

The Townships Sun



Eustis miners, 1888. See story on page 5.



EDITORIAL

Dear Sir,

I write to express my deep concern with the growing number of unwanted, self-appointed representatives I seem to be obtaining of late in my political, social, economic, cultural and professional life.

Wherever I turn, I find someone has decided - unilaterally - to represent my "anglophone interest", "anglophone identity", or "anglophone needs", or those of the so-called "anglophone sector", whatever that may be.

I am told, in pronouncement after pronouncement (usually printed and circulated at the public expense) that I MUST support them in their efforts, in the name of democracy, human rights, Canadian bilingualism,

etc. God and Queen are usually omitted, but implied.

What is also omitted, but very definitely implied, is that their thin red line is the sole bulwark between "us" and "them" - "them" being the "French fact", which is apparently regarded as a new form of the "yellow peril". This indeed may be true, but my problem is that I neither need nor want such a bulwark, and keep tripping over the damned thing.

Perhaps my own case is illustrative of a common problem. I am a native-born Quebecois (or, if you insist on the barbarism "Quebecker"), raised and educated here in the Townships.

I attempted to obtain a professional diploma through the

English CEGEP, but the programme failed after the first year, in part due to the "benign neglect" (some say sabotage) of the English wing of the professional organisation concerned, headquartered in Montreal.

I was accepted by the French CEGEP as a transfer, despite my language problem. This problem stems directly from the school education I received at the hands of some of the same people who are now acting as my self-appointed "anglophone representatives", in that I had a fully-certified diploma but could not speak the language of 85 to 90 per cent of the people in my province. (I had earlier tried to obtain language training through our bilingual federal Manpower programme, so I could work, but was told such programmes are reserved for immigrants.)

Anyway, with considerable accommodation on the part of the French CEGEP, and a bit of perseverance on my part, I managed to complete the programme, and the (English) professional examination.

I now am employed, full-time, as a professional, in a regional centre here. The language of work is French, but the people served are the entire population of the region, French, English, and immigrant.

The only discrimination which I have experienced is that my co-workers have bent over backwards to accommodate my continuing language difficulties, and, on occasion, efforts are made to assign me to clients who seem to have a particular need for anglophone communication. Such assignments are made on the basis of client need, not worker preference, I might add.

Now I find, however, a concerted effort in my professional organisation to re-establish a semblance of the old linguistic division. Recently, the two linguistic "wings" of this organisation were integrated. The response of the former leaders of the "English wing" was an effort to get out the English vote for the

organisational meeting to maintain "our identity", and an "anglophone representation." I was told I MUST recognize and support "those of us who will continue to work for the realization of the needs of the anglophone sector". No such effort was made on the French side, I might add, and a number of so-called "anglophone representatives" were elected.

I wrote to my self-appointed "anglophone representative" in protest, and was informed that allegations of bigotry and "Union Jacks" are "radically irrelevant". (I had suggested they trade in the latter for French grammars.) I was further told that "the attitude which would promulgate the French language not only for official business but for all communication between professionals is contrary to the principle of Canada as a "bilingual nation", and that "this imposition would be harmful to the continuing good services" of the professionals to their institutions and clientele.

I find the bilingual nation a bit of a joke, in that this is strictly a provincial matter and in that we are a nation with two languages, but we are not bilingual, as any French professional who attempts to work in any other province in his native tongue will find out. Indeed, I define "bilingual Canada" as a nation where the English speak English and the French speak English.

I find the business of "anglophone rights" not a lost, but rather an empty cause. Why, then, is it continually perpetuated?

Partly, I feel, it is a curious form of power politics. The same people who prevented any cultural integration by keeping us anglophone now are perpetuating themselves in power by defending anglophone rights, and playing on our fears which stem from having kept us anglophone in the first place.

Secondly, a lot of them themselves have fears regarding their own general competence. They do not choose to move away and compete in the large

anglophone world available to them, nor do they wish to compete in a language-free milieu with their French counterparts, when they can continue as the big frogs in the tiny anglophone puddle they have created.

Why, for instance, are the Rhodesians of Westmount suddenly so concerned with the rights of poor Italians, when many of them have never met an Italian and wouldn't invite one to their home? Because their power base is shrinking towards the inconsequential, that's why, and they desperately are trying to expand it.

We are being manipulated by our own self-appointed representatives to their own ends, not ours. We wish to live and work in our own language, not in an English ghetto thereof, artificially constructed by the power structure. Why, for example, does the unilingual secretary, nurse, teacher, etc., live in fear of losing her job? Because there are fewer unilingual jobs than there are people, and those jobs are controlled by the very people who are busy fomenting English isolationism.

These difficulties should be behind me, since I have at least partly broken the artificial language barrier. But I wonder how long my co-workers are going to be able to listen to the politely-phrased bigotry of my self-appointed "anglophone representatives" without regarding all anglophones, including me, with suspicion or hostility. It would only be human to do so.

I feel like a shanghaied passenger on a slowly sinking English ship in a French sea, and instead of passing out life jackets, the officers are busy dressing for dinner in the best English tradition. I have taken swimming lessons, but they're not much use when you're forced to wear a ball gown.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours most faithfully,
Judith Moore,
North Hatley

Disgruntled

Dear Sirs,

It's really gettin hard to be English aroun here, ya know? Ya never know where THEY're gonna git ya next.

Did ya hear where THEY'RE trying to get rid of ENGLISH nurses and there was a conference of English professionals down at Bishop's to talk over the situation?

It's gettin to the point where if ya don't parler le ding-dong then ya ain't got no rights no more.

Remember that DISCRIMINATION thing in the paper las year? I think it was called INVESTIGATION, LUNCHBOX or sompthin like that an they were checkin to see if the FRENCH kids were eatin enough pea soup. THEY'RE probly gonna be feedin THEIR kids steaks an ours'll be chewin baloney sanwidges.

There ain't nothin sacred anymore - schools, lunchboxes, professionals, jobs,shit, THEY'RE even tryin to violate ENGLISH nurses.

Ya know sometimes when ya don't read the papers or watch TV or nothing ya can almost furgit that it's al hapnin. Ya talk to FRENCH people an they seem to be alright, ya know? But then the headlines hit ya right where it hurts. It's a damned good thing that I try an keep informed. An you never can tell about half of them. They'll be nice an polite an you'd never know the difference until you notice that "goot de Quebec" shit on his car bumper. Yer best FRENCH friend could turn out to be a seppie!

Remember Joe who used to

play on our hockey team? Well he's got the "goot" on his bumper. Yeah! The guy we used to have so much fun playing with. Ya never would have known it. I bet he won't ever speak English no more.

Well I'll be damned if I'm gonna speak French to him. I was tellin Marge the other day that the first damn Frenchman that tries to make me speak French in this house is gonna get it right between the gills.

Shit! Even little Jube's French teacher won't speak English to her. How to hell is a kid supposed to learn their bloody language?

We shoulda moved outta this stinkin province while we had the chance. Guess I was haven too much time havin fun and enjoyin myself. Oughta been more serious and looked ahead like everybody else.

We sure ain't havin any fun aroun here now, are we? Bein a minority ain't any fun at all. Hafta be on guard all the time or else they'll get ya somewhere else.

Well they ain't gonna get us, are they Charlie? It's they're own damn fault that they didn't get any education and the good jobs. Now they want everythin for themselves.

Well to hell with them. They're all alike. This is my province and I've got my rights. This is still a bilingual country and I'll speak English if I feel like it.

It's time to stand up and fight for our rights! Right?

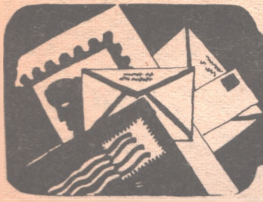
Signed,
Disgruntled

(Name withheld upon request)

Protests self-appointed English representatives

SUN INDEX

Editorial	p. 2	Days gone by	p. 5	Nutrition	p. 10
Letters	pp. 2, 3, 4	Melbourne	pp. 6, 7	The law and you	p. 15
Farming	pp. 4, 8, 9	Want ads	p. 6	And much more	



SWITCHBOARD

Downright insulting

Dear Mr. Sutherland,

That was an amusing story you recounted in the August Sun, but I must say I find your fixation with rosy-cheeked, buxom country girls irritating (do I have to be rosy-cheeked and buxom to live in the country?),

and your suggestion that women be lead around the ring instead of livestock downright insulting. I imagine it was a joke, but I find it a bad joke.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne Hassinger
Bury

If the cat had kittens...

Dear Sirs,

I have read the Sun for some time and find it a wonderful paper. Some things are pleasing, some things are disgusting but interesting as I see it.

I am a man of 74, raised a family of 9, was married 1923, first farm job was for \$26 per month, house and wood. Two years there, for 12 years always on farms.

Now there are several reasons why young people leave the farms. One, the hours are from 5 till 6:30 often later. Two, no overtime and no time off. Three, all kinds of weather. Now then, in other work, 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, \$80 or more take home pay, then the weekend is for them.

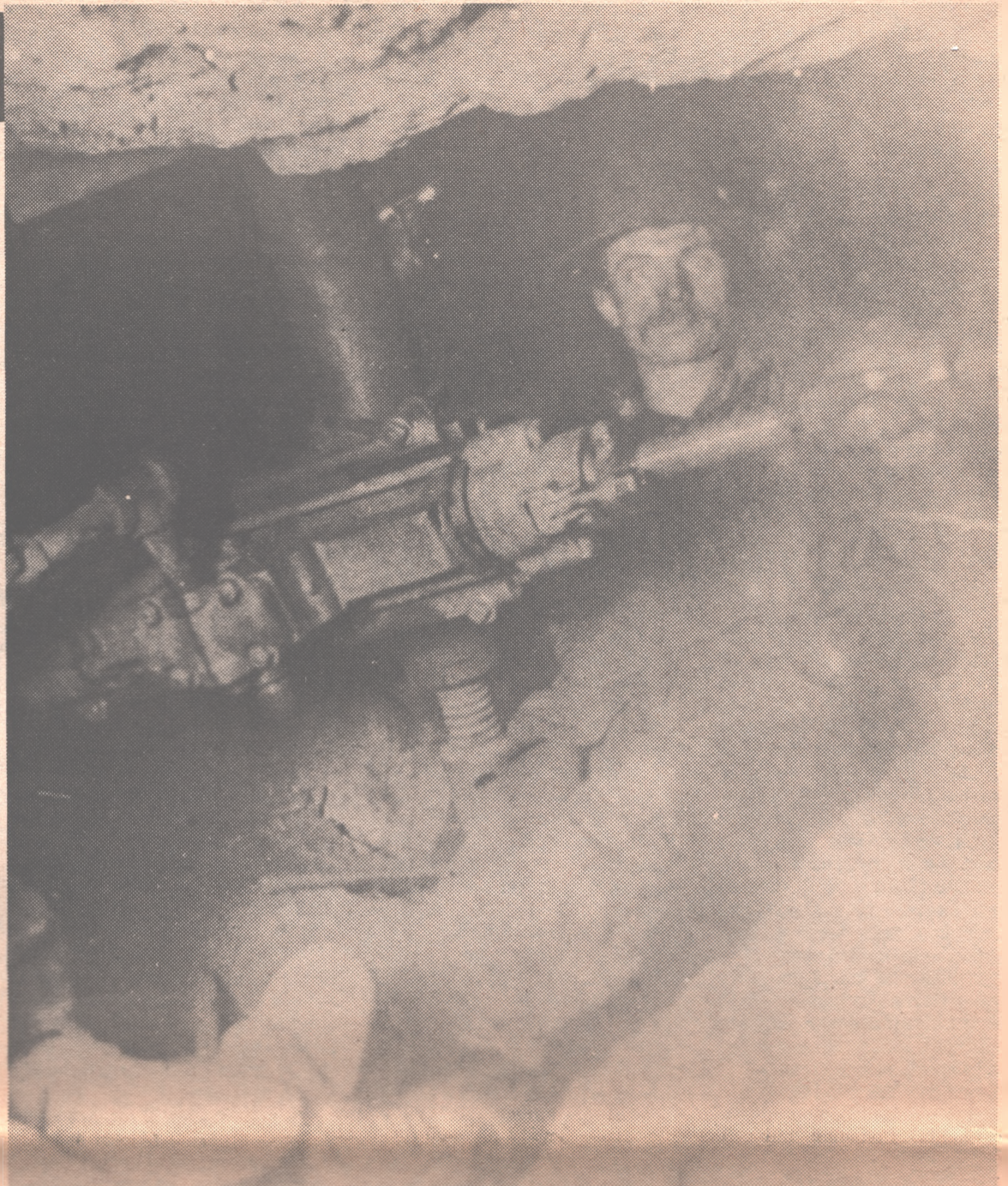
Now about French and English. God created all men equal, how many of us ever think of that. I worked 22 years in the

Dominion Textile in Magog, 2 English, 15 French. I never worked with a nicer crowd of men. Some could not speak English, most English are too stubborn to learn French. I would like to ask this, who are on most of our farms? French, Dutch, other nationalities, who help one another. A Frenchman is always ready. It would be a lot better to live with love for all.

I have often heard this expression, I am a native of Canada. wrong, the only natives are Indians. We are Canadian born settlers of different descents Scotch, English, Irish, French, Dutch, Italian, and others.

If the cat had kittens in the oven would they be biscuits?

Yours truly,
Kenneth MacPherson
Ayer's Cliff



Miner working underground in a Townships mine, probably at Eustis. The photo was probably taken as early as 1890.

What's a Dutch-German-Italian Canadian?

Dear Sir,

With great pleasure I receive copies of the Townships Sun, which serves and fills an unexpected, no-nonsense approach to many problems facing us "Canadians" in a rich, unique, bi-cultural setting.

It is a must to keep your newspaper alive. It serves all our needs to clarify misunderstandings, fears,

labellisation and separation. It has a binding force and is a truly community paper; as such the authorities should recognize it.

Let's look at it from a different angle:

We have three types of Canadians — les vraies canadiens, who first settled here, they claim it's their land; the real Canadians, who "won" a war years ago, they also claim it's their land; the Indians who

were here before the white man came, they also claim it's their country, but their problems are brushed aside.

