

□ SOMETHING THAT'S WORKED ALL THESE YEARS

Late news: The Federal-Provincial Conference February 8 and 9 agreed in principle to bringing to Canada the power to amend the BNA Act independent of the British Parliament and on an approach to an amending procedure itself. The plan will be submitted to the next open conference in June in Victoria, after which it would require ratification by Parliament and provincial legislatures.

the program would be compensated. It remains to be seen whether this — or indeed the whole attempt at review — will be accepted.

There are other political issues. A real Quebec separatist would consider the whole exercise irrelevant because it presupposes a continuation of Canada as it is. Short of a separatist, an ardent nationalist would probably want to do away with the monarchy, and would want congressional rather than parliamentary government.

Some have called for a special status for Quebec, based on Canada being a country of two nations, with Quebec as guardian of the French part. The Federal approach has been that Canada is a bi-cultural country, with the Federal Government equally guardian of both. The Federal Government also feels that unequal provinces would make the federal parliament system untenable.

How long this debate, and more, will take is only a guess. An educated estimate is two to three years.

For more information

The Constitutional Conference has a secretariat which has summaries of discussions, reports of various committees, communiqués, and the like. Write to:

Mr. Henry F. Davis
Secretary of the Constitutional Conference
Conference Center 2
Rideau Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Journalists, scholars, and others seriously interested in more information on the position of the Federal Government should contact:

Mr. Barry Strayer,
Office of the Privy Council,
East Block, Parliament Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Twentieth Century Report

[MOOSE JAW MODERNIZES]



WITH THE MASSIVE SURGES in population and technology since the industrial revolution have come many irritations minor enough to elude heavy academic and journalistic coverage—what with such other headaches as we have—but important enough to nag on, making pundits wonder “just what is happening to the quality of life?” There are obvious things, like the chewing gum problem, and more obscure ones, like which side to pass on while walking down a sidewalk without doing a little dance in the cold. Perhaps in olden times manners dictated which. In modern Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, the law dictates which. The right side, at risk of \$100 or 30 days. Thus Moose Jaw becomes one of the few cities in the world to tackle the problem head on,* perhaps because Moose Jaw does not have some of the world’s other problems. The law was passed last month and got Moose Jaw a fair amount of publicity, as one of the town aldermen shrewdly predicted it would. After all, Moose Jaw is a city of 32,000 with many noteworthy qualities, and its name may as well be known the world over as something other than a straight line for stand-up comedians.

[REALLY TRUE]



AS MOOSE JAW WAS TAKING the guesswork out of life for its citizens, so was the Canadian postal service for the rest of Canada. Under the new “Assured Mail Delivery Program,” Canadians will know that first class letters mailed within specified times on one day will be delivered virtually anywhere in the country the next. The plan went into effect February 1 for mail going out of Toronto; on July 1 it will begin in Montreal. By the end of 1972, a Post Office spokesman says, there will be next-day delivery between Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Victoria, British Columbia, or virtually any place else in the country where there’s daily mail delivery.

* Winnipeg has a similar but neglected law, with milder penalties.