



THE PROBING FINGER OF Prospect Park is prominent in ice-encased Fairy Lake just before Spring arrived a scant three weeks ago. This is another of the aerial shots of Acton taken by Jack Carpenter. Landmarks include Beardmore and Co. at the focal centre and the community centre upper left with Glenlea subdivision stretching out of the photo at top and a few houses of Lakeview subdivision at left.

Free Press Editorial Page

Tories score with budget . . .

When the Hon. Darcy McKeough was Minister of Municipal Affairs in the Robarts government he created a considerable stir with his desire to introduce regional government in the province. Despite severe criticism he stuck to theories he and his advisers created and left the indelible mark of his own handwork on the Department. Now Mr. McKeough has assumed the post of Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics it is apparent he will not be content to sit back and run the Department with the same lustreless reliability as his predecessors. In his first budget, Mr. McKeough showed he has not lost the common touch by abolishing the resident fishing licence (which was a nuisance) in the same breath as he upped the price of beer for drinkers in the southern part of the province.

Raising beer prices isn't generally recognized as a means of becoming popular in this province where a large number of its residents quaff the suds that cheer, but Mr. McKeough has again scored by lowering the price in the North at the same time as he upped the price in the South. In this way, both the North and South will end up paying the same amount for their beer.

Since many small firms and businesses pass from the control of Canadians at death.

Another facet of the budget which most people in Ontario will welcome is the decision to expand the provincial health care insurance program to cover nursing homes and home care services. This could be the most significant move in the budget since it will alleviate many families burdened by sickness and could also be the means of allowing many people to be treated at home, rather than going to an institution.

The 5 per cent tax credit for investment in machinery and equipment is another lump of sugar designed to stimulate business investment and create new jobs in the province. We will leave it to the economists and opposition parties to prick holes in this measure but we believe any step which will help stimulate the sluggish economy can't be wrong.

Perhaps it is not enough to deal with the unemployment situation as it stands, but certainly is worth a lot more than idle conjecture about the best way to fight it. Results are what we are interested in — not theories, and this measure looks like a positive step.

Taken as a whole the 1971 Ontario budget has a number of worthwhile measures which can stand up to much criticism. It smacks of an imminent election since there are few parts of the population which won't be affected either one way or the other by new measures.

If Mr. Davis has as many ministers as Mr. McKeough, who can belt out doubles and triples when it is their turn at bat, the Liberals and New Democrats had better step up election campaigns, unless they want to watch the Conservative vote dominate the score board again.

Generally when the price of beer is raised there is a general hue and cry from the populace that the government is down on the poor. But when you eliminate the fishing licence in the same legislation as beer hikes it is hard for anyone to yell "robber" without someone else pointing out that a fella can still go fishin' free.

It is moves like these on the political chessboard of the province that have marked Darcy as a man who knows how to get what he wants by the oblique manner, if the direct route is risky.

As Mr. McKeough points out in his budget summary, the fishing licence was introduced in the province to provide revenue from users, more in line with the costs of services provided by the Department of Lands and Forests. Although he agrees this is a worthy objective the Minister points out that it generated only \$1.6 million in revenue, is costly to collect, and is a nuisance for fishermen.

So while there may be a few catcalls from packed bleachers below North Bay, you can be sure these will be generally unheard in the approbation emanating from the province's North.

Few will quarrel either with Mr. McKeough's changes in succession duties, following the policy of the government to leave death duties to the federal government. Exemptions for widows and widowers therefore has been increased from \$125,000 to \$250,000, the 15 per cent additional tax (surtax) is eliminated for close relatives and these preferred beneficiaries are not liable if the value of an estate is less than \$100,000 previously \$50,000.

As a result of these changes Mr. McKeough estimates fewer than 5,000 estates a year will be taxable. As the Minister sees it the changes will drastically reduce the tax burden on farm estates and in most cases make the difference between selling out or continuing to operate the family farm. It's a pitch to the farm vote, perennially Tory, but which has become somewhat disillusioned by changes in the province's school structure of late.

These moves are also calculated to reduce the pressure on small firms or businesses which might have had to sell in order to avoid death duties. Hopefully this will also serve as a vehicle to restrict foreign ownership

Practice what they preach . . .

It seems like only yesterday when we were getting hot under the collar about the magnificent pensions Members of Parliament voted themselves at a time when the government was calling for everyone to practice restraint in wage demands and fringe benefits to enable the country to fight inflation with a big stick.

Now Members of Parliament are preparing to accept an increase in salaries which will raise pay from \$18,000 to \$26,000 per year.

It is guaranteed, too, since there hasn't been a Canadian government job broke — as yet.

Well, what can you say when a group of eminent men vote themselves a 44 per cent raise? The boost in pay is far more than the average man in these parts received in his entire pay envelope.

We have heard the arguments concerning the need for adequate salaries to attract good men into the race for a seat in the House of Commons. We agree one hundred per

cent with them. M.P.'s are entitled to a remuneration that will make the job attractive and extract the required amount of effort to do a worthwhile job.