Bingo! There is a fourth kind — the "paper" Canadian, who came from every part of the globe and after five years of good behaviour could buy his Canadian citizenship for \$10. That made him the "new", or as we prefer to call it, the "paper" Canadian. So now the labellisation is complete.

Or is it? Look at this:
The Hague, Holland, 1957. C.A.I.B., short for Canadian Ambassador Information Bureau: "Hm, yes, everything is in order. You are granted landing rights in Canada. You have a knowledge of English. That is enough to settle anywhere in Canada."

"Yes, sir, but I am going to Quebec, near Sherbrooke. Isn't that a French-speaking province?"

"No problem. English is spoken everywhere."

Fourteen days later, in a restaurant in Quebec City, I found out that this is indeed a French province. I managed to make myself understood and got something to eat, but I saw how little the Canadian Embassy had told me about Quebec.

Ten years later, the census taker comes to my door.

C (for census): What's your nationality?

A (for answer): Canadian.

C: What?

A: Yes, here is my proof of Canadian citizenship, and my Canadian passport.

C: Yeah, but you were not born here, right? Where were you born.

A: In Italy.

C: Ah, that makes you an Italian Canadian.

A: Wrong! I can't even speak that language. I lived in Holland all my life until I came here. I haven't even seen Italy as long as I can remember.

C: So that makes you a Dutch Canadian. Did I get it right this time?

A: No, I had no rights as a Dutch citizen. I had an Italian passport. Only my cultural and educational background is Dutch.

C: (puzzled) Let's try another approach. You have two children, born in Holland. So they are Dutch.

A: No, they carried the same nationality as their father. They are Italians, except they have an in-between status; they are Dutch-Italians.

C: I get it. They are Dutch-Italian-Canadians.

A: No sir, they are Italian-Dutch-Canadians.

C: All right. Now what is your wife's nationality?

A: She has a dual nationality. Her father is Dutch. Her mother is German. That gave her the

rights of both a Dutch and a German citizen.

C: Would that make her a Dutch-German-Canadian or a German-Dutch-Canadian?

A: Well, I don't want to confuse you, but by marrying me she also required rights as an Italian citizen. So according to your census formula that makes her an Italian-Dutch-German-Canadian, or in what ever order you want, as long as Canadian is at the end.

C: Well, I can't put that down. It sounds ridiculous. As far as I am concerned you are a Canadian with a Dutch background and an Italian origin.

A: But that doesn't account for my wife and children. They are...

C: Listen, are you putting me on? What do you want me to put down?

A: Just simply Canadian.

C: I can't do that. You weren't born here and...

A: Well, let me explain it again. It's quite simple...

C: Never mind, I'll just put you down as a Canadian.

A: Right on! As I said at the beginning I'm Canadian and proud of it.

Amen. That's the right approach. We are all Canadians.

Signed,
an unpapered Canadian,
G. Galeazzi,
Windsor

TOWNSHIPS SUN

105 Gordon St., Sherbrooke, P. Q.
Telephone 562-7969
Published by:

Roderick Macdonell
85 Queen St., Lennoxville
Student

Brian Olding
100 Queen St., Lennoxville

Susan Mastine
1590 Dunant Apt. 5
Sherbrooke
Research Director

Robert Winters
715 - 13th N. Apt 228
Sherbrooke
Social Animator

Russell Pocock
RR 1, Compton
Social Animator

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Baler twine prices investigated

By SUSAN MASTINE

In the summer of 1972, baler twine could be bought for six or seven dollars a package. This year, however, prices have risen to as much as forty dollars in some places.

Why? Is it just someone else taking more than his fair share of the profit?

The answer is no.

Research conducted by the U.P.A. (Union des Producteurs Agricoles) has revealed that the countries exporting baler twine — India, Pakistan and Mexico — are currently charging Canada four times the price they charged a year or so ago.

What's going on there?

These countries have recently experienced adverse climatic

conditions, resulting in a decline in crop production and a corresponding decrease in the amount of hemp available for exportation. And it is because of this shortage that they have raised their prices.

For those who are wondering when or if it will ever end, there is hope. It is expected that prices will soon stabilize.

A group of local farmers deserves recognition and congratulatory for their part in seeing that this question of skyrocketing baler twine prices was looked into.

The Bulwer U.P.A. is to be commended not only for its concern for the farming community, but also, and more importantly, for its initiative in

doing something about an issue at hand. It was the English-speaking branch of the U.P.A. in Bulwer who, after raising the issue at a local meeting, requested that the provincial federation of the U.P.A. look into the exorbitant price of baler twine.

It was a rare occasion when a group of English-speaking Quebecers got beyond the stage of merely discussing and complaining about an issue of common concern, to the point of initiating action. Maybe someday such occasions won't be so rare. Maybe someday English-speaking Quebecers will realize that they can participate and have a say in what goes on in this province.

Lennoxville prof likes it here

from Contact

John Seitz is American. He worked for twenty years in the United States, Japan, German and England before coming to teach at Champlain College in Lennoxville. He has chosen to live in Quebec, and wants to spend his life here. While other English-speaking people are leaving the province, John Seitz wants to make it his home here.

He is attracted to Quebec by the interesting social and educational changes he sees happening in this province.

"I think Canada is 15 years behind Quebec in social policy. The important developments are happening in Quebec. I chose Quebec because I like it here."

FRENCH MILIEU

Mr. Seitz supports the Parti Quebecois and enjoys the

French-speaking milieu.

"You have to speak French here," he says. "The English have no need to be afraid. They can speak English in every country in the world when they travel. The English language is not in danger. But the people of Quebec, those who only speak French, can't go anywhere; they are limited to other francophone countries. It is absolutely necessary that Quebec remain French."

"My native language is English," says Mr. Seitz. "If I don't want to have anything to do with Quebec culture, I have only to go somewhere else. The anglophones have a choice to make. Here, we are Quebecois, we are at home. Just like the British are British and the Americans are Americans in the

United States. My wife has also made the choice to stay in Quebec and speak French."

He adds that he has no trouble with his English-speaking friends, even though they know he is for the Parti Quebecois.

BILINGUAL CHAMPLAIN

Mr. Seitz says that Champlain is in favour of bilingualism. Professors are expected to try to speak French, and he hopes the college will become truly bilingual.

Most of his students are bilingual, and he tells them that they can hand in their work in French if they want. Mr. Seitz has been living in North Hatley for five years. His children go to school there, half French and half in English.

"I hope that the North Hatley school will become the North Hatley school," he says. "Not an English school, not a French school, no... the North Hatley school."

PARTICIPATION

"I like politics," says Mr. Seitz, "and I think it is necessary to participate. If you don't participate, you have no right to object or complain. I am interested in politics and I participate to see my ideas advance. I don't hate others whose ideas are different from mine. I like my ideas and I like my party and that's what I work for. Not against others, but for what I believe in."

Sawyerville Coop plans centre

Members of the Sawyerville co-op are applying for a LIP grant for the winter months. They are proposing the formation of a community cultural centre where people of all ages could receive instruction and gather to share projects in the fine arts, music, theatre and crafts.

The mornings would be devoted to a program for pre-school children and their mothers and also a crafts program for senior citizens.

After school projects would range from wood construction to theatre.

Evenings would be devoted to adult gatherings and classes. Movies for children would be shown on Saturday afternoons while adult films will be shown on Friday nights.

The centre will house a library for both children and adults. Special events will include such things as exchanges and shows of the children's work.

Protests Mt. Orford Park expansion

Dear Sirs,

Do hope this article will appear in your newspaper. I believe the public is being misled, in a way without realizing it. As in the case of the 70 organizations backing up his plan. These are not my ideas and this relates the true facts as I have found them.

PARK ENLARGEMENT???

What is the need to enlarge the park, who is going to benefit?

At present we have skiing at Mt. Orford, but what family of 4 or 5 can afford this luxury? We do have the Camp Musicale, another luxury an ordinary bread-winner can not afford his family.

We have heard of what the provincial government is doing to protect wild life. In what ways cannot see. When the government rented land to Camp Musicale (at a hearsay price of \$100 for 99 years), did they not know they were ruining one of

the best deer yards in this area?

At what is known as Manilla Lake is another example of government protecting our wildlife. Last year swimming facilities were cut off because the lake was polluted. Where is the proper sewage? Is this protecting our fish?

And how about Cherry River Pond, another winter feeding area for the deer. They are being scared out by cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

What is the provincial government doing with the park it acquired approximately thirty years ago with the intention of wildlife conservation? The Mount is rented out to private enterprises. Camp Musicale is not government run. Is the government subsidizing them?

Do you call dumping rubbish and waste from chemical toilets over the side of the mountain, conservation and an aid in combatting pollution?

How about our ski-doo's, which the government won't allow on the park. Of course we, the ski-dooers realize the government is making more money from a twenty dollar pair of snowshoes than it does from a \$1,000 snow machine which on the average burns \$100 of gas and \$35 of oil, \$5.50 license plates, and general up-keep. We realize that this is the reason ski-doo's are not allowed on the park.

We also realize that a careless ski-dooer can knock down a tree measuring 18-20 inches at the stump. It would be out of line to allow this to go on in the park which all tax payers keep up. We also realize that packed ski-doo trails aid deer to get around to the few feeding areas the government hasn't already protected from the deer. (Ha! Ha!) And aids the coyotes and wolves to slaughter them.

The land that the government is planning on taking has been

owned between fifteen and thirty-five years. The majority of land owners have cabins which afford many a relaxing hour for him, his family and friends.

Any wood in the last decade which has been cut has been either dead or damaged by wind, etc.

Does the government consider our feelings or are we under communistic rule? When we hear we have no choice what are we to believe?

As far as government conservation in our area, we, the members of the Cherry River Conservation Club, feel we do not need the type of conservation the government is noted for in our area.

And how about the 30-40 thousand people backing up this project? Through the Syndicate Catholique des Ouvriers de Textile de Magog there is a

backing of approximately 3-4 thousand. Also the Memphremagog Ski-doo Club has backed it. Both without any consultation of the members. Did these organizations state that the majority of members belong to both these clubs? And I assure you a good many do.

I have heard on T.V. and radio about the 30-40 thousand backing this project but have never heard how many were against it. How about all the facts???

How about you? If you don't complain about taxes, you are one in a thousand. Do you realize that this project is going to cost us, the taxpayers, over one hundred million dollars, (and will it stop at that?)

I would appreciate any view points on this subject.

One who's interested,
Michael McKelvey
R.R. 2, Magog



Sun photo by Jake Brown

Farmers' column suggestions wanted

Have you got a comment on an article in the farming section or on an issue of concern to farmers?

Do you have a question or a problem that possibly other farmers in the area have had experience with and could respond to?

Do you have an idea that you would like to share with other E.T. farmers?

The Townships Sun would like to begin a Farmers' Column for the farmer and by the farmer with comments, questions and ideas submitted by the local farming community.

If you are interested, please send your views to the Farmers' Column, The Townships Sun, 105 Gordon St., Sherbrooke. The success of this column depends upon you!



A group of miners near Capelton around the year 1900. Can anyone identify the men?

Once there were miners

By ALEX MCGREGOR

In the first issue of the Sun, I wrote a few remarks which were mildly critical of Bishop's University. The reaction from some members of the faculty of that institution was incredible. Several members of the gentle scholarly community invited me to a quick round of fisticuffs. Others abused me personally in a most vile and vindictive fashion. There were also other reactions from faculty members which even Public Relations Committee of Bishop's would have trouble explaining away.

So disgusted was I by the primitive activism displayed by the Bishop scholars, that I swore I never again would mention Bishop's in any article which I would write. If I was mildly critical, as I had been in the past, I would again face the wrath of the screaming academic mob. If on the other hand I was complimentary, I would be signalling to the Bishop's academic neanderthals, that their disgusting actions had in some way influenced my opinion of them. Thus Bishop's represented to me a "no win" situation. Silence was for me the only possible course.

But solemn vows have a habit of coming unstuck by the logic of facts. I have decided to break my vow of silence on Bishop's because of one of the most remarkable books that it has been my pleasure to read this year.

The book has the unattractive title, "Three Eastern Townships Mining Villages Since 1863: Albert Mines, Capelton and Eustis, Quebec." It is written by W. Gillies Ross, who is

Chairman of the Department of Geography at Bishop's, and the book is published by the University.

The title is the only unattractive aspect of the book. Everything else about the book makes it a must for anyone having the slightest interest in the history of the Townships. Even if the book only consisted of the ninety-one historic photographs which it includes, it would still be a priceless addition to one's library on the Townships.

Yet there is much more to the book than the photographs. The book actually chronicles the rise and decline of the three mining towns — and describes succinctly what the towns are like today.

For example, when the mines disappeared, "Generally speaking the communities beyond the range of comfortable car commuting to Sherbrooke steadily degenerated from viable service centres to smaller residential communities with a preponderance of old, retired people, while villages located within convenient commuting distance of Sherbrooke assumed the new role of dormitory suburb, experienced a population increase and retained a healthy proportion of young employed people."

What has happened to the small mining villages around here has, in short, been the pattern for much of this province. The cities seem to be battenning fat on the small towns. At one time Albert Mines, Capelton and Eustis were extremely important to the Canadian mining industry. But

alas technological changes have altered that fact.

During the Civil War between 1860-1865, the copper of the Townships was vital to the industrial sinews of the Northern States. Sobering thought is it not that many a poor southern lad breathed his last because of ores mined in our peaceful Townships!

Yet for me the best part of the book does not come with the cold facts of mineral production and shipment. I am much more interested in people, their "joys and sorrows, conflicts, and triumphs, friendships and rivalries, attitudes and opinions."

Thus Gil Ross (where does he get this W. Gillies Ross?), the author of the book uses a technique which his namesake and colleague, Eric Ross used so brilliantly in his "Beyond the River and the Bay." This technique is to have an imaginary visitor visit the villages as they were in their prime. This time Gil has a fictitious "group of visitors from Lennoxville visiting the villages around 1905."

"Beyond the town (Lennoxville) a green and healthy forest clings to the slope of the Massawippi Escarpment on our right while farmland occupies the fertile lowlands extending to the Moe River below Huntingville." When the imaginary visitors reached Capelton they took pictures of the miners in front of the station: "On enquiring as to their origins we are told that, aside from English and French Canadians they include Cornishmen, Devonshiremen,

Welshmen, Irishmen, Scots, Finlanders, Eye-talians, Ukrainians, Germans, Polaks, Slovaks, Bohunks, Bolsheviks and niggers from North Carolina." Quite a group. Naturally they had a "reputation for taking on anyone in Sherbrooke on a Saturday night."

