

and that he is determined to do something about it. That something is to put into effect the Woods-Gordon report on postoffice administration, aimed at decentralization of authority, greater efficiency and less paper-work. Word that the postoffice department may before long get back to the business of delivering mail will be welcome news to all Canadians.

SUBSIDIZED life insurance scheme for federal civil servants and members of the armed forces, to be put into effect only if sufficiently large percentage of those to whom plan extends vote in favor of it, promises if adopted to pose serious administrative problems.

UNDER PLAN, life insurance will be issued to all who qualify regardless of age considerations or health. Unlike proposal first submitted to Parliament, however, insurance will be voluntary, not compulsory.

DISQUIETING rumors of offers being made to civil servants and armed forces personnel, particularly those of lowly rank near retirement age and without dependents, to accept sums of money in consideration for which those who offer such sums will be named beneficiaries by the prospective policy-holder, point to the kind of abuses that bedevil all such experiments in socialism.

COMMONSENSE and integrity of vast majority of civil servants and members of armed forces is best guarantee that scheme will be scrapped.

CORRESPONDENCE between Sir Archibald Nye, British high commissioner to Canada, and the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen has become public. The subject is the degree of consultation between the Borden government and the British government prior to the declaration of war in 1914. Sir Archibald has had the temerity and impertinence flatly to contradict a former prime minister of Canada who was a member of the Canadian cabinet in the period immediately preceding the first Great War, and his treatment in writing of a distinguished Canadian suggests that the Churchill government should have sent him as an administrator to a backward country where natives are illiterate and without any knowledge of history.

FORMER NEW YORK TIMES correspondent Percy Philip's reported 'conversation' with the 'presence' of the late Prime Minister Mackenzie King records Mr. King as having asserted that he had need of Mr. Pickersgill.

CHANCES are, unless Mr. Pickersgill is able to clean up the mess in the Immigration Department, as set forth in the sub-committee report of the Canadian Bar Association, the need may be mutual.

DETERMINATION to perpetuate and expand provincial welfare statism inherited from previous regime poses

serious problem for BC Social Credit Government, barred under Ottawa's tax rental agreements from having recourse to traditional revenue sources to meet its fiscal needs.

DUAL BURDEN on province's revenues led Premier Bennett's Government, some months ago, to raise provincial sales tax from 3 per cent to 5 per cent. Result, according to press reports from BC, has been to encourage out-of-province purchasing by residents, with estimated annual loss to provincial treasury of \$500,000.

OUT-OF-PROVINCE purchases, under BC tax law, are supposed to be reported to provincial authorities and tax thereon paid. In practice, this seldom happens. Solution now under consideration by BC Government is establishment of tax inspection posts and hiring of tax enforcement officers to plug leak in revenues. Only thing deterring such action is high cost of hiring more tax policemen.

BC Government's dilemma offers interesting illustration of how taxes breed bureaucracy and how governments which sell their constitutional rights for a federal subsidy find themselves, sooner or later, caught in a cleft stick.

RECENTLY RETURNED from a tour of Russia is Mr. Clyde Batten, editor of *Varsity*, University of Toronto student daily. Describing retail stores in that country, Mr. Batten says: "No attempt is made at salesmanship either in display or in the attitude of the clerks. We followed one very long line to its source and discovered it led to a counter where clerks were selling, or more correctly, wrapping up dresses. The line moved up to the counter three abreast, the desired size was called out and the dress was wrapped up without trial and without fit."

CANADIANS do not need to visit Russia to be "served" in this manner. They will get identical treatment at the liquor stores run by their provincial governments.

SEEKING OPINION of union members on misuse of their welfare fund payments by union officials, *NY Times* found them "indignant" but "reluctant to be quoted by name."

ONE WAITRESS who paid into a fund from which the union leader administering it took \$41,000 a year, explained that union meetings were confined to the routine reading of minutes: "We were never allowed to say anything at meetings. If you got up to say anything, they told you to sit down. If they thought you were too smart, you were told you're a troublemaker, and they threatened to throw you out of the union."

ANOTHER WAITRESS produced her paycheck stub for the week ended August 22, 1954. It showed out of earnings of \$22.03 she had paid \$5 for "D.T." The initials, she

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