However, we have qualms about producing \$8,000 more per year, per man, when the powers-that-be are demanding the little guy who asks for a \$500 raise in his pay envelope to stay alive should be forced to accept less because he is adding to the country's problems.

The Prices and Incomes Commission has identified a third villainous group in the inflation field which makes the gains of private industry and labor unions look like chicken feed. The culprits, according to the study, are top civic officials and those who work under them. It looks like Parliamentarians as a group are aligning themselves with them.

The Prices and Incomes Commission concludes that moderation in the scale of gains achieved by collective bargaining for lower-paid help must be matched by greater restraint in areas where

employers make decisions on their own, without union pressure. Study of the Toronto area drew the conclusion that the biggest increases in pay go to top civic officials. Lower increases go to public employees represented by unions and still smaller boosts to organized workers in manufacturing industries.

The inference there is that tax-paid workers as a class contribute more to inflation than workers in the private sector.

Senior officials in public office don't fight very hard against high wage demands from underlings because their own pay automatically goes up in relation to the pay of lower ranks.

We would suggest that Parliament might do what they have been asking everyone else in the country to practice — exercise restraint and take the pay raise over a number of years instead of in a lump sum as has been proposed.

It is time the boys in Ottawa started to practice what they preach.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

Last week I mentioned making a speech to the Vimy Branch, Canadian Legion, and what a treat it was to be able to get up and talk about the stupidity of senior officers.

Normally, I loathe making speeches almost as much as I detest listening to them.

As a former weekly reporter-editor, a cold, wet, grey blanket comes down over my spirit at the fateful words. "And now, I give you our guest speaker."

That's the signal. Some guest speakers you couldn't "give" to a starving group of cannibals.

I have been "given" danderheads and dots, politicians and politicians, pip-squeaks, pedagogues and presidents, farmers and philosophers.

Not once have I been inspired, uplifted or convinced. On a very few occasions I have been mildly amused, although almost never by professional humorists, who always seem so intent on keeping their tongues in their cheeks that you begin to feel that somewhere in the process they have bitten their off.

That's the receiving end. The delivering end is just as bad. It follows a fairly pat format.

You are called up, or written to, by the secretary of some organization which you've never heard of, and told they'd like to have you as guest speaker at some function you have no interest in, at some place you have no idea of how to get to.

This is the moment to say, loud and clear, "Thank you; I am deeply honored, but I can't possibly make it." Any wavering and you're in trouble.

The professional guest speaker, and there are a few about, chooses that moment to lay down his cards. He says, "Well, I might be able to fit that in on that date, but I'll have to consult my calendar." He consults his calendar, which is blank for weeks. He calls back, "Yes, I could make it. My fee is \$75. Plus expenses."

This produces an agonized pause, if you're on the phone. Then comes a plaintive, "Oh, yes. Well, uh, as you know, uh, we're a non-profit organization, and we don't have much money, and we thought you'd just come along and give us a little talk. You know, just anything. Uh, how would \$10 expenses be?" And, in a burst of enthusiasm, "And bring your wife along. Her dinner would be free, of course."

This is always what clinches it with me. A last-minute invitation for my wife. And a

free dinner for her. Big deal.

Some people love to speak. To anybody. They have one speech, which they've memorized. They have two jokes, invariably inserted with the prefix, "That reminds me of a little story . . ." It didn't, and the story has nothing to do with anything.

But for half an hour, and sometimes, Lord help us, for 45 minutes, these speakers are the cynosure of all eyes, except those which are closed in slumber. And every ear is attuned to them. Except those with the hearing aids turned off. They bark. It is nectar and ambrosia to them, even though it may be lukewarm coffee and cold porridge to their listeners.

Good luck to them. For me, it's torment. It's like a Saturday night bath, whether you need it or not.

About every two years, I make a speech, whether I need it or not. I'm proving something to myself.

This time it was different. Vimy Branch is the way I like it. They meet only twice a year, for a real smash. They have no club rooms, no flags, no lugubrious mutterings about "At the setting of the sun, we shall remember them." Instead, they have their own band, which smashes out the "tunes of glory" at a volume that is exceeded only by their enthusiasm and skill.

The chaps took the insults well. Their hospitality was gracious; a hotel room, a cheque for expenses, and a crock of my choice. My wife was not thrown in as an afterthought.

Maybe I'll make another speech in a couple of years.

Conflict and Contrast

BY JIM DILLS

Jim Dills was one of 36 weekly newspaper men from five provinces selected for a two week study tour including Israel, Cyprus, Germany, and England. He writes his observations and conclusions in this series.



Old Jerusalem provides mixed feelings

Security regulations at the Knesset Israel's parliament were strict and cameras were checked at the main entrance. The Knesset is an impressive building with modern, sweeping lines appropriately constructed out of red Jerusalem stone and it contains a complex of meeting rooms, committee rooms, offices, lobbies, lounges, restaurants, members' suites and worship room. Throughout the Knesset expensive items of art drape the various chambers, rooms and halls.