A fascinating group of men it seems. The visitors went on to describe the industrial processes. One of these processes required alcohol. "A boy whose job it is to dip a jug of alcohol and pour it into stone jars in which nitric acid is reacting with quicksilver, tells of filling up the rubber glove on one hand with alcohol and making the rounds of the workers' lunchpails, dispensing liquid favours graciously from the wrist of the glove." No mention is made of the fact whether the boy received as great a profit from his labours as the modern day local booze dispensers.

At Albert Mines the visitors were aware of the school where "You had to take an hour to write that line. If you went a little bit quick she'd crack your knuckles..." At Eustis Mine on the other hand, men 'kept rats to keep the mine clean and provide amusement'...it is well known that just before a rock fall they begin to howl, and then run up the shaft." Amazing!

The social life of the villages is also brilliantly described by Gil Ross. For example, there were patent medicine pedlars from Sherbrooke who used to sell "Smith's Bucha Lithia Pills (for sick kidneys, the bladder, rheumatism, and the blood),

Bertrand's Creosoted Glycerine (for congestion of the lungs and incipient consumption), Dr. Mackay's Specific for Drunkenness, and Hurst's Pain Exterminator...Probably these medicines will appear about as strange to future generations as many of the patent medicines which we consume now in such strange quantities. Perhaps the main cure for illnesses came with "the bootleggers who operate in the villages, descending promptly on pay day to help the clients satisfy their baser wants..."

Gil Ross also does an excellent job on pollution in the mining villages. He has this to say: "Industry too commonly ignores the roles of rivers and streams as recreational areas where man can enjoy boating, fishing and swimming. The concept of the scenic landscape as an aesthetic resource...is alien to the exploitative nature of many industrial activities." The chapters on pollution in other words are first rate.

I heartily recommend this book. It is available for \$4.00 at the Bishop's University Bookstore, the Department of Geography, Bishop's University, and the Annex in Lennoxville. To my surprise it is not available at Classics Bookstore in Carrefour de l'Estrie. If I were a vindictive, nasty sort of person I would hold up "Three Eastern Townships Mining Villages Since 1863" as a splendid example of the kind of thing which more people at Bishop's ought to be doing. But since I am a sweet soul, I will merely urge all our readers to treat themselves to some marvellous reading by buying this splendid book.



COMMUNITY

Because of boubous Boutin booted out by by-election

By RUSSELL POCOCK

The community of Melbourne may yet be thankful for Jean Claude Boutin, their former deputy. After all, he may yet prove to be the man most responsible for saving their village from devastation a la Route 51.

Of course, Boutin never really meant to assume such a heroic role. He would probably prefer never to visit Melbourne again.

The same event which brought the Route 51 struggle to the attention of the media all across Canada and to the leaders of the province's political parties, also dealt Jean Claude's own career a heavy blow.

Let's face it, if it weren't for Boutin's "boubous", Melbourne may have been a dead issue by now.

How many of the members elected last October have brought an equal amount of attention to their constituencies?

Johnson county was unknown territory to politician and newsman alike until its former deputy came upon the scene a year ago. The Melbourne people had tried for more than two years to meet with anyone closely related to a cabinet minister or the C.B.C.

Then all of a sudden, one couldn't walk down to the post office without having to shake a cabinet minister's hand or blow into the 'mike' of a C.B.C. reporter.

Of course, Boutin himself avoided the issue until it became painfully clear to some of his fellow liberal members that trouble was brewing in this tranquil village.

Lise Bacon, when approached at Boutin's nomination, said that she would try to arrange a meeting with Maheu, Minister of Roads. A meeting was finally set for Aug. 27, the day before the election.

It didn't take Glen Brown long to smell a rat when he came hustling around English-speaking voters in Melbourne just days before the 28th. Supposedly, on hearing about it from some local, he immediately got on the phone to Boutin and the Department of Roads in Quebec City.

At 10 o'clock Saturday morning, 4 days before the election, Jean Claude Boutin, Glen Brown, and Paul Berthiaume, Minister of State with the Roads Dept. found their way to Melbourne's tiny town hall to meet with the citizen's committee.

Sleepy-eyed but sincere, the Minister admitted that sometimes such problems become 'so sore' as to

necessitate Ministerial intervention. Too often, he said, the technical experts fail to evaluate the human side of road-building projects such as Route 51.

Boutin had the nerve to tell the gathering that he had done all in his power for Melbourne and that this particular meeting was proof enough that their problem was always his primary concern. He then left the meeting for another engagement.

Berthiaume accompanied members of the committee on a cross-country tour of their alternative proposal. When he left he promised to return following a more thorough study of the problem and gave hope that something might be done.

At the meeting on the day before the election, deputy minister Perron admitted that the engineer's cost analysis might contain a few guesses. He assured them that they were extremely fortunate to have the Minister Berthiaume looking after their case personally. As far as he knew, no Minister had ever involved himself to that extent before.

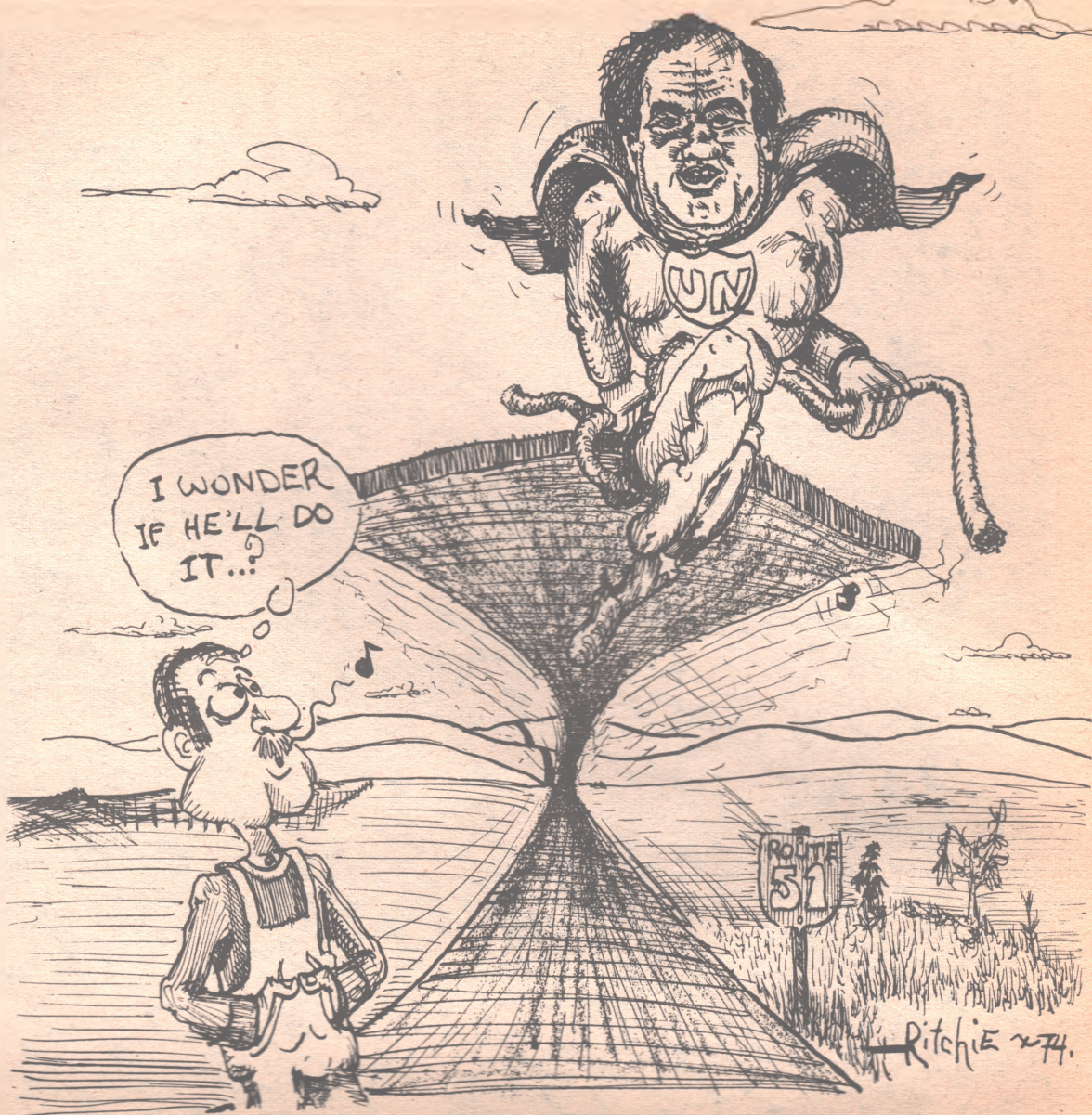
This bizarre by-election contained many precedents. Even the election officer Caturdal in Valcourt was surprised at how hard Boutin was bounced out of the Melbourne, Ulverton, Kingsbury area. This English-speaking area has traditionally been a liberal stronghold. Last October the liberal majority in Melbourne alone was 391 ballots. This time around out of a possible 747 votes in the 3 villages, Boutin managed only 147: Only 21 more than the Parti Quebecois.

Bellemare's tally in the same three communities was 456 with 332 of those votes coming from Melbourne itself. This is quite a comeback for the U.N. which managed only 9 votes between Ulverton and Kingsbury combined last year.

So Jean Claude has made way for Maurice who has signed a statement of support of Melbourne's cause. Hopefully he won't be pressed to use it. The citizen's committee is sitting tight to hear from Berthiaume within a month or so.

If there isn't a worthy response however, then Maurice and Jacques Yvan Morin, leader of the Opposition, will be called upon to make good their pre-election promises of support.

The only other thing remaining to be said at this point is a hearty thanks to Mon. Boutin for having sacrificed so much in order to put Melbourne on the map — and hopefully, keep it there!



Bellemare is shown above as a super road-mover.

Route 51 restudied

The minister of State attached to Transport, Mr. Paul Berthiaume, announced in Quebec city yesterday the formation of a committee of experts whose task will be to restudy the trace of autoroute 51 that is to pass through Melbourne in the Eastern Townships.

This decision was made following protests raised by the citizens of this municipality in Johnson county and as a result of a visit that the minister made to the area to fill himself in on the ecological problems as stated by the citizens.

The minister recalled that there was a difference of \$5 million between the traces originally proposed. After becoming aware of the citizen's claims, the minister announced the formation of a special team from the Department of Transport to restudy the implications of the original trace as well as those of the trace proposed by the residents of Melbourne.

The team will be composed of multidisciplinary specialists and will be directed by Mr. Jacques Herbert, assistant engineer to the Deputy Minister of

Transport. Aside from the president, the group will be composed of Daniel Waltz, specialist in ecology, Andre Soudeyans, engineer, and Robert Letarte, geographer. At the end of the study, the committee must present a report to Mr. Berthiaume.

Mr. Berthiaume concluded by saying that he expected to return to the region to present the results of the inquiry to the population concerned.

translated from La Tribune, Sept. 19
by Susan Mastine

Free want ads

FOR SALE: As we will be moving from our farm shortly we have 2 Clydesdale work horses and an Ayrshire-Holstein cow for sale. Both mares have been working well together and the cow has been giving us between 4-5 gallons of milk daily. Our farm is located on the Milan-Val Racine Road and can be seen at any time. Seymour & Lydia, Little Red Rooster Farm, R.R. No. 1, Milan.

WANTED TO BUY: For retirement, small house with a piece of land, preferably south of Sherbrooke. Call: 819-879-5236.

WANTED: Keen collector of Canada Postage Stamps for a hobby would appreciate receiving Canadian stamps of any vintage that readers may have in their possession. Please forward to S.P. Griffin, 205 General Vanier Ave., Asbestos,

P.Q., J1T 1M6.

FOR SALE: Afghan puppies in Lennoxville available at end of September. Call: 562-9481 after 6:00 p.m.

WANTED TO BUY: Rambler station wagon (any condition), chisel plow (any condition), gravely tractor. George Kirkpatrick, R.R. 1, Sawyerville.

FOR SALE: Volvo parts, and homemade candles. George Kirkpatrick, R.R. 1, Sawyerville.

FOR SALE: Collection of new and old Canadian stamps with album. 1972 list price — \$755.00. Will sell for \$700.00. Tel: 845-4422.

WORK WANTED: If you need

art work done: graphics, posters, cartoons, and even signs painted, see Ritchie, 1516 Denault or call 569-1581.

CHARITABLE organization needs your unused and unwanted knitting wool and yarns, unfinished knitted articles, and unused knitted garments. Please send donations to the Thomas Merton Center, Magog, P.Q.

STOVE WANTED: Honest young man would like to buy equally honest wood burning space heater. Call 562-7969 from 9 to 5.

ROAST TURKEY supper, St. James Church Hall, Hatley, Sunday, October 6, 4 p.m. Admission \$2.25, children under 10, \$1.00. Everyone welcome.

Bellemare is back

By Bob Dawson

Maurice Bellemare has won his 17th election. The new M.N.A. for Johnson will take his seat in the National Assembly this fall as the newest and one of the oldest members of the Chamber.

Alone, leading a political party that was supposed to be dead, Bellemare won a victory that is a slap in the face to the most powerful government in Quebec history. The Liberals should have known better.

Bellemare's track record is remarkable. He is a specialist in by-elections. He has won eight and lost none. He was MNA for Champlain for 28 years. He was constantly re-elected from 1944 to 1969. He has served as Leader of the Opposition, government leader in the Assembly, and cabinet minister under Duplessis, Sauve and Barrette. Now, the last surviving active member of the Duplessis regime, he has come back to haunt the Liberals.

At the up-coming Union Nationale convention, Bellemare expects to be confirmed as head of the party, something he didn't even dream of three months ago. In the Assembly, he wants to unite with Pequist Robert Burns and Creditiste Fabien Roy to form a common front of opposition against the government. He plans to lead the creation of a powerful conservative political party that

will defeat the Liberals both in Quebec and Ottawa.

The Liberals have 101 M.N.A.'s in Quebec; the three opposition parties combined have only nine. Bellemare feels the Liberals have nowhere to go but down.

