

Bathurst

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He also said that there was a tension in the area between English and French and that this had erupted during the Day of Concern. He noted that the percent of poor and unemployed was greater among the French than the English. Dave Jonah had earlier told us that the French in Bathurst, although they outnumber the English, were "serfs...they've never had anything." Jonah did say, however, that the French and English got along very well.

Paul LePage told us that one reason why the Day of Concern was not as successful as it could have been was that cultural differences had restricted the dialogue between the workers and the politicians.

Although Poulin was not particularly optimistic about the future, he said he thought those protesting the conditions in northeastern New Brunswick were heading towards a "more discreet approach"; he doesn't think there will be any violence this winter. (Last year, a number of unemployed people in Bathurst marched on the offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and tore the door off. They were protesting a holdup of unemployment insurance cheques. The Day of Concern demonstrations reportedly were a bit rowdy at times. In addition, during a tense period of management-labor disputes at Brunswick Mining and Smelting this June, dynamite was thrown into a mine shaft while close to 100 men were working underground. There were no injuries.)

Poulin doesn't condone violence and he thinks the majority of the people are opposed to it, but he thinks the problems which prompted the violence remain unsolved. However, said Poulin, "if you try to raise the problems you are a radical." He doesn't know what the solution is, other than to "work and work."

One of the difficulties in the area is the fact that many of the young people leave to seek a living elsewhere. "I think most of the young people would like to stay but there are no jobs," said Poulin; "We have lost thousands and thousands of people in (the last) 10 years."

LePage agreed, except he thought the out-migration was down this year due to the critical unemployment situation all across Canada. He added that as soon as conditions improved in the rest of Canada, the exodus from northeastern New Brunswick would pick up once more.



Father Pierre Poulin

Poulin placed some of the blame on the educational system, particularly in the French schools. He doesn't believe the students are being taught sufficiently in technical job-oriented skills and mathematics. He said that more technical and business people and civil servants are needed in his area.

Poulin doesn't think big industries will be attracted to the area, so he believes the emphasis should be placed on small, locally owned industries. Among those he mentioned were furniture, woodworking, snowshoes, handicrafts, peat moss, and the tourism industry.

Much publicity has been given in recent months to the fact that employers in northeastern New Brunswick are having difficulty finding laborers to work in the woods. Many have blamed this on laziness and/or overly generous welfare and unemployment benefits. Father Poulin said this provides "a good illustration of what the establishment believes." He cited a recently compiled report that found, once the woodsmen had paid for a chainsaw, transportation, food and rooming, they had only \$70 or \$80 left a week.

Although there aren't many welfare recipients in Bathurst, there are quite a few in the surrounding area. Coupled with the fact that government measures to alleviate unemployment in this area have consisted of what Father Poulin calls "artificial job creation", it raises the question of how long it will be before another, perhaps greater crisis occurs. While the business community would prefer to think that last year's problems were exaggerated and that the Bathurst area does not deserve the term "depressed", labor leaders like Paul LePage maintain that the problems are far from solved.

Will this mean further social unrest? "In the long run," says Father Poulin, "I think we're heading towards something."

Travel

Memories recall brutal introduction to England

By RICK FISHER

England is a place of which I will always have very fond memories. I think that underneath I would like to spend the rest of my life there as it is such a wonderfully pleasant country.

My introduction to that country was most brutal. I flew to London from Montreal in late June. Most of the transatlantic flights leave central Canada in the early evening and arrive in England in the very early morning which isn't all that bad. I was very keyed up and so was wide awake when I arrived.

It had been an average June day when I left Montreal but it was anything but average when I arrived, as the temperature was an almost frosty 38 degrees and I wasn't the least bit prepared for that. Maybe it was just as well to get the bad weather over with. As for the rest of my two and one half months, I was very lucky to have perfect weather.

In the first half week I was able to travel extensively over

Southern England and South Wales. Some of this travelling was done in a Mini Minor darting in and out of traffic, and to this day I have never been more frightened in a car in my life.

As it is several years since I went on this trip my memory has forgotten a fact or two here and there, and I will apologize now for any incorrect facts that are in this feature.

In that first half week I was based in and out of Bath. Bath, incidentally, can be pronounced two ways, depending on where you come from in England. One way is the way that we pronounce a "bath" and the other is how you would pronounce "bawth". While I was there I managed to see the Roman bath after which the town is named. The Baths have since been further excavated, and more artifacts found.

On the way into the baths area they had a fountain with mineral waters flowing out. It is said that this water is supposed to be healthy for you, and if bad taste

is a criterion of health then this is great for you. If you had some everyday I am sure you would be healthy for the rest of your life. The water, I believe, has minerals in it, which are supposed to give you better health.

Also in Bath I was able to get a feel of the country I was to spend some time in. I did some window shopping, and mainly just observed this country, which is ancient in spots.

Bright and early one Saturday, armed with a map, I was able to get on a chartered bus and go to Portsmouth; and on the way saw Stonehenge. Stonehenge is very interesting in its history, of which there are several different versions, some of it still a mystery.

In Portsmouth I saw the ship Victory on which Nelson fought in the Battle of Trafalgar. As this was a summer resort area there was an entertainment park which turned out to be a good place to spend idle hours.

I returned to Bath late that

evening and the next day headed off for South Wales. I saw quite a bit of the countryside and a lot of miles of one lane roads on which one has to be exceedingly careful.

Also in Wales, on a point overlooking the sea, was a very old castle which the government was rebuilding. I have forgotten the name of this old fortress but it was built in the 1200's and was at that point used for defence purposes. It was quite incredible to me that this castle was built about three centuries before John Cabot or anyone else except the Vikings came over to Canada.

From Wales I went to London by train paying close attention to the lush countryside as it went by. On that route to London from Wales is one of the longest train tunnels in the world, and the lights go out for quite a while.

When I go to London I was quickly hustled off to Ashford, Kent because that distinguishes it from the Ashford somewhere

north of London. It is very important to an Englishman to make this distinction.

While in Ashford I became just about as close to an Englishman as a Canadian can get. I played cricket with a style that was most unorthodox, any swing easily explained by my baseball background.

Cricket is a most English game even though it is played all over the world. To explain the game properly in this space is impossible as it would fill a few pages of the Brunswickan to even begin an explanation. Basically it is two teams of 11 playing against each other by a unique set of rules. Evenly matched Test Match teams will take three, four or five days playing most of the day, stopping for lunch and tea.

The people of the British Isles undoubtedly make it the wonderful place that it is as they are most enjoyable to be with. They have a loveable outlook on life, and thoroughly enjoy it.