chairman of one of Canada's oldest and best known industries got up at the annual meeting the other day to explain why last year his company spent over \$50,000,000 establishing new plants in Britain and France instead of this country.

"No one regrets more than I that at least some of these new facilities could not have been established in Canada," he said. It has, however, become quite clear that Canada, as part of North America, is rapidly becoming one of the highest production-cost areas in the world, and those who intend to survive commercially cannot ignore this ugly truth."

This warning from W. E. Phillips, chairman of Massey-Ferguson Limited, was not just a casual shout in the futile carping about just who is "responsible" for rising costs in Canada. Public men, along with business leaders, have been getting uneasy about Canada's uncomfortable corner in world manufacturing. Whatever intrigue might be

Better Read, Better Informed

Canada is often regarded as a country of non-readers. Recent surveys have shown that we stand 14th among the world's nations in the number of bookstores per capita.

We have an unfortunate reputation in this connection, it seems. The well-known author Nicholas Monsarrat has said: "I find Canada the worst reading country in the world. The per capita book consumption here is lower than any where else."

We could reply that Canada is much too busy growing to be interested in reading at the moment. We could point to the United States which has even fewer bookstores per capita than we have. We might say these things, but we would be doing ourselves an injustice. What are the facts?

The Canadian Library Week Council reports that more people are borrowing from libraries than ever before. In many sections of the country library circulation has risen by as much as 50 per cent. since 1945. The number of borrowers from libraries has

Addition Not Subtraction

A payroll tax as a source of revenue to cover the costs of old age security pensions has been ruled out by Ottawa. It is a wise decision. Some naive citizens might think that the share paid by business would come out of "profits." But in most cases business would only be the collector and the general public would pay the shot.

With a hope of improving Canada's old age security program the federal government, two years ago, commissioned a study of the U.S. pension scheme. After a full year of consideration of the report, Welfare Minister Monteith has advised that, in changing our system, caution is the best course. In the United States, he noted, every firm pays a tax of three per cent on its payroll and each employee equals that contribution; this six per cent combined contribution is to be increased to nine per cent. In 1969, an American worker may elect to retire at any age starting at 65 and depending on payments into the fund, may collect from \$33 to \$127 a month. There are also payments to widows and surviving children if an insured wage earner dies before retirement age.

While the Canadian plan of the same payment to all - \$55 a month to about 875,000 persons - gives more to the lower in-

Justly Proud

Peel, Dufferin and Halton Counties, indeed the whole of Canada, must feel justly proud of the fact that the Lorne Scots Pipe and Drums have been invited to take part in Edinburgh Festival this year. These local militia musicians will be participating in the world's largest annual international military tattoo in August.

The regiment has accepted the obligation of transporting the Pipes and Drums to Scotland, and considerable assistance from friends of the unit is forthcoming at the present time. Orangeville and Brampton town councils led the way with municipal donations, but we understand that considerably more money is required to underwrite the expense involved.

Why should we support the militia? Think back to the dark days of 1939; go even

inferred from Mr. Phillips' story, no one would suggest that an enterprise goes somewhere else to court inefficiency and higher costs. It goes because it has to. It is, as he says, the ugly truth.

Canada and the United States, through the Second World War and the years following, when outsiders had to take our goods at any price, mushroomed into an industrialism we could not have dreamed of before 1939. In this way we were beneficiaries of disaster. But there's a difference. The U.S. has an enormous domestic market and a unique geographical self-sufficiency, to chew up its production. Canada hasn't. We export, or we face disaster. Just as after World War I the wheat fields of ruined Europe moved into production in the late nineteen-twenties and early thirties, to tumble our export prices to the lowest level in the history of the Liverpool Exchange, so are the Second World War victims in Europe and Asia now gearing a revitalized industry into a real challenge.

increased by about 60 per cent. in many areas.

A large number of our libraries are finding it impossible to keep up with the ever-increasing demands made on them. As a result, Canada is now undergoing the greatest library building program since the days of Andrew Carnegie.

It would appear, then, that we are not a nation of non-readers. Recent surveys indicate that there is even a trend toward more reading of non-fiction, and bookstores are generally busier than ever before.

Canadian Library Week, April 3 to 9, is the second program of its kind to be held in Canada. It points up the continuing importance of information and understanding in a complex modern world: We should remember that a better-read better-informed Canada is vitally necessary if we are to retain our enviable position among the world's great nations.

come worker, the American pension plan is the more extensive. But as Minister Monteith noted, per capita production and income in Canada are 30 per cent. less than in the United States. To equal U.S. payments, Canadians would have to pay a great deal more than Americans into a pension fund. Also, there is the question of whether Canada in the national sense, or Canadians in the individual sense would benefit from retirement at age 65.