He recalls the great U.N. victory of 1948, when Duplessis had 82 seats and the opposition had only eight. Bellemare said to Duplessis that they were really sitting pretty. Duplessis replied that their situation was worse than ever: they couldn't go up; they could only go down. Bellemare says to take a good look at the Liberals in the Assembly now: after the next elections, he is sure that many of them will have disappeared.

BOUTIN SCANDAL

The election in Johnson was partly the trial of defeated M.N.A. Boutin, and Bellemare says the trial is not over. "The Boutin affair is not over," he says. "There are other scandals and other names that will come out."

"I am going to ask Burns that we unite to demand that Boutin appear before the National Assembly, to clear up this question for the honour of the electors of Johnson... We want to know. If the Liberal government is really democratic, they will explain what happened, but they are going to find more of their people getting caught..."

"If Boutin was guilty, Bourassa should have had him judged by his peers in the Assembly, not by the population," continues Bellemare. "The problem with Bourassa is his arrogance. But the people of Johnson have served him a humiliating defeat."

BACHAND YES, LEVESQUE NO

Bellemare gives high marks to Parti Quebecois candidate Bachand. "He was fine, I admire him," says Bellemare. "But Rene Levesque came into the county and insulted me, said I was a Duplessis dinosaur, a ghost from the past. Bachand was running a clean campaign and didn't deserve that kind of bad help from his leader."

Bellemare also criticizes Levesque for not running in the Johnson elections in the place of Bachand. He says that if Levesque had been a candidate, "I would have asked myself some serious questions about whether or not to run in this election".

"Levesque really missed the boat, and his party will make him pay for it," he concludes.

TOO INTELLECTUAL

Bellemare is an old-time politician, a hand-shaker who made the rounds on just about every country road in Johnson County during the elections. He considers the other parties to have been rather incompetent

during the Johnson campaign.

"Look at the Parti Quebecois," he says, "They're too lazy. They would get up around noon and make a few visits in the afternoon. To win an election, you have to hit the road at six in the morning and finish at midnight."

"The Parti Quebecois are too intellectual," he adds. "They make plans and theories, while to win an election, you have to contact human beings, you have to cover every square inch of your territory."

AS FOR THE LIBERALS

As for the Liberals, Bellemare charges that they threw a million dollars into the county for the elections and lost any way. "All of a sudden there was road work going on in every village in the county," he says.

POLITENESS

Bellemare promised to be very polite in his speeches in the National Assembly. He complains that M.N.A.'s use unparliamentary language in their speeches, and he intends to put an end to it.

"Once when Lesage was Prime Minister, I got up in the House and said, 'Mr. Speaker, if truth were to be banished from this world, it would not find refuge in the mouth of Mr. Lesage'."

"What I was actually saying," explains Bellemare, "was that Lesage was a damn liar. But I said it politely."



Sun photo by Jake Brown

Superfrancofete marks changing French-Canadian mentality

By Bob Dawson

The Superfrancofete held this summer in Quebec City was part of a significant change in the attitudes of French Canadians towards the world around them.

The Superfrancofete consisted of 700 shows, sports and artistic events, involving several thousand artists, musicians and athletes from 25 French-speaking countries around the world. It was a world first, organized by the Quebec government for two main purposes.

First, the festival focused on Quebec as a cultural centre for the entire French-speaking world. Delegates from many countries went away with the impression that Quebec, not France, is where it's happening.

Second, the Superfrancofete was designed to help break down the traditional walls of isolation that have surrounded Quebec. French-Canadians have long been an inward-looking people, fearing the masses of English North Americans around them.

BROADENED OUTLOOK

The festival showed them that there is a whole world of greatly varied French-speaking countries out there, and that the Quebecois can broaden their outlook by relating to these people rather than constantly looking inward. Many French-Canadians have criticized

themselves as being a self-pitying minority with an inferiority complex. Suddenly Quebec found itself to be the centre of the most advanced happenings in art and culture in the French-speaking world.

Thousands of young people from 25 countries admired and envied the progress Quebec has made as a society and as a leader in films, music, literature and technology.

Quebec was seen by these other countries to be the richest and most advanced French-speaking country in the world. The contributions of France to the festival looked stifled and old-fashioned in contrast.

The Quebecois, who have long felt submerged by the massive English culture around them, suddenly found themselves proclaimed leaders of the French-speaking world, a world that stretches from Europe to Cambodia to West Africa to the West Indies. The effect of this international spotlight will be long-range. The people of Quebec have come of age in the international scene.

The Quebec artists were, in turn inspired by the depth and variety of culture from other nations. Quebecois have always looked to France as the standard bearer for all Francophones. In the festival, the representatives from France were virtually

ignored, and the closest affinity was between the Quebecois and the Africans.

The extent to which the artists mingled with the Quebecois was remarkable. Almost every event was held in the open, in the parks and streets of Quebec City. Artists performed in the streets and danced with the crowd. At l'Universite de Laval, the dances went on to six in the morning almost every night, to the sound of exotic rhythms and spectacular twenty minute African drum solos.

Magic was in the air and bonds of friendship were created, uniting Quebec with countries around the world.

It was a peoples' festival, the ultimate anti-Expo and anti-olympics. The budget was small, no new buildings were built, no contracts were given to American television networks. It was just for the people in the streets, and a million people came. As many as 125,000 people attended the daily concerts on the Plains of Abraham. There was no trouble, no violence, just a great international atmosphere.

TOLERANCE

Some idiots decided to cancel an African play called "Negroes" because the play was considered to be too radical, although it had already been shown on Belgian television. After this, African delegates

stood up and said that French culture was just fine, but while Quebecois are trying to defend the French language, Africans see both French and English as symbols of colonial imperialism. They want to defend their native African languages against both French and English. They called on every nation to defend its own culture, but to be tolerant of the culture of others. These were unusual words to hear over the loudspeakers in Quebec City, and the crowd listened carefully.

TRIVIA

Enough of the heavy stuff, let's get into trivia. During the festival, Jean Leblond, cultural attache of Quebec in Paris, rented a CN train and shipped hundreds of delegates from all the countries out to a party at his private farm. The Quebec Provincial Police were suspicious to see masses of people running around on a farm, so they sent forty armed policemen in to raid the place. There was a confused confrontation between the police and hundreds of delegates from Africa, Asia and Arabia, all in their native costumes. The police finally realized their mistake, stumbled back into their fifteen police cars, and roared back down the country road like a bunch of Keystone Kops.

EYE-OPENER

Some African groups at the

festival did their national dances on stage wearing nothing but loincloths, as they would in their own countries. A group of them were touring a shopping centre in the wealthy suburb of Ste. Foy. The manager of the supermarket, to be in tune with the festival, put African music over the loudspeakers. The African dancers reacted spontaneously by taking off their clothes and dancing. Crowds gathered. The police were called. The police came and watched too. They thought it was great.

Angry letters to the editor spoke of corrupting our youth. It was a real eye-opener for the wealthy matrons of Ste. Foy, just as the whole festival was an eye-opener for the people of Quebec. Some people speculated that the great shopping centre naked dance scandal had been deliberately planned to open up the minds of the suburbs.

The only person unhappy with the festival was the government employee charged with going around to all the zoos and gathering up camel manure to be used in African pottery. He put the stuff in the trunk of his car. Even a month later they won't let him in the underground parking lots, and everybody at the office moved their desks away from his.

All in all, it was a lot of fun.



Biological farming - fantasy or reality?

The methods of cultivation that have tended to be promoted for several decades are based to a great extent upon the use of chemical fertilizers and treatment by numerous chemical synthetic products. And this legally permissible formula, presently in practice in most farming communities, may seem to be the only solution.

Not so! In opposition to this "chemical" type of agriculture, there is another formula that certainly merits our attention if we want to see beyond the quantitative short term aspect and to judge quality more objectively than by external appearance or the number of bacteria.

It is clear, however, that this method of cultivation, "biological agriculture", does not quite fit in with the philosophy, research, methods, and techniques as taught and practised unilaterally in our actual system.

Biological agriculture, nevertheless, exists in several European and American countries. It has proved itself and tends to develop rather rapidly when needs and market possibilities are taken into account.

PRINCIPLES FOUNDED ON LOGIC?

The basis of biological agriculture is the equilibrium of life in the milieu at all levels — in meadows, pastures, and forests. Animals and plants are regarded as living beings in a living milieu, the soil, in which all elements of biological activity are essential to the conditions of normal life.

Biological agriculture aims, above all, to produce healthy and balanced food of superior quality, cultivated without the contribution of synthetic chemical products. And those who adhere to this formula, in addition to safeguarding the land and the life that it animates for future generations, are promoting the health of man, animals, plants, and microorganisms, all essential to the equilibrium of nature.

Far from being a backward step, biological agriculture constitutes a complex science emphasizing soil conservation and health in the perspective of the future. It is born of great men who have marked the history of European and American agriculture (Rudolph Steiner, Dr. Pfeiffer, Albert Howard, Fred Sykes, C. Louis Kervran, Rene Quinton, Dr. Delbert, Raoul Lemaire).

In many countries, an increasing number of farmers practice these methods of cultivation with remarkable success. Many of them have been using the method for 10 or 15 years, attaining productivity increases that place them in an excellent rival position vis-a-vis neighbouring farms with a chemical base.

BIOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

New techniques of production, based upon natural means and products are first of all applied to return the necessary equilibrium back to the soil, and to constantly put back the elements extracted during the course of cultivation.

Current chemical products and treatments are thus replaced by

biological fertilization, i.e., organic fertilizer, mineral fertilizer (rock powder, natural phosphates, marine algae, etc.), special rotation techniques, the working of the soil and suitable production techniques. The techniques of biological agriculture are based primarily upon the preparation and use of composts as well as on the loosening up of the soil in a way that permits the survival and propagation of microorganisms in their given milieu.

In addition to the equilibrium obtained in the products that improve human and animal health, from one year to another, the contributions of fertilizing agents can gradually be moderated while the yields increase, due to the activity of worms in the earth and of microorganisms that have been re-established in the soil.

This is in contrast to chemical methods, artificial fertilizers, pesticides, etc., where, aside from pollution effects and residues in the produce, the soil becomes more inactive year by year, demanding a continual increase in chemical contributions.

RESPONSE TO A NEED?

Quebec, still young, with a lot of space and a less intensive production, is just beginning to resent the effects of the degradation of the milieu and its renewable agricultural resources (air, water and soil pollution; the gradual impoverishment of the soil, filled with chemical products) insect plagues; difficulties in the conservation of animal life; and ever-increasing demands for

fertilizer, weed-killers, pesticides, and disinfectants due to the disequilibrium provoked in nature; extension of parasitism, sterility and of other troubles in animals and humans.)

At some point we are going to have to seriously question ourselves as to our commercial and competitive orientation which is characterized by a lack of planning and of a guarantee for the future. In the meantime, we content ourselves with the easiest solution, valuing immediate effects, without stopping to examine either the causes or the effects for future generations.

This new mode of agriculture, based upon the observations of and respect for the laws of life and nature, besides being logical in itself, offers to those who practice it seriously an attractive technical and economic balance. It leads to an increased rate of increase in productivity, a substantial decrease in costs (veterinary fees and outside treatments, for example), a reduction in the loss of animals and plants which have an increased resistivity, an improved capability of food preservation, and most of all, superior quality of produce. In contrast, it can increase the cost of manpower.

Consumer statements on natural, i.e., biologically cultivated products, are more favorable and are multiplying, to open the door to an attractive market.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGROBIOLOGY, A GREAT CHALLENGE

The transfer from chemical

agriculture to biological production is far from being easy. Besides having to face a milieu, a system, or a mentality often austere and very conservative, such a transfer entails a delay of several years. It requires a psychological and philosophical advancement coupled with strong motivation, biological knowledge and administrative capacities. Often those who have devoted themselves to biological agriculture did so as a result of major problems in chemical production.

From the beginning, biological farmers must face both non-organized production and a non-organized market. The development of such a sector in agriculture therefore necessitates the implantation of an entire circuit of commercialization of natural, biologically cultivated produce. This entails above all information and a change in mentality at the level of the producer and of the consumer.

Who in Quebec, is able to venture to develop a network of competent and serious producers, specific machinery and supplies, technical services, information, transformation and diffusion of products. Yet if it ought to be done, we cannot allow ourselves to deceive the consumer.

The need for biological products is creating itself here as elsewhere. If Quebecers can't see this, other countries will see it in their place.

Translated from *La Terre de Chez Nous* by Susan Mastine

Law to protect farmers...

Factories do not pay municipal or school taxes on their machinery, because the machinery is used for production. Yet farmers pay

municipal and school taxes on their farmland, even though it is also used for production. This elementary injustice results from Bill 33, a law which,

incredibly enough, was designed to protect farmers from excessive taxation.

For as long as anyone can remember, farmers were forced to pay taxes under regulations set by the Municipal Code. The Code was actually designed for cities and towns, and so farmers ended up paying for sidewalks and sewage systems in towns nowhere near their farmland and woodlots. "You are taxing the tools we use to earn a living," said the farmers, and so the ponderous machinery of government slowly ground into action. The Belanger Commission was appointed to look into the matter.

The Commission's findings were clear. "We recommend that farmers should benefit from a series of exemptions from municipal and school taxes on their land and farm buildings," said the Commission. They also recommended that farms in speculative zones near towns or cities be taxed according to their agricultural value, not according to prices that land speculators are willing to pay. Only if the farmer sold his farm to

speculators or developers would he be forced to pay higher taxes retroactively for five years.

There is many a slip twixt the commission and the law, however, and Bill 33 as it now stands seems to put many farmers at more of a disadvantage than ever before.

Bill 33 is not very clear, and the professional evaluators interpret it in many different ways, often to the disadvantage of the farmer.

REAL VALUE?

The new law says that farmland and woodlots should be evaluated according to their REAL VALUE, and not according to POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT VALUE. In other words, a farm next to a big shopping centre should be taxed according to its value as producing farmland, and not according to the speculative value caused by the shopping centre next door. If the farmer has to pay tax rates based on potential speculative value, obviously he won't survive too long.

The first problem develops when you try to figure out what

real value is. The professional evaluators seem to have decided on their own that there is no difference between real value and potential selling price. They say that the whole story of real value was just a political move designed to keep the farmers quiet during the passing of the law.

