

## The Canadian Champion

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor  
Business Office Main Street, Milton  
TELEPHONE 220

# EDITORIAL

### Who'll Be To Blame

If Canadians or Americans wake up some gloomy morning and find that their country has gone socialist it will be the fault of the average businessman, says The Financial Post, reporting the opinion of Philip D. Reed, chairman of the giant Electric Co., and head of the International Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Toronto Board of Trade, Mr. Reed laid the responsibility for economic education squarely on the shoulders of the men who direct private industry and business. There are far too many of these people, he argued, who seem to think that public affairs is none of their concern, that any activity outside their own particular company, is unnecessary.

That individualistic view in the old days may have been considered acceptable. But it is much too narrow now. Present day democracy needs the co-operation of all classes of citizens and in his own, and the general interest, the businessman must accept his share of community responsibility. If he does not, as Mr. Reed points out, then there can be no public understanding of the way our system of free enterprise operates.

### Who Wants To Be a Drone?

Did you ever meet a healthy man of 65 who looked happily towards the thirtieth of next month when he had to retire? For that matter, how many people who happen despite their years to be fit and active want to cease being productive members of society just because some rule or regulation says they ought to start drawing their social security and retire to such menial tasks as baby-sitting and tatting?

The truth of the matter is that putting everybody permanently on the shelf at 65 is morally wrong, both for the individual and the state. The sense of belonging, of being a useful, productive member of society, is as important, nay more important, than the everlasting search for security. Medical science has extended the span of human life, only to be frustrated by so-called social science, which decrees that human life shall not be productive after the grim deadline of 65.

Retirement at 65, for many men and not a few women nowadays, is tantamount to being consigned to the economic scrapheap. Ask anyone who has been required to retire against his or her will.

Its high time for some commonsense thinking about this business of social insurance, with its arbitrary, bureaucratic rules about retirement. In carefully measured doses, it will keep the economy healthy and the individual happy. Used recklessly, it will destroy the body politic and kill the individual. Who wants to be a drone?—Bowmanville Statesman.

### What Are Prime Qualifications Governing a Teacher's Value?

At the recent annual assembly of the Ontario Secondary Teachers' Federation a rather remarkable conclusion was reported by a committee appointed to consider the question of pay-by-merit, comments the Orillia Packet-Times. The committee has found that such intangible factors as personality, teaching ability, influence on the student were difficult to evaluate. This will be readily admitted. But when the committee proceeded to express the opinion that "payment for personality would be undemocratic, ineffective, destructive of good human relations, detrimental to teacher morale and hence to the progress of the students," one is moved to exclaim "Democracy, what crimes are committed in thy name!"

From this the committee proceeded to consider that there are certain objective merits for which scheduled increases are warranted. These are additional qualifications above the minimum, — specialist standing, post-graduate degrees, additional certificates, attendance at refresher courses, etc. To which it can only be remarked that a teacher with personality, but who has not had the opportunity to gain all the academic

honours, may be a much more effective and valuable teacher than others with strings of degrees as long as your arm—personality, teaching ability and influence on the student being the highest qualification a teacher can have. When it comes to choosing a principal these are the primary and supreme considerations. As has been admitted, it is not easy for a Board of Education to differentiate between other teachers on this basis. But to rule these qualities out altogether, and to set up academic attainments as the only "merit" to be recognized in fixing salaries is to deny reward to the highest type of teachers and to reduce the economic standards of the profession to a uniform level of average mediocrity.

### Municipal Spending Jumps

Most municipalities are spending more than they are taking in, according to a survey in The Financial Post.

Since 1945, current municipal expenditure has increased by 44%; total municipal revenue has increased by only 37.4%.

The largest percentage increase both in total municipal revenue and revenue from taxation and also in current expenditures was for the rural municipalities. Their total municipal revenue increased 92.9% since 1939 and their current expenditures have increased 114.8% in the same period.

Second largest percentage increase is for the other urban municipalities which show an increase of 58.4% in total municipal revenue and 2.3% initial current municipal expenditures since 1939.

### Medical Science Achieved Much in Last Fifty Years

National Health Week, 1950! How have we fared in the first half of the 20th century? The Canadian Medical Association, representing the doctors of the nation, joins with the Health League of Canada in calling attention to some salient facts about the health of Canadians.

In no half century in the history of man has greater progress been made in medical science. A baby born in January 1950 has an expected life-span which is greater by 10 to 15 years than that of his counterpart born in 1900. The control of the infections is largely responsible for this favourable situation. Pure food and water, the new knowledge of nutrition, protective inoculations, early diagnosis, and prompt treatment with new therapeutic agents, have all contributed to better health for all the people.

The mortality of childbirth stands at an all-time low. Tuberculosis control is so effective that it is possible to foresee the elimination of this once-dread disease. Pneumonia has been robbed of many of its terrors, and the communicable diseases of childhood have been reduced out of all recognition.