In his speech to the House the Minister indirectly admitted that a tax on payrolls to provide a pension fund would have to be reflected in living costs. "For example," he said, "retail stores and construction companies where labor costs are high would be affected much more by payroll taxes than pulp and paper companies or distilleries where labor-costs constitute a much smaller item in the production budget." No grocer or home builder—or manufacturer, or banker, or labor union, for that matter—simply absorbs tax cost. It is not a question of taking something out of the profits. It is a matter of putting something onto prices. Whether it is a new tax for an old age pension fund, a municipal property tax, a corporation income tax inevitably it is paid by the customers who buy the goods or services.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

"Looking for Spring"

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

Man, we're a bloodthirsty lot, we Canadians. Here I've been going around for years, thinking we were a mild, gentle, civilized people, the milk of human kindness fairly dripping out of the corners of our mouths.

We're not like that at all. We're a real Old Testament, fang and claw, eye for an eye, blood and guts gang. Behind those good, gray exteriors lurks a red-eyed avenger who would make Attila the Hun look like a divinity student.

I didn't realize what a snarling tiger lay within the bosoms of my fellow Canadians until I mentioned casually, in an editorial a couple of weeks ago, that I didn't believe in capital punishment, and asked for the opinions of readers.

What a Pandora's box that opened! I received only one reasonable response—that is, one opinion that agreed with mine. The rest of them howled for blood. They ranged from curt suggestions that "rope, rifle or gas will do," to interminable epistles that dragged in everybody from Moses to my small daughter.

I was belabored by Scripture, torn from context. I was buried under piles of newspaper clippings about the latest murder cases. Many assured me that all murderers serving prison terms were just busting to get out so they could go and knock off

somebody else. Others tried to sell me on capital punishment because it's cheaper than feeding a murderer.

Now the fact is that I never mentioned murder in the first place. I just stated that I didn't think society had the right to take a human life in cold blood. As a result, none of the arguments affected my opinion at all, because everybody went harping off after murderers, terrorists, parols, sex fiends, insane, liquor and the cost of jail meals.

Besides which, as my wife has pointed out on innumerable occasions, and again when we discussed the subject: "Nobody can tell you anything. You think you're so damn smart and you're not. You're just pig-headed."

Just to prove she's wrong, and that I'm a reasonable fellow, a true democrat when outnumbered 50 to 1, I'll reverse my stand. Let's have capital punishment, and lots of it. But for pity's sake, let's get a little variety, a touch of colour, a dash of imagination into it.

Only a primitive people would stick to such a crude, drab mode of grace as secret hanging. I would also abolish those other pedestrian death penalties of today's society—the chair and the gas chamber.

Ordinary murderers must

...Dodging 'Round the District

BY ROY DOWNS

ORANGEVILLE—A \$51,000 jump in school costs boosted the education levy 11 mills over the 1959 rate. It was explained, as council finalized a \$493,000 budget for 1960, that the town will raise \$348,000 of this amount. Taxes were set at 22 mills for residential ratepayers and 77 mills for commercial.

RAMBLERS IN BRAMPTON—About 200 employees are expected to produce over 10,000 Ramblers next year in a new plant announced for Brampton last week. The factory will be built on a 40-acre site in the modern Peel Village on the southeast edge of the town. Initially the factory will have 200,000 square feet of floor space.

RIFLE BLAST MISSES CHILD—WATERLOO—A bullet from a 22-calibre rifle went through the dining room window of a Howard Boulevard couple while their daughter was playing with her toys in the room. Two window panes were broken but the girl was unhurt. O.P.P. are investigating.

UNIVERSITY SITE?—GEORGETOWN—Learning the new York University is looking for a location outside the Metro Toronto area, council took action to have the university established in Georgetown. The Minister of Education, Sandy Best and Stan Hall were to be contacted.

FOUND FOR CHILDREN—BRILLINGTON—Neighbors and friends of the Ferry family have launched an appeal for funds that will be needed by the six Ferry children orphaned when their father was killed and their mother bed-ridden. In the past 12 months \$187,000 worth of new commercial and industrial construction has been started in Burlington, the industrial commission revealed.

KEY GANG OPERATING—OAKVILLE—Police fear thieves have a well-organized "skeleton key gang" operating and breaking into many local homes. Police said entrance to at least 400 homes within the town could be gained with a single master key.

HELICOPTER COMMUTERS—OAKVILLE—Plans are being made to include Oakville as an intermediate point on a Hamilton-to-Milton helicopter commuting service. When six gas station operators were told their entrances to the Queen Elizabeth Way would be cut off June 1, one station announced a special service to lure customers. The station will offer free morning papers, weekly specials on tires, batteries and accessories, free wet washes and courtesy cars for commuters if drivers detour onto a service road. Helicopter rides and free prizes will feature the opening day.

die, but I think the condemned man should have a sporting chance to pick the manner of his demise. In this age of binos, draws and rifles, the least we could do is shake the choicest up in the warden's hat and let the murderer pull one.

He'd have a chance at the headman's axe; being torn to pieces by four wild horses; the guillotine; a bullet through the back of the head; being pushed in front of a train or over a cliff; being impaled.