They cite hundreds of cases of jurisprudence where the courts ruled that the real value of land is simply the highest price you can get for it. In other words, real value is the same as speculative value, the market price, or the going price. What the evaluators forget is that Bill 33 is a new law which renders obsolete all previous jurisprudence on the matter.

A prime example of the result of this confusion is the farmer in the Beauce who has been farming all his life on 250 acres. He was evaluated at \$16,000 in 1968. Then the town nearby started getting bigger, and a new school and residential area were built right up to the edge of his farm. The evaluators came along last year and set the value of the farm at \$171,000. Yet the



Grain—the latest speculation target

By Susan Mastine

One of the most common subjects of discussion in the local farming community and in just about every farming community east of the Prairies, is the rising cost of grain.

For the past several months, the price of grain has continually been on the increase. And in turn, as the situation continues to worsen, farmers are becoming more and more distressed and discouraged.

Just what has caused price hikes? Is it because grain and meal outlets have decided that they want their share of the increase in food prices? A logical conclusion but not the right one.

The U.P.A. has studied the matter and their findings were presented in a recent issue of La Terre de Chez Nous (August 28).

First of all, the most evident cause - and not necessarily the most important one - is the poor U.S. crop, when drought resulted in a decline of at least 15 per cent of cereal crop production.

Another factor contributing to the price increases in Quebec has been the strike of mechanics and officials on the Great Lakes wharves. This seems to be the least important and most easily remedied cause of the increases in grain prices.

This, however, is only part of the story. Another important and much more distressing factor contributing to increased grain prices is stock market speculation in the U.S.

Speculators - whose prime goal is to make as much money as possible over a short period of time - have watched the Dow Jones index of the New York stock exchange plummet from 1,100 about a year ago to 675 a few weeks ago. This means that whereas the average value of

shares on the N.Y. exchange was \$110 last year, the average value has now fallen to \$67 - a decline of 39 per cent.

As it has become harder and harder to make a quick buck on the N.Y. exchange, investors have changed their habits and are investing instead in the Chicago stock market, the major market of agricultural produce on the American continent.

These people are now buying such things as chickens, pigs, cattle, and grain in the hope that there will be perceptible price increases. The investors thus have a vested interest in trying to make the price of grain go up, thereby forcing producers to increase their prices.

The effects of this trend - the instability of and increase in grain prices - can be seen in the following table, giving the price per hundred-weight of whole oats on the Montreal stock exchange:

Date	Price
August 1, 1974	6.13
August 7, 1974	6.25
August 8, 1974	6.59
August 9, 1974	6.39
August 12, 1974	6.17
August 21, 1974	6.32
August 23, 1974	6.40
September 5, 1974	5.98
September 12, 1974	6.62½

This problem of increased grain prices and the resulting increase in production costs are not unique to any one area of the continent. Because the prices of produce on the Chicago market directly influence and determine prices throughout North America, the only farmers in the country not adversely affected are those producing the grain.

Before the speculation and the decline in crop production and the strikes on the Great Lake



Sun photo by Jake Brown

wharves, grain prices were relatively stable and feed mills were able to buy ahead. All of these factors have contributed to price increases, and the speculation has also caused prices on the stock market to fluctuate so much that feed mills must operate on a day to day basis, buying according to demand and passing their increased costs on the the

farmer.

The whole situation poses a continual treat to agricultural producers. As their production costs increase because of the meal and seed grain price hikes, their income is remaining at the same level.

It has been said that the only solution for the farmer is that he raise his selling prices. But it's one thing to say this, quite

another to succeed in doing it.

One farmer alone can't decide to increase his prices; he will get nowhere and end up with unsold produce on his hands. Some form of collective agreement and action is needed. All I can suggest is that farmers in the area work with the U.P.A., the only body that has the power to make the voice of Quebec farmers heard.

... does just the opposite

agricultural value of his farm has not increased: his cows don't produce any more milk than before just because there is a school nearby. It was hopeless for the farmer to pay taxes on such a high evaluation, so of course he had to sell the farm. One less farm in a world that is getting hungrier all the time.

This particular problem would be cleared up if the government had the intelligence to put the words REAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE in the law. Then there would be no confusion: The farmer would be taxed according to how much his land could actually produce and not according to prices offered by real estate speculators.

\$150 MAXIMUM

The law also states that regardless of the evaluation, the farm can't be taxed on an evaluation of more than \$150 an acre. In the case mentioned above, the evaluators told the farmer, "Don't worry about the fact that we have set you at \$171,000: you won't be taxed for more than \$150 an acre."

The trouble is that the

evaluators very often set the farm at the maximum rate of \$150 an acre. This is all right in an area where the land is actually worth that much in terms of agricultural production, but it gives no protection at all in areas where the real value is only \$70 an acre. In those areas, the evaluators often consider the speculative value of the land and then set the evaluation at \$150 an acre.

The result of this is that the farmer will pay excessively high taxes for the rest of his life, often just because there is land speculation in his area. It's just one more financial burden that many farmers can't afford to pay, and it is especially unjust when you consider that a big company can buy your land, build a huge factory on it, and they won't have to pay municipal or school taxes whatsoever on the machinery they use for production.

BONA FIDE FARM

The law says that a one per cent tax, \$150 an acre and 40 per cent reimbursement of the tax apply to farms. But what is a

farm? The law reveals that a farm is land used in "bona fide" production. That doesn't help at all, because what is a "bona fide" farm?

What about the farmer who retires and rents his land to the farmer next door? Is he a farmer or is he not? The law doesn't say.

Even worse are the cases of farmers who retire, and can't afford to hire labor to work for them. They give up farming all together, but plan to spend their retirement years living on the farm. They suddenly find their tax rates jumping way up, because they are no longer "bona fide" farmers, and they are forced off the land that they worked all their lives.

HOUSES

Another jolt provided by Bill 33 is that the farmer's house will now be evaluated and taxed at the full speculative rate. Formerly a farmhouse was exempt up to \$10,000. Now the house is taxed at the full rate, and with the prices of houses having doubled in many regions, this added tax burden could just prove to be too much for many

farmers.

ANNEXATION

The law provides for a ceiling of one per cent taxation on farms, but this is useless as protection, because municipalities have the right to levy all sorts of extra taxes for services provided... even though the services are often provided in the towns and not for the farmers. This often happens in the case of annexation, when a town takes over part of a rural area and begins to tax it at the town rate, with all the extra taxes included, and the farmer finds that he is in fact paying for sidewalks and sewage systems that are being built in the town and for which he has no use.

NO PROTECTION

Bill 33 in its present form is so unclear and full of ambiguities that it provides no real tax protection for the farmer at all. The limits of taxation for farmland and woodlots should be clearly defined, and serious questions should be asked about why everybody from General Motors to Steinbergs are exempted from municipal and

school taxes on equipment and machinery used for industrial or commercial uses, while the farmer pays taxes on his land, even though it is also used for production.

There is a very real possibility of having this law changed, because some well organized farmers have protested loud and clear to the government. More action is needed to get the law changed. Farmers should check their evaluation and tax bill very carefully every year, and when there is the slightest doubt, fill out one of those evaluation protest forms they give away like confetti at municipal offices.

That in itself won't be enough to get the law changed, of course. A number of local MNAs need to be made aware of the problem, under the threat of being relegated to the compost heap in the next elections. In the meantime, organizations such as the Quebec Farmers Association and the UPA need the support of farmers to be able to do anything about problems like this.

by R.D., with much help from La Terre de Chez Nous



NUTRITION

Organic foods, gardening, farming



Good health food is available at the Sherbrooke Co-op, Galt Street West.

Sun photo by Jake Brown

Are you eating better for less?

By Mister K

There being many things we can swallow, it's obvious some will benefit us more than others. The reason we choose certain substances over others is not widely thought about.

Profit-oriented people have a great influence on people's choices. Refined foods, convenience foods (TV Dinners) are expensive primarily because you are paying someone else to do the preparation. They are secondly so, because the refining or processing robs many vitamins, minerals from the natural product and all too often cheap fillers or sugar is added to make the product taste like something. In other words there is less nutrient per dollar spent. Important in a day of spiralling cost, eh? Do you get what you pay for?

You can get more natural taste, energy and proper elimination from natural, unaltered food. These are reasons we are designed to chew, hold and hopefully digest materials. Right?

There are many forms of diet for many reasons. Most people say they feel O.K. or think they feel O.K. or most likely have

never felt any better so it's a comparative thing. Especially the young can choose unwisely and seemingly so without real illness. But, they have new equipment. I'm over 30 and can bicycle up a hill whereas the neighbourhood kids just get off and walk up.

The older person may just lack energy or be less resistant to a virus. These are difficult to realise and you certainly are not yet sick. But as healthy as you could be?

It seemed that only those who had abused their systems for many years, then fell very ill and then were given a choice, a sensible diet or else, were into diets. These were the so-called "Health Food Nuts". Times have changed.

To be aware of what is sensible food for you and what might be deleted is a new interest you might gain a lot from.

Recommended Reading: "Diet for a Small Planet," Francis Lappe (Ballantine Books)

"Let's Eat Right To Keep Fit," Adelle Davis (Signet)

Taken with a grain of sea salt though.

Rest in Peace.

By FRANCES ELLIOTT

Organic food, organic gardening, and organic farming...These are new terms to many people. Actually what they refer to are not new at all.

Organic gardeners and farmers follow essentially the old ways of growing food, like the farming of more than thirty years ago. They don't use commercial chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. They don't confine live stock, force feed them or dose them with antibiotics, etc.

Their methods of fertilizing and pest control are not designed to be deliberately old-fashioned but rather to be ecologically sound, i.e. they try to avoid waste, destruction of land, and pollution of the land and also of the food produced. For example, they use manure, compost and natural rocks for fertilizer and many clever methods of natural pest control.

A more complete description of organic farming methods can be found in "The Basic Book of Organic Gardening" edited by R. Rodale. This is one of the many books on organic gardening available in most book stores (\$1.25).

Organic food is the produce from organic gardening or farming. It looks the same as any other food but it should be safer to eat, i.e., less likely to be contaminated with the poisonous chemicals now used in modern farming.

Organic enthusiasts claim that organic food is more tasty; some say it is more nutritious than the food grown in the modern highly mechanized way. According to the author of the article to which I will refer later it has not been proved that organic food is more nutritious than the usual food but she also admits that it has not been disproved.

WHERE TO GET ORGANIC FOOD

The best and cheapest source of organic vegetables and fruit would be from your own garden if you refrained from the dangerous chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Advice on how to fertilize and control pests can be found in the book mentioned above. It is possible to have a worthwhile garden even in the city with a small patch of ground or a sunny balcony.

Health food stores sell organic food. Some super markets and grocery stores also sell some. It might be labelled nature or health food. In these stores the food is usually over-priced and there one must be leary of some fantactic products like 'Live' sugar and 'natural' medicines.

In this area we are fortunate to have some local farmers selling organic vegetables at their farms and there are two cooperatives where prices are reasonable for many kinds of dried organic vegetables, fruits, and grains. The Sawyerville Coop is located in Eaton Corner in the red house across the street

from Marg's Restaurant and will be open towards the end of October. The Sherbrooke Co-op is located at 30 Galt West.

ORGANIC FOOD, A FAD?

Organic food is especially popular with conservationists, nutrition enthusiasts, people turned off from society, living on the land, these and others whom some might call cranks. So organic food has gotten the reputation of being merely a fad.

In "Nutrition Today" of Mar.-Apr. 1974, there is an article entitled "The Organic Alternative" by Joan D. Gusson, instructor of Columbia University's Teacher College's Program in Nutrition. In this article one finds an assessment of organic farming that should be undeniable, for the author states, "As nutrition professionals, we have long been taught to view organic agriculture and the food it produces as one of the more extreme of the 'fads' with which we must regularly contend. Harried by the growing swarm of ardent amateurs, and disturbed by the deceptions and excesses of some 'health food' purveyors, we have understandably felt the need to mount a strong counter attack."

From being an active opponent the author proves to have become an apologist for organic agriculture. She states: "Despite our prolonged attack on the intelligence and morals of those who questioned the healthfulness of the 'refined' Western diet, those 'faddists' may turn out in the end to have been somewhat more than half right all along. Organic farming is not a fraud. Despite the fact that money has lured a number of cheaters into the 'organic' food market, farmers growing by the organic method often are not receiving premium prices for what they produce. Many of them sell their organic produce on the open market for the going open market price. Considering this fact it seems extraordinary how much hostility this relatively small band of growers and those who buy their produce have generated."

THE COSTS OR HAZARDS OF MODERN AGRICULTURE

The author continues "Though many people in nutrition find it surprising, the fact is that a growing number of thoughtful people concerned with ecology, agriculture and the world food supply support, or at least take seriously, the experiments being conducted by organic agriculturists. For it is becoming increasingly clear that in our understandable enthusiasm for the spectacular yields achievable through heavy applications of pesticides, herbicides and N-P-K fertilizers (as well as confinement feeding of livestock), we have failed to take into account a number of 'costs' of such an approach to food production, costs that will with time become increasingly intolerable. Some of these costs are social, e.g., the destructions

of rural life (and of central cities) caused by the industrialization of farming; and some of them are ecological."

The author points out that a significant cost of modern agriculture is billions of tons of solid waste that has to be disposed of. No longer is manure returned to the land. In the U.S., agriculture produces more waste than mining industry, commerce or cities and residences. And half of the agricultural waste is manure. Organic agriculture not only does not produce this problem, it actually makes use of the manure as fertilizer.

Still another cost is energy, the energy required for making nitrogen fertilizers, herbicides, tractors, gasoline, irrigation, etc. Organic farming requires man power which we are not short of and does not require excessive amounts of fossil fuel energy which the world is running short of.

ONLY MODERN AGRICULTURE CAN FEED THE WORLD?

The author defends organic farming against the criticism that organic farming is a heartless alternative, i.e., that it would be so unproductive compared to modern agriculture, that it would condemn most of the world to starvation. She points out that those most strongly critical of "chemical farming" have not proposed its immediate wholesale abandonment but rather a gradual phasing in of good farming practices and some combination of chemical and organic methods. She also stresses that due to the rising cost of energy it has been short-sighted to encourage large-scale intensive Western agricultural methods in third world countries with no indigenous energy resources and an over abundance of small farmers.