Impressive as the record is, we should realize that much remains to be done to achieve similar mastery over cancer, arthritis, heart disease, and hypertension, the conditions which appear to be associated with the stresses of modern living.

The position of your doctor, your family doctor, was never more important than it is today. He is the custodian of the new knowledge, and the person who can apply the wonders of modern medicine to your needs. It is futile to recognize that great advances have been made if we do not utilize them for the well-being of the individual. Medical care consists of this very personal relationship between doctor and patient.

It is hoped that National Health Week will focus the attention of every Canadian citizen on his own responsibility in safeguarding his health, and on the partnership which should exist with his doctor in achieving this.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Easter this year comes on April 9th and the start of the Lenten season is on February 22nd.

The break-up in rural roads could not be more complete in spring than it has been in January this year.

Just seems as if we would have to pass up Candlemas Day this year in view of the fact that the groundhog hasn't been able to get snowed in.

It hasn't been the severe winter that interfered with school transportation this year but the serious break-up of roads which interfered with schedules.

Interest on national debt of today is actually greater than the total budget 20 years ago, points out the Montreal Gazette. "If a decline of revenue is accompanied by an increase in expenditure, it seems quite possible that the Canadian Government will be using one dollar in every three, not to pay its debts, but just to pay interest on its debts. These facts are all the more worth keeping in mind, because so little is ever said about them."



First it rained,  
Then it snow,  
Then it friz,  
And then it thw,  
And then it friz again.

That little verse pretty well describes it, doesn't it—this weather of ours. Today we are told it is going to rain again, and then thw. We certainly can't say it has snowed very much this winter. And these very occasional sunny days are oddly like April. Probably a lot of people would be glad if they were April.

One thing we like about winter, and practically the only thing, is the extra time it gives one for reading and writing. We usually get enough stories, articles, and poems written or drafted to send out to market for some months to come. Then when the spring days come, it's only a matter of typing them off, or putting them together, or something that takes a little time. These dull days, however, have not been conducive to writing. Somehow it takes some sunshine to create the proper mood. However, there is always reading to fall back on.

The most interesting piece of writing we read this week was the account of an address given by Dr. O. M. McConkey, Prof. of Field Husbandry, O.A.C., Guelph, when he spoke to a farm meeting in another county. Prof. McConkey has studied conservation and the results of land misuse in other countries and spent two years on agricultural rehabilitation work in the war-devastated areas. He also served as advisor to the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on crop improvement and soil conservation with the special advisory group to China of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. With all this background, the speaker found a great deal to say on the subject of conservation.

Dr. McConkey stated that in Japan agricultural produce has been almost doubled due to the advice of experts with their technical knowledge. But in war-torn China there is terrible need of better land use and conservation. The sea is yellow with eroded soil. Trees have been cut down. River dykes have burst. Crop residues are used for fuel. Organic matter is not being returned to the soil, and legumes are not used in crop rotation. Of Manchuria the speaker said it was a magnificent country with 40 million acres of land under cultivation. Mukden is a beautiful city with 300 industries, medical services, clean and well landscaped, but corrupt as to morals.

India, too, needs soil-building cropping. And that land suffers from over-grazing and deforestation. Persia and Babylonia are over-grazed and badly handled. What was once a bread basket is now a barren desert with sand creeping like snow. In Palestine there is a magnificent effort at reclamation, but in Greece the soils are starved. North Africa, also at one time a granary, through neglect and lack of foresight, has become a desert. In these countries, there is only a thin veneer of fertile soil, although it was once rich and fruitful.

Turning to Europe, Dr. McConkey stated that in several countries the soils were better than they were 1,000 years ago. German and Swedish reforestation is the best in the world. Their motto is, "Take a tree, plant a tree." This should be followed in Northern Ontario, which is still being exploited. (How about southern Ontario, also, we wonder). In Aberdeenshire, Scotland, two trees are planted for every one cut. Britain uses crop rotations and is going ahead agriculturally.

North America is a very vulnerable continent where man must maintain a balance with nature. In Western Ontario, 80,000 square miles should be reforested. Rainfalls have caused erosion and velocity winds have taken their toll in prairie lands. In Ontario, forestry has known a long history of exploitation. In southern Ontario, soil building is the problem. We must plow up heavier crops, add necessary minerals, grow grasses and clovers, cultivate across slopes where we can so water will go down slowly and soak in. As many as 120,000 farm woodlots should be fenced and reforested with trees of value for the future. Plant more trees along roads and lanes, (a good project for Forums and clubs). The land, pointed out the speaker, will lose as much in ten years by the plough as in one thousand years by nature.

Canada has developed a 15-oz. "vest pocket" Geiger counter for uranium prospectors.



"I don't think it helped Gilmore much, moving him away from the clock."

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