Of course, under a wide-open capital punishment system, with some life to it, we'd need more candidates. These could be acquired by returning to the more virile fashions of former times. For example, blasphemers would be stoned to death, though there'd soon be a shortage of stones. Heretics would be burned at the stake, preferably at Halloween. Rapists would be tossed into a pit of rattlesnakes. Traitors would have their entrails removed and burned before their eyes.

Now that we're getting into the swing of things, I must admit I'm growing enthusiastic. While we're at it, we could lighten up our entire code of punishment. No more of those 10-year sentences for bank robbers. Cut off their gun hands at the wrist. It would be a real shot in the arm for the artificial limbs industry.

People taking drunk and deer out of season would be transported with their families to Canada's arctic wastes. We'd soon have some thriving settlements in the tundra. People trying to beat the income tax would not be fined but given hard labor on bread and water.

Shrewish women would have a half-inch snipped off the end of their tongues. Wife beaters would get a going-over from a professional pugilist. Business men caught padding their expense accounts would get the lash. Known alcoholics would be put on a dieting stool and held on deer water for three minutes every time they got into the stuff.

Maybe that's what's wrong with society today—our penal code has become soft and sloppy, like everything else. People tell me capital punishment is a deterrent to would-be murderers. Perhaps, given the delinquents would be deterred from beating people up if they knew the punishment was to have one foot lopped off.

Let's give it a try anyway. We could start by branding THREE on the foreheads of children caught stealing apples.

• IF YOU'VE been looking for ward to the end of a heating season you might be interested in knowing that a standard cord of hardwood produces 60 pounds of ashes whereas a ton of American anthracite produces 200 to 300 pounds of ashes. Now are they equal in heat?

The thing to fear most in cancer is fear itself. Don't let fear prevent you from seeking competent medical advice.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1940 BACK IN 1910

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 4, 1940.

Custom receipts at Acton for 1939-40 set a new high record for this port when they reached the amount of \$108,525.22. Last year the amount was \$94,658.61, so that this year an increase of nearly \$14,000 is registered. With Acton's many manufacturing plants importing and making shipments to many points, the customs port here does a large volume of business under customs officer W. G. Middleton.

There was a fine group of young people in attendance at the Sunday evening fireside this week to hear Rev. E. A. Brooks as he dealt with the inspiration to be had from the reading of good poetry. Mr. Herman Freuler rendered several pleasing selections on the piano and Miss Dorothy Klitching played for the singing of the hymns and songs.

Harry Goldham, a former Acton boy, has been appointed as postmaster at Georgetown, succeeding the late John McDermid. Actonians are real favorites in the neighboring town when it comes to holding the high positions and other Actonians have justifiable pride in the accomplishments obtained by Mr. Goldham and others who have been chosen for citizenship service in their adopted community.

Funeral service was held on Tuesday afternoon in Howard Park United church for the late Very Reverend Dr. T. Albert Moore with interment in Fairview cemetery in Acton. The late Rev. Moore was born in Acton and received his education in the Acton Public School and Georgetown Academy. He was the first apprentice, the "printer's devil" of the Free Press, joining the staff when he was 15. Two years and a half later, he purchased the paper in partnership with David Galtbraith of Guilford. In 1879 he enlarged the ministry of the United church and was ordained in 1884. He has held the highest positions in the church and was known throughout the Dominion for his great work. Perhaps his earnest sermons delivered from the pulpit of the United church here some four years ago when the new organ was dedicated will be remembered best among the many he preached in this town.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 31, 1910.

Ex-Reeve Williams has earned quite a reputation as a poultry fancier. He seems to have gotten the secret of successful work among his poultry, too, for his record shows that from 35 hens, he secured 260 eggs in January, 206 in February and 515 in March. With eggs at from 25 cents to 35 cents a dozen, poultry on the above basis should be profitable.

On Saturday evening, constable Harvey arrested a young local man on Mill Street for being drunk and disorderly and using profane language. He was brought before magistrate H. P. Moore and fined \$1.00 and costs or 30 days in the jail. The authorities are determined to put a stop to disorderly conduct and the use of bad language on the street.

W. J. Gordon, harness maker, received an order for two sets of heavy harnesses to be shipped out west to Saskatchewan. The local harness maker has been very popular with some of the western farmers and his sets of harness have been as much in demand in the western provinces as they have with the local trade.

The C.P.R. station at Campbellville caught fire about midnight on Saturday and was destroyed as well as a large quantity of wheat stored in an adjoining warehouse. Volunteers rushed to the scene of the fire and made a valiant attempt at stopping the blaze but all they were able to save was the contents of the station along with the agent's effects. Cause of the fire is unknown but it is expected perhaps a spark from one of the passing steam engines might be responsible for the damage.

The 11th anniversary of the opening of the Baptist church was celebrated last Sunday with appropriate and very interesting services. Rev. Isaac G. Matthews, M.A., B.Th., professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis of McMaster University, Hamilton, was the eloquent preacher of the day. The choir rendered special music for the anniversary, which was enjoyed by the large congregation in attendance, both for the morning and evening services.

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