As for world starvation the author claims that a significant contribution toward solving this problem would be for Americans (and this means Canadians too) immediately to eat less, to stop wasting food and to start eating more vegetable and less animal protein. "Nutritionists could help by teaching overfed Americans the difference between needs and wants where food is concerned. If we maintain our present wasteful ways of eating and if we compete on world markets in order to do so, much of the rest of the world will go hungrier."

Editors Note: According to John B. Harrison, author of "Good Food Naturally" and owner of Mylora Farms, one of Canada's largest commercial organic farms, produce grown on rich organic soil contains a higher percentage of protein than produce grown on land laced with synthetic nutrients. In fact, Mr. Harrison credits his pest free fields to this, as insects prefer the higher carbohydrate content of his neighbour's crops.



A hockey game being played at Capelton around 1920.

The Russians are here

By RON SUTHERLAND

The Russians are here, and people are thinking about hockey again. But apart from the Canada-Russia series, it's a great Canadian tragedy — what's happened to hockey in this country. In the Province of Quebec, Saturday night hockey used to be as much an integral part of life as eating, drinking and trying to effect the revenge of the cradle.

The whole pathetic situation came home to me in crushing fashion one evening last hockey season. They were having a night at the forum for Henri Richard, the magnificent little veteran centreman for the Montreal Canadiens, the man who almost single-handedly eliminated the Chicago Black Hawks and brought the Stanley Cup back to its rightful place in Montreal only three years ago, the man who despite greying hair and thousands of scars still plays the game the way it should be played. The man who disillusioned hundreds of thousands of starry-eyed youngsters a few years ago when he pulled the plug on the image of Gordie Howe, pointing out that Howe was one of the dirtiest and slyest players in the N.H.L.

What the kids didn't understand was that Henri

Richard was paying Howe a compliment. He was saying that Howe was smart. He had skill and burning desire. Despite two or three players shadowing him every second he was on the ice, he remained great, because he was an artist, a master of all the tricks of the trade.

Nobody pushed around Gordie Howe, as the Chicago fan found out when he spit at big Gordie after a game and wound up with a fractured jaw. Another Chicago fan, in the spring of 1961, suffered the same fate when he insulted Henri Richard's big brother, Maurice Rocket Richard. They're suckers for punishment in Chicago, it seems.

On Henri Richard Night at the Montreal Forum, Rocket Richard was present, the first time he had been to a hockey game in the Forum in years, and listening to the ovation given to both brothers, Henri and the Rocket, brought back a flood of memories.

The night of April 8, 1952, when after being hammered by Leo Lebine and Bill Quackenbush, Rocket Richard, in a state of semi-consciousness, went through the entire Boston Bruins team to score the winning goal against Sugar Jim Henry. Or the night when the New York

Rangers brought up Bob "Killer" Dill, who had been trained as a tough guy by his boxing uncles Mike and Tom Gibbons, especially to stop the Rocket, and Richard knocked him cold twice in a row. And many other memories — the brute power of Bobby Hull, the stick-handling and wizardry of Jean Beliveau, the cool determination of Doug Harvey.

Now nobody is going to tell me that hockey has not deteriorated. I used to play the game, and I've followed it for years. I don't care what anybody says. It's not nostalgia or glorification of the past, it's the simple truth. Expansion, commercialism, big money — together they are ruining hockey.

The desire, the pride and the wrath of the Gordie Howes and Maurice Richards are vanished before our eyes.

If the trend continues, never again will the millions be glued to their radios and TV sets on a Saturday night. Never will a player be worshipped the way Rocket Richard was worshipped in Quebec, and outside Quebec.

Not only was the Rocket celebrated in print by Canadian novelist Hugh MacLennan, but he also attracted the attention of the great American novelist William Faulkner, who in his typical prose style, wrote of

seeing in Maurice Richard, "something of the glittering, fatal, alien quality of snakes."

Hockey used to be exciting in the old days of the six teams — Montreal, Toronto, New York, Boston, Detroit and Chicago. In Quebec, it was an obsession. In terms of ethnic group representation, hockey was dominated by French Canadians.

That was before the owners decided to water the wine, then to just about eliminate the wine and colour the water, for bigger profits; before the multi-million dollar contracts, before the hundreds of thousands of miles of air travel inflicted upon the players, before the heart went out of the game. What used to be a Canadian greatness is becoming a Canadian tragedy.

Is there anything to be done about it? I don't know. Perhaps it's too late. In Quebec, among young people, interest is waning fast. The only possibility I can see is that the Players' Association, as a matter of pride, call a strike and refuse to play until the N.H.L. restores the old six team league, leaving the new teams in a lower division of their own, with strong and weak teams changing divisions at regular intervals as in British football. That way an elite league of the best players would be preserved. But probably the

players are making too much money to worry about pride.

There is some pride left, of course, in players like Henri Richard, Phil Esposito and Yvan Cournoyer. We thrilled in the sweet euphoria of that pride in the last minutes of the monumental Canada-Russia series in 1972, when we defeated a nation ten times larger than ourselves, despite spotting them every possible advantage. Recently, when the Russian poet Yevtushenko was visiting Canada, someone asked him who was his favorite Canadian poet. "Phil Esposito," he replied.

Well maybe he was being facetious. Very likely he doesn't know very much about Canadian poets. But there is a truth in his remark. The best hockey, that produced occasionally today by the Espositos and Orrs and Cournoyers, and regularly in the past by the Richards, Howes, Sawchucks, Ezinickis, Keons — you name them — that hockey is poetry, and in the case of Maurice Rocket Richard, epic poetry.

If big money, commercialism and greed succeed in destroying hockey, as seems almost inevitable at the moment, then some of the poetry will have gone out of the lives of Canadians, and particularly of the people of Quebec.

Notes on the professional conference

By Doug Menzies

Bishop's University and the Quebec Farmers' Association hosted a three day meeting of people whose jobs involve serving off-island English Quebecers in the fields of information, education and animation, held at Bishop's the last three days of August.

The theme of the conference was the present and future of this population; the purpose was to look at problems and possibilities and see what we could do ourselves, and where we'd need outside help.

Any account I might give here would be biased and incomplete. Therefore I offer you snapshots of thought-provoking moments. Anyone interested in finding out exactly what went on is invited to write John Haywood, - Farmer, director of extension, Bishop's University, for a free copy of the final report.

We spent one afternoon of the conference looking at what could be done to help the English newspapers keep their public aware of what is happening in Quebec, what is about to happen and why.

Big papers like the Montreal Star and Gazette serve Montreal - whose interest include the universe, the world, the Dow-Jones stock report, Canada and Quebec, in roughly that order. You're as likely to get a detailed look at Alberta separation as the Quebec variety. Nothing wrong with this except it unconsciously leads you to look at Quebec with the same detachment. There is little possibility of change.

The small English weeklies are the ideal medium. They have a strong local focus, feel deeply the responsibility to serve the needs of their readers, and are thoroughly read. But they don't have the manpower or the money to read through, let alone

translate, the huge volume of press releases, new laws and regulations, statistics, reports, briefs, etc. being sent from Quebec, these days almost always in French.

So the bulk goes in the wastebasket, and the rest into a tottering pile of "I'll read these when I get a chance" which in turn generally ends in the wastebasket because they never do have the time or energy to singlehandedly tackle the enormous job of explaining Quebec City to an uninformed, indifferent or hostile local English population.

I wanted to see whether some kind of province-wide news network could be set up, with perhaps someone in Quebec city to sift through the releases before they went out, translating and writing into news style items of interest or importance. Both the federal Secretary of State Department and Communications Quebec might be tapped for funds for this project. (See editor's note at the end of this article for the reaction to this idea).

Every editor or owner of Quebec weeklies thought the idea good and agreed to make special efforts to attend this historic meeting. None showed up. Not even representatives of the Sherbrooke Record and Stanstead Journal, the two closest.

Communications Quebec people were initially courteous - they are a new branch of the provincial government, and right now concentrating on bridging the information and feed-back gaps between government and the majority population. They recognize a gap on the English side; they might even be willing to help us bridge the gap. But as the Townships area co-ordinator said, "faut qu'ils fassent le

premier pas" - we must make the first step.

We're the minority, the government works for the majority. We're the ones who suffer from not knowing what the government or majority thinks or does, and we're the ones who will suffer more if we don't do something to correct it. We can expect the government to help us, but not to do it all for us.

If we want something, we'll have to take the first step. The first day of the conference was devoted to examining the problems of the rural English. In general this provoked the most serious debate and the greatest benefit of the conference consciousness raising.

Among causes of problems like low bilingualism levels, ignorance of the basic alignment of mainstream forces in Quebec, non-participation in new forms of social democracy were identified the counter-productive leadership of a Montreal-oriented elite and separate English structures like school boards, the isolationist regional schools, the emigration of the best of rural youth, and the general inability of the English to adapt to changes in Quebec in the last twenty years.

WHOSE PROBLEM

Somebody came up with the question, "Do they have a problem, or do we?" A valid point. If you collect a group of ordinary people and asked them to describe the problems of the English minority, most would probably say they had few or none, and the rest would agree that things were no worse here than in any rural area in Canada.

The conference that almost was

By Doug Menzies

Conferences are wonderful things. Everyone comes with problems or questions they hope someone else will have an answer for. They want to be spectators, not participants and leaders are as scarce as hen's teeth. Professional conferences are even more wonderful. Everyone is on an expense account and has been delegated to come by someone else or has decided to come themselves at the last minute, hoping to do a dozen errands, visit a relative, see a friend.

They begin late and break up early. They generate comradeship, paperwork and the contact high of being shut up in the same room with new or different ideas. Professional conferences on the future of a minority we all serve (i.e., if they disappear so do our jobs) are possibly the best of all conferences. Because this is an area none of us are assigned to tackle directly yet each of us is professionally involved in some aspect.

Publicly we all applaud initiatives taken to tackle the big problems low bilingualism levels for example, or isolation and lack of information - yet each resigns himself between inertia

and hopelessness to the fact we cannot reverse history; we cannot do anything.

We are cunning and astute in our analysis of what went wrong, why the English have lost their place in Quebec; we are idealistic and woolly-headed in our proposals for correction.

LOSS OF SPIRIT

Again and again the "problem" of the English in Quebec was traced to a loss of spirit, a giving up. This conference failed for lack of that same determination to survive: the participants in the end weren't convinced that there was a problem, or if there was, that it was serious and pressing and immediate, or if it were, that they could do anything about it.

Oh I'm sure we would have had unanimous approval of a resolution "We think it is too bad the English will disappear from the face of Quebec", and majority support for "Things will get worse before they get better". But no one takes it personally. I don't think many really care any more. So there's the message, from the people in the know: invest in Ontario, land of our future.

The ever-changing role

by Phyllis Pocock

Mother "A female parent" "a name of honour given to a woman". These are two definitions of the name given to the person that every one recognizes as one of the most important individuals in our lives.

I feel it is significant that there are two such definitions, in as much as a parent is "one who produces", the natural mother most of us have known.

For those who have never known their natural mother it is given to the person who fulfills the role of mother in their lives. This can happen in many ways and in many varied circumstances. The important thing is that it does happen.

In the era of change in which we find ourselves, it is heartening and a little frightening to be aware of the importance of the mother in relation to the child.

EFFECT OF DEPRIVATION

Tests have proven that deprivation of the actual physical warmth and nurture of the mother or mother image retards the physical, mental, and emotional development of the child. The role of mother remains a vital one which must change with each stage of the child's development.

The early stage of a child's development is one of the most vital, depending a great deal on the mothering instinct. Happily this is natural in most females and usually, with common sense tempered by love and patience,

Nobody spends their time looking at problems, or they'd go crazy or move to Toronto or both. "The problem" is not that life is intolerable, or the future unthinkable but simply that life in the narrow dimensions Quebec's English have walled themselves into believing is the entire known universe is too limiting, too inflexible, too small, and ultimately, the professionals all agreed, too untenable to continue.

The youth leave and will continue to leave because the world is wider and choices greater where you speak the same language as everyone else, where you won't miss a subsidy of dental clinic services because your newspaper threw out the announcement because they couldn't read it.

There's no problem, it's just that everyone is leaving. If enough leave, there are fewer jobs for English teachers, agronomes, adult education professionals, newspaper editors. That's the professional's problem.

At several times the conference resembled a battlefield. Hostility flared between groups with different opinions and strong convictions that they were right and the other side probably communists or neanderthals or Frenchmen in disguise. Exciting stuff, but hardly productive.

As one of the mediators put it, "We must step outside our perspectives, our own points of view, and see where and how we can help each other." It is difficult to do this, and frustrating for an organizer of a conference like this one when so

the mother helps the child become prepared for the first step of leaving to begin the big adventure of learning.

EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Although this stage is an emotional experience for both mother and child, it is usually easily accepted and proves to be a happy and exciting time for both.

However, there are always some problems and during this time the mother must watch and listen for signs of her child's beginning to show his-her need for independence. These usually are subtle and varied and she should be ready to recognize and act on them.

The years spent in elementary school for most children are interesting and meaningful; they learn from home, community, and school to both give and take from society.

Their peers play an important role as well, but a mother who grows with her child, by recognizing his-her role in society and even taking an active part in supporting groups in which he-she participates when possible, has a stabilizing effect on the child.

ADOLESCENCE TRAUMATIC

The next stage of development, the transition into adolescence, is by far the most baffling and traumatic for both child and mother. Today this fact is more pronounced than ever before, influenced by such factors as the drug scene, more advanced learning, the political situation, and social unrest.

little comes out of so much concentrated attention. Inevitably you hope for substantial agreement on a whole variety of action programs, and inevitably you face a worn out bunch on the last day and realize they'll never agree on the time of day, let alone what they'll do for the future of the English in Quebec.

But that is my perspective, which I must set aside to see the real value of the conference. At worst it reflected the paralysing indecision of our resource people in the adult change field, which alone might be usefully trumpeted into the ears of the masses who wait with numbing patience for someone to do something, anything for them. At best it continued the dialogue between those who empty the ashtrays as the ship goes down and the salesmen of the cockleshell lifeboat for survivors, the good ship INTEGRATION.

In the one area where there was widespread agreement the need for resident expertise or resource people in the adult change field, a mechanism was set up to explore Quebec programs for training animators on the job, and offering summer or part-time training to community leaders.