In the Knesset chamber which seats the M.P.s in a semi-circle, the impressive wall behind the speaker's podium is made of large carved blocks of white stone. Special galleries overlooking the chamber are available for foreign diplomats, guests, members of the press and the general public, very much as exists in our own Canadian Parliament buildings.

The president of the State of Israel is appointed by the Knesset which is made up of 120 members elected by secret popular ballot from all segments of the population. Israel is a parliamentary democracy and laws are proposed either by the government or individual members.

On Nov. 2 to a luncheon at the Eden Hotel hosted by Michael Elizur of the ministry for foreign affairs. Attending was the Canadian Ambassador to Israel, C. E. McGahey, a former resident of Thunder Bay, Ontario. Mr. Elizur talked about the hope for a new relationship with the neighboring Arab states, and a new atmosphere for genuine negotiations between Israeli and Arab.

"As long as you cannot look into each other's eyes it is a faulty procedure. We hope sooner or later to be able to advance the talks in a more meaningful way," he told us, as he pointed out recent developments in the negotiations being carried on by Israel and Egypt through a U.N. representative.

He told us no map of defensible borders had been prepared by Israel but one gathered there would be little retreat from those borders established in the six day war of 1967.

One of the burdens of the Israel economy, he told us was the extremely high percentage demanded for defence. Thirty per cent of the country's gross national product goes for defence, compared to the U.S.A.'s 10 per cent.

We questioned him on whether foreign

investors were welcome in Israel. There was no question about it, foreign investors were welcome and there was no limit on the percentage of ownership which they would be allowed in a business. "We also have development policies to encourage settlement in underdeveloped areas," he pointed out.

The General Federation is the union which represents some 70 per cent of the workers in the country and they co-operate in maintaining the economy through a package deal between union and manufacturers with government acting as the honest broker. They promise to keep wage price increases to the bare minimum and the union recently agreed a tax increase for defence would not be taken into account in asking for pay increases.

The state department official also praised the recent air agreement concluded between Canada and Israel which was signed in February to permit direct flights between Canada and Israel.

On again for the tour of the old City of Jerusalem. We see Jerusalem stretched out

(Continued on Page 11)

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 3, 1951.

The largest trout reported after the first weekend of the fishing season was caught by George Holmes of Acton and measured 18 1/2 inches from tip to tail. It was caught in the Speed River at Everton. Many fishermen found the water was too high and cold for excellent fishing.

The proposed Toronto-Windsor highway will pass between Acton and Milton, the Department of Highways revealed this week. Officials state it will be somewhat similar to the Queen Elizabeth Way. There are two proposed routes, one north of Milton and the other two miles south of Acton.

Of all the ones who tried the recent Know Ontario contest, Mrs. Robert Heeley of Mill St. is evidently the only one around Acton who knows Ontario to the extent of winning a prize. She receives \$3.

Quick action on the part of painter Alex Frank probably saved the life of three-year-old Karin Heller on Friday afternoon. Playing with her brother Ronnie she fell into the water when stonework crumbled beneath her feet. Mr. Frank waded out into the water, able to see only the nose and a small part of the face of the tot who was floating beneath the surface in her snowsuit.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 12, 1921.

The 21st annual meeting of the Acton Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. John Mowat, Main Street Friday. The

financial reports showed receipts of \$300. During the past year they have supported two French orphans, contributed over \$50 to the G.W.V.A. Home; gave \$25 to the Soldiers' Memorial monument; \$5 to the Armenian Relief Fund besides purchasing brooms from the blind soldiers. Mrs. G. Havill, who has held the office of president

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for seven years, was presented with an address and a beautiful electric table lamp by the new president, Mrs. George Agnew and the address was read by Mrs. Alex Bell.

On Sunday while a motor car was driving down Mill St. a rear tire struck a small stone on the edge and threw it with such force against one of the plate glass windows of Moorehead's confectionery store that the window was unfortunately fractured. The question naturally rises where the liability rests. A similar case came before Alliston council and council agreed to pay one-third of the cost of repairing the damage.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 23, 1896.

The first baseball game of the season was played in the park on Saturday afternoon between two teams from the Canada Glove Works. The moccasin team was captained by John Agnew and the glove team by Harry Jeans. W. A. Storey was umpire. The glove men won 17 to 7 and much amusement was afforded the spectators.

Rev. J. W. Rae will preach his farewell sermons at Knox Church next Sunday. Twenty-one new communicants were added to Knox rolls this week.

Mr. N. T. Weber, foreman of W. H. Storey and Son, went to Guelph to bring home his wife, who has been in the General Hospital for four months, where she underwent operation for internal trouble.

Weekly prayer meetings, discontinued in the countryside because of bad roads, have commenced again.