ED. NOTE: Others present at the conference felt that this kind of approach would only encourage an unhealthy dependence upon translators or a media service with limited resources to relate the Quebec experience to them. It was suggested that the time has come for Quebec anglophones to learn how to participate in decisions and events as they happen rather than wait until someone translates the event to them.

This is a time when both mother and child become anxious and even distrustful of each other. The adolescent still needs a home base, but not as a place to be mothered.

A young person now needs a friend, a confidante, who can look beyond the context of childhood and family life; who accepts him-her as he-she is, despite the outward facade, change of habits in dress, and other signs of rebellion against family life-styles. These are ways for a young adult to become independent "Not under the influence of another" "Acting for oneself".

MOTHER SURRENDERS ROLE

It is difficult and often with tears and tribulations that a mother can surrender her original role of protector and nurturer. She never really stops being a mother; she secretly worries and wonders - she wants her child to know she is there to talk, to share, and care.

Once she no longer tries to impose her standards and ideas they both grow in a new way and see each other as unique individuals; they are freed from the mother-child context they have always viewed each other in. They learn to respect and enjoy each other.

As a mother who has lived through these changing roles I have found each one both a challenge and a joy, shed the tears and felt the pride. I hope I have shared common thoughts with all mothers.

Workers take over Sherbrooke factory

By RUSSELL POCOCK

Sherbrooke Wood Products makes a good hockey stick. Bobby Orr uses them as do thousands of amateurs and street hockey enthusiasts. In a good year, S.W.P. has produced more than 1¼ million sticks destined for all parts of the world.

Another interesting fact about S.W.P. is that those employed there will soon be the owners as well.

This isn't the first time in Quebec that the employees have become their own employers. In Temiscamingue a company formerly owned by Canadian International Paper was bought by its 400 workers. C.I.P. felt that the operation wasn't showing enough profit but the workers realized a profit of \$600,000 in the first three months after the takeover.

S.W.P. was founded in 1947, by a local family headed by Yvan Dugre. In 1971 the Dugre brothers sold out to Brookfield Sportsman Goods, an American firm; and things began to sour.

The 45 employees belonged to the C.S.N. (Federation du Batiment) and insisted upon a negotiation when they were informed of a salary cut.

The firm threatened to close down the shop if the workers wouldn't accept the wage decrease.

At this point, the C.S.N., with assistance from the Business experts from l'Universite de Sherbrooke made a marketing study of the operation which led

them to believe that if the firm was not showing profits, it could only be due to poor management. So when the management closed its doors in December of 1972, the workers decided to study the possibility of buying and directing the S.W.P. themselves.

They made an option to buy the equipped plant for which they were asked \$210,000. Les Entreprises Sherbrooke Wood Products Inc. was founded and incorporated as a 'capital-actions' company (to avoid the many complications surrounding chartering co-operatives.)

The new company was made up of the factory workers who supplied \$25,000, giving them two representatives on the council; le Conseil Central de Sherbrooke who is supplying \$50,000 (interest free from other union members) which gives them three members on the council; Andre Beaudin, formerly the manager and co-owner of Sherbrooke Sport Canada (hockey equipment), who kicked in \$25,000 giving himself two representatives. The remaining \$110,000 came as a grant from the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

The workers maintain preference for buying all of the shares.

The \$50,000 loaned by the Conseil Central will be paid off through individual subscription. Anyone may invest \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$100.00. So far, the C.S.N. holding A.T.E. (l'Avenir des travailleurs de l'Estrie) has gathered \$7,000 towards the

\$50,000 but their campaign hasn't begun yet. Joseph S. Gervais, the president of the company, reports that the \$7,000 has come from 215 individual subscriptions, averaging \$25.00 each.

At the factory, orders have already come in for 800,000 sticks and already some thirty old and new employees are back at work. With plans to develop a product for summer, oars for boats, they expect to hire twenty more within two years.

To insure that the workers become fully acquainted with the means of production and management as they become increasingly responsible for their operation, night courses are being offered by Andre Laurin of Universite de Sherbrooke and the adult education program of the Commission Scolaire Regionale.

'Le Travail', a magazine published by the C.S.N. reports that "Tout le monde est un peu nerveux, mais la chose est si solide que nous avons du ecarter du projet toute une serie d'hommes d'affaires de Sherbrooke qui voulaient entrer dans le projet. Nous tenons a ce que l'usine appartienne et soit controlee par les travailleurs."

Send your subscription to Guy Levesque, Conseil central de Sherbrooke, 180 rue l'Acadie, (819) 563-6515.

If everything goes according to plan, the workers should be able to slowly buy up all of the shares, so that Les Entreprises S.W.P. Inc. 'soient vraiment a eux'.



This one's for Bobby Orr! Serge Jolin proudly shows product or worker-controlled Sherbrooke Wood Products.

Sun photo by Jake Brown

SWP—home of the happy hockey stick makers

By RUSSELL POCOCK

How do the workers themselves feel about their situation? A visit to the factory on Galt Est finds everyone to be in high spirits and good humor. Mr. Garon, the manager, encouraged me to walk around the plant and talk to them myself.

Here are some of the comments:

Marcel Jolin (Sherbrooke):

"I'm very happy with the way things are going. It's a wonderful experience to have everyone working together for everyone else. Working conditions are better since we've taken over and our salaries have increased."

Serge Dubois (Lennoxville):

"I've worked here for twelve years and it has never been

better. No, I can't see that we have any particular problems. We really had problems when the Americans owned the place. They were never here and their administration was poor. Many times they wouldn't order enough wood ahead of time to keep us busy, for example.

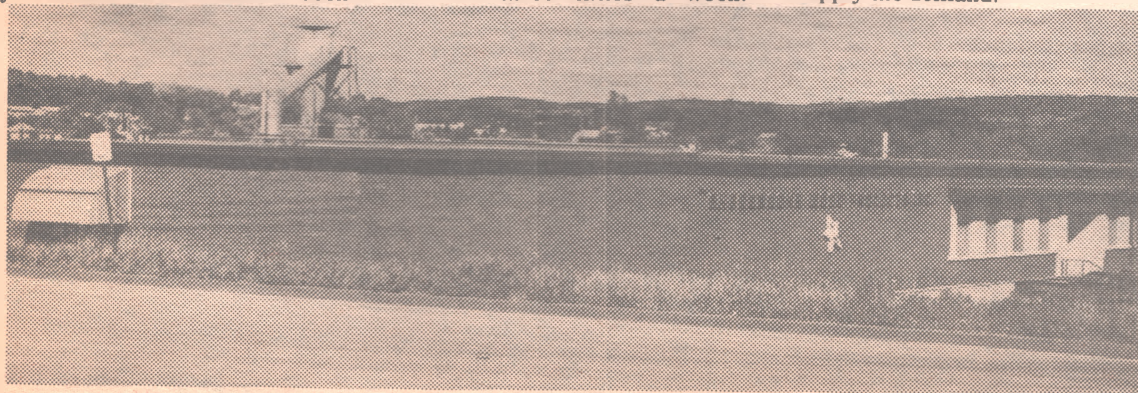
"We have all new administration and they're doing a good job. Any important decisions are made at meetings where everyone is present. We have an elected executive council that reviews a lot of the smaller decisions and decides which ones need to be put to everyone at the general meetings.

"Everyone takes part and sometimes we have meetings two or three times a week.

We've all taken management courses while the factory was shut down and we're continuing our education with night courses.

"The spirit is high and there is a lot of co-operation. People understand how it all works together and they help each other. Before, if one person had finished his job, he would sit down and watch the others work. Now he would rather help somebody finish his piece of work.

"We all have our shares and if somebody wants to leave, he has to sell his shares to his replacement. Hopefully it shouldn't take ten years before we truly own all of the interests. That depends, of course, on our profits but right now, we can't supply the demand."



Sherbrooke Wood Products factory, shown above, is now controlled by the workers.

Sun photo by Jake Brown

Sun Directory

- Arc-en-Ciel — immigrants 563-1319
- Association Cooperative D'Economie Familiale (L'A.C.E.F.) — consumer advocates 563-8144
- Centre de Reference et d'Information (C.R.I.) — referral and information centre for any gov't. body or service in E.T. 563-6767
- Centre Local des Services Communautaires (C.L.S.C.) — community service centre — free counselling for low income people, single mothers, — doctors, psychologists, social workers, sponsored by Minister of Social Affairs. 565-1330
- Centre de Services Sociaux — social service centre — Minister of Social Affairs for welfare, social assistance, pensioners 569-9261
- Conseil Regional des Loisirs de l'Estrie (E.T. sports and leisure — Quebec games, recreational-provincial government.) 569-9731
- note: every area has activities sponsored by the Loisirs.
- Inter-Media — community video-centre 563-2755
- Odyssee — drop-in medical clinic 569-7336
- Regie des Loyers — information and assistance for those who rent their residence 563-4460
- Service d'Information et de Renseignements sur l'Aide Sociale — information on social welfare and assistance 569-8434
- Services Juridiques Populaires — legal aid 569-9811
- Services de Regulation des Naissances — family planning centre 567-6893
- Communication Quebec — resembles Information-Canada 569-9311

Quebec tackles labor shortage

By BOB DAWSON

While governments the world over are worrying about inflation, unemployment, and the possibility of another great depression, the Quebec government is courageously tackling the problem of labor shortage.

What labor shortage? Do they think that the half million unemployed we have already isn't enough?

All over the world groups such as the United Nations and Zero Population Growth are encouraging people to have fewer children. There are five or six babies being born every second in the world, and scientists estimate that the present world population of three and a half billion will double to seven billion in the next twenty-five years. The earth simply can't feed that many people, and mass starvation, diseases and war would be the result.

Yet the Bourassa government wants us to start having more babies. How about Bourassa himself? How many babies has HE had? If he doesn't do his part to double the population, then why should we? Prime ministers should be obliged by law to have twenty children or more.

When the whole world is trying to stop the population explosion, why is Bourassa in favor of motherhood, with no baby-kissing elections in sight?

The birth rate of Quebec has dropped an incredible fifty per

cent in the last ten years. This means that the population of Quebec will simply stop growing. There will be fewer children, the schools will be half empty, there will be fewer young people looking for jobs.

At long last, the classrooms would be less crowded, allowing teachers to give more attention to each individual student, and reducing those terrible school taxes. Unemployment would in theory disappear, because the number of people coming into the labor market would be cut in half. There would be no housing shortage, and the government would not have to maintain so many hospitals and other programmes for the masses.

Economists say that a lower population growth rate means a higher income for everybody, because the wealth of natural resources and gross national product can be divided among fewer people.

Yet this unique chance to have a new society without the pressures of constantly providing for more people is something that the Bourassa government doesn't want.

Right now in Quebec City top-level advisors from many departments are meeting to plan the formation of a new Ministry of Population. They are making a list of all the different services that would be taken away from existing departments and placed under the roof of a new ministry. They are planning a series of laws to encourage people to have

more babies. (How? Free Diapers?)

Cynics immediately remarked that Bourassa was once again launching the revenge of the cradle, asking French-Canadians to have more babies than anyone else to give Quebec numerical strength. Bourassa himself immediately denied this, saying the people don't have babies for patriotic reasons, and besides six million Quebecois cannot hope to win a reproduction race against 235 million English North Americans.

Then why does he want more babies? One reason given by the government is that Quebec has spent billions of dollars in the last ten years building all those polyvalent schools and universities. Now it is predicted that the number of students will drop in half within the next decade, and the government would look silly, having built all those schools with no students to put in them. Hospitals, highways and welfare centres would also be less crowded, and whole government departments would find themselves with less work to do.

It almost looks like the bureaucrats who send out the baby bonus checks want to protect their jobs. The argument that all those expensive schools have to be filled up could be expanded. To keep the highways and hospitals busy, the government could pay people to drive around, have accidents, and go to the hospital, making

sure the waiting rooms are full. To keep the schools full, they could keep failing students in grade three until they are fifty years old.

But the biggest point brought out by Bourassa in favor of having more babies is that the government predicts a labor shortage in the province within the next five years. It's a question of preserving our heritage. Unemployment is one of the greatest Canadian institutions. In the last thirty years, Canada has always had a higher rate of unemployment than any other country in the industrialized world, and our system of unemployment insurance is said to be one of the most advanced in the world.

Can you imagine what a tragedy it would be if this great Canadian tradition were to be wiped out by a simple lack of babies? Imagine the agony and confusion of workers having to choose between several jobs. Imagine the boredom in government offices if everybody could find work and didn't need government bureaucrats to look after them anymore. What would the government do for a living?

I used to work in Germany, at a time when that country had a labor shortage of over one million workers. You could walk into any town or city and get a dozen jobs right away. One German company took out full page ads in the newspapers to say that they were short 2,000 workers, and the Help Wanted

ads in one newspaper were forty pages long everyday. The mayor of one city threatened to run against the government in the next election unless the Department of Labor sent more workers into his city.

Can you imagine the mayor of Sherbrooke asking Quebec City for more workers and begging companies not to build factories in the Townships? What happened in Germany is that young people could easily get good jobs right near their homes, and so they didn't have to move away to big cities to get work. At the present time, tens of thousands of young people leave the Townships and the province in search of work.

If a labor shortage developed, they could stay at home, and that would solve more problems of social instability than simply having more babies.

Maybe the government isn't giving us their real reasons for encouraging us to produce plenty of future workers to feed the big factories. But whatever their strange reasons, one thing is sure. The decisions to control population are being made right now at the ministerial level in Quebec City, and those guys are planning the future without consulting anyone else. Maybe we should let them know what we think.

Or maybe we should just laugh about the whole thing. After all, as one critic noted, it takes more than a government law to get a nation pregnant.



Townships economic expo

The Dept. of Industry and Commerce, in collaboration with Communication-Quebec and a group of local business leaders, are organizing Estrielle 74, a week of information designed to help businessmen and the general population gain a better understanding of the economic situation of the Townships.

An exposition will be opened at Carrefour de l'Estrie on October 8. The aim is to make the population of the Townships more aware of the need for industrialisation and economic prosperity in the region.

Government planners have been surprised to find a general lack of information about the products manufactured right here in the Townships. Even the professionals whose job it is to promote local economic growth are often unaware of the many products being produced in our region.

The result is that too often a company will buy its goods elsewhere, when they could buy them right here and keep the jobs at home.

The exposition will show the public the wide variety of local products which are available, and meetings of businessmen will be held to encourage them to use each other's locally-produced goods.

It is also hoped to encourage the free enterprise spirit in the Townships. Too often we wait for Americans to come and build big factories, when many jobs could be created if local people started small companies on their own.

Few people realize that seventy per cent of the jobs in the Townships are created by

locally owned companies.

CONFUSION

Estrielle 74 will also inform the population about the many types of financial and technical help which are available to those who want to start a company or expand an existing one. It's no wonder that there is confusion about this. There are 279 different programs of assistance to industry in Quebec.

One such program, the Societe de Development Industrielle, received only four applications from the Townships last year, and they were hoping to receive far more.

Information sessions will be held during Estrielle 74 to inform people of these programs, and to direct them to the right assistance program according to their needs. There's government money out there to help create jobs, and local people need to be better informed on how to get it.

The Minister of Industry will open the exposition, and government industrial experts from the various assistance programs will be on hand to speak with businessmen and anyone who is interested.

SPEARHEAD

It is hoped that Estrielle 74 will be the spearhead of a new wave of economic growth in the Townships. The event will be held every year from now on, and it will show the rest of the country that the Townships is determined to get out of its present economic stagnation.

All local businessmen, governments and economic planners will have to work together to make this community action a success.

BUSINESS GAMES

During the exposition, the University of Sherbrooke will hold a new type of business seminar to improve the knowledge and skills of local businessmen.

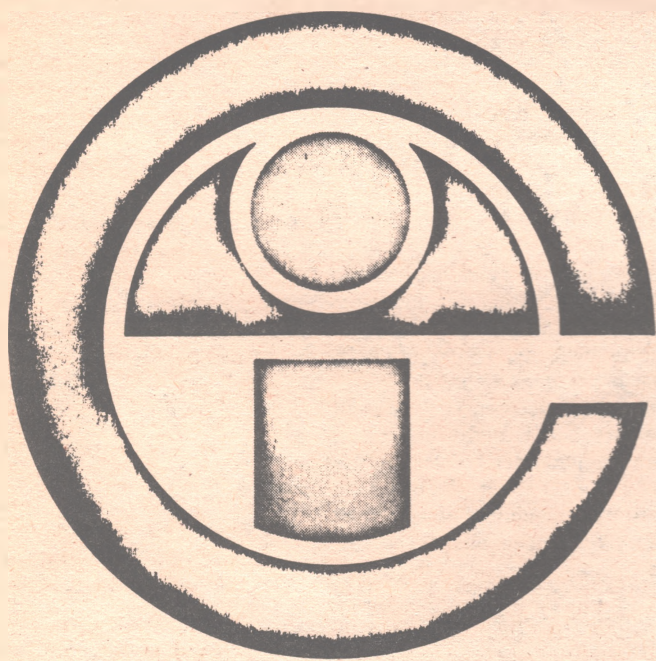
The course consists of a type of business game. The people taking the course will be put at the head of an imaginary corporation, and asked to plan its future. They will have to plan the production capacity, quality control, market surveys, advertising, cost of production, selling price, finance, administration procedures, etc. of the fictitious company. This is an excellent way of improving management skills.

Estrielle is sponsored by a new organisation called La Promotion Industrielle des Cantons Inc. This group of local businessmen hope to make Estrielle an annual event, and to co-ordinate all efforts for the industrial promotion of the Townships.

The exposition will be opened by the Minister of Industry at Carrefour de l'Estrie on October 8, at 5 p.m. At 6:30, the Minister will make a speech at Motel Le Baron.

On October 15 there will be a seminar on manufacturing under licence and exporting. On October 17 there will be an information session on the different types of government aid to industry, and how to get them.

The exposition at Carrefour will continue until October 19. It is hoped that large numbers of people will participate in this effort to relaunch the economy of the Townships.



ESTRIELLE '74



THE LAW AND YOU

Workmen's compensation explained

By ROD MACDONELL

This is part of a series of articles provided with the cooperation of the Sherbrooke Legal Aid Clinic (Services Juridiques Populaires de Sherbrooke) on 105 Gordon Street, 569-9811. Remember, if you have a legal problem, and qualify for free legal aid, the clinic lawyers, or the people at the Community Legal Centre on 297 Dufferin St. will be pleased to help you.

This month's article deals with Workmen's Compensation. It is a law created to indemnify the workmen who suffer injury while at work. The accident must be a result of execution of one's work.

The employer is held responsible for all damages to an employee, caused by a fellow worker, by someone else, by a machine, or by the victim himself. The injured person will be unsuccessful in acquiring damages when the accident is voluntary or is a result of gross negligence on his part.

Even if the employer is said to be responsible for an injury caused to an employee, it should be noted that one does not go to one's employer to be indemnified, but to the Workmen's Compensation Commission. Unfortunately this law does not include the agricultural industry, or domestic workers. But industrial illnesses, such as Asbestinosis are covered by Workmen's Compensation.

The following is an example of what procedure an employee should follow if he is the victim of a working accident.

John and Peter are employees of a steel mill. In moving some

heavy pieces of steel, Peter makes a mistake, and two pieces of steel fall on John's hand, crushing two of his fingers.

What does John do? Well naturally, he should go to the first aid office to see the Doctor. If there is not a first aid office, then he is to be driven to a hospital.

As soon as possible, John will sign a statement for his care and medication, as well as a statement of notification of accident. By doing this, the expenses that John will incur will be paid by the Commission. As well, he will be compensated for salary lost while he was incapable of working. The compensation is 75 per cent of his average weekly salary, while he cannot work.

This 75 per cent indemnity will be for life if the person is permanently incapacitated and unable to ever work. If he suffers a partial permanent incapacity of 50 per cent, then the amount received will be one half of 75 per cent of his average weekly salary.

As well as monetary compensation, the worker is entitled to medical assistance which can include nursing care, drugs, furnishing or renewal of necessary artificial limbs, medical and surgical care. The worker is entitled to the doctor of his choice.

The Workmen's Compensation Commission's goal is to ensure that the worker can return to work or be rehabilitated to carry out some other job.

For additional information concerning this law, contact the Workmen's Compensation Commission at 1871 Galt St. West, 567-3905.

Social laws

By ROD MacDONELL

In the July issue of the Sun, an Opportunities for Youth project involving law students explaining social laws was described. That project has ended of course, as are all OFY projects, but there is a continuation of something similar.

There are eight second year law students who will be explaining laws of a social character to groups and associations throughout the Townships. These students chose this field of activity rather than simulated trial work, or research work. They are motivated by a need for social contact.

The laws of principal concern will be Social Aid, Legal Aid, Small Claims Court, Unemployment Insurance, Consumer Protection, Rental Board, Minimum Wage, Seizures and Voluntary Deposit (Lacombe's Law).

The students will respond to invitations from groups in the Townships to present evening (or afternoon) information and

question and answer sessions. They work in teams of two and will have slides with them to help explain some of these laws. They are law students, not lawyers, but they know the laws they will be dealing with as well or better than most practicing lawyers. If a question comes up that they honestly cannot answer, they will reply a few days later by letter.

There will be at least one English-speaking student in this group of eight to meet the demand from English-speaking Townshippers. So, if you are a member of a formal or informal group and would like these students to come to one of your meetings, write to E.T.S.A.G. at 105 Gordon St., Sherbrooke, or call us at 562-7969.

During the summer, when a similar offer was made, there was no response from our readers. We thought that that might have been a result of summer holidays, and crops, and people being just too busy. Well, as you can see, the opportunity is there again for those of you who wish to take advantage of it.



The door to legal aid is at 105 Gordon Street, Sherbrooke.

Sun photo by Jake Brown

How to reduce your rental tax

By BOB DAWSON

There are two ways to get a reduction of your rental tax in Sherbrooke. One is to prove that you have a low income. This includes people living on pensions, students who didn't earn much on summer jobs, workers who earn small wages, unmarried mothers, and anyone else who can show that their income is small.

The second way to get a reduction is to show that part of the money you pay for rent is actually for furniture, electricity, cablevision, janitor or concierge service, or any other services that are included as part of your rent.

A rental tax reduction of up to thirty per cent can be obtained by telling the tax office that the house or apartment you rent is furnished. This is because the rental tax applies only to the cost of the apartment itself, not the rent you pay for furniture and extra services.

Take the case of a person who lives in a furnished apartment, with electricity, janitor service and cablevision included in the price of the rent. If he pays \$150 a month rent for all these services, the seven per cent rental tax would cost him \$126 a year.

But if he calls up City Hall and explains that his \$150 rent pays for furniture and all those other

services, he can get a reduction of up to thirty per cent in the tax. This means that he would only have to pay \$88.20 in rental tax a year, instead of \$126, a saving of about \$40.

RETROACTIVE

The important thing to remember about this tax reduction for furnished apartments is that it is retroactive for one year. Lots of people have been paying the full amount of the tax, and they have the right to get some of that tax money back. Just take a copy of your lease to City Hall, showing that you pay for furniture and other services in your rent, and they will reduce your rental tax and pay you back the reduction for the previous year.

LOW INCOME

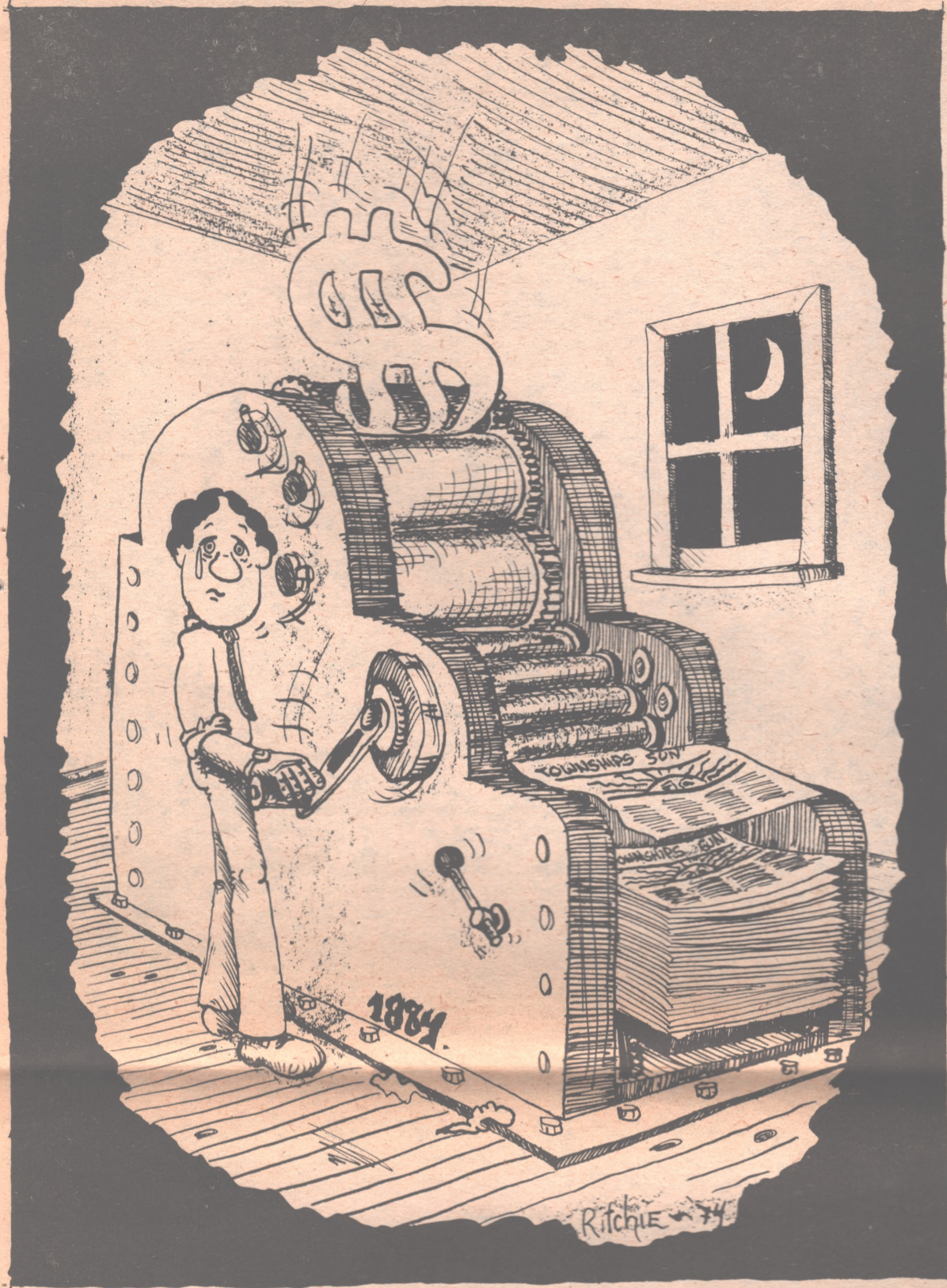
Everyone who pays the rental tax and has a low income should also ask City Hall to reduce the tax, whether their apartment is furnished or not. The elderly, students, the unemployed, those on welfare, those who have jobs but don't earn very much, and anyone else who can show that they don't earn much money, will be given a rental tax reduction in Sherbrooke. For people with low income, the municipal tax office will decide the amount of the reduction in each case, depending on how poor you show yourself to be.

For people who have a low income AND live in a furnished or serviced apartment, it is important to note that you can get BOTH of the tax reductions at the same time. The reduction for furnished apartments is retroactive for one year, but the reduction for low income starts when you make your claim, and is not retroactive. This is unfair on the part of the City of Sherbrooke, because apparently some poor people have been paying the full amount of the tax, and now they can't get their money back.

In addition, many people have paid the full tax even though they live in furnished apartments, and City Hall seems to be making very little effort to inform them that they can have the tax reduced and get some of their money back.

So if you are renting a furnished or serviced apartment or house in Sherbrooke, or if you are renting any kind of a place and have a low income, rush down to City Hall at 145 Wellington North. Take along a copy of your lease. You can also telephone the municipal tax office at 569-7471.

These tax reductions do not apply in Lennoxville. The rental tax rate in Lennoxville is lower, so the town council there has not seen fit to allow reductions.



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