

HEALTHY BUT DEAD.

*good one !!
M.S.D.
Dec. 1998*

In the year 2000 A.D., as history will record, the famous prediction of the Canadian Economic Council, made in the autumn of 1970, was triumphantly fulfilled. The nation's entire gross national product, all its goods, services and money, had finally been absorbed by the cost of education and medical care. Not a dollar was left for other uses, public or private. Consequently all production had ceased and the economy was paralyzed. Since they had no fuel food or clothing, most Canadians were cold and hungry. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported, however that they were thoroughly educated and enjoyed perfect health thanks to the university and medical services. Yet the system had a certain minor disadvantage. Though learned and healthy, all except a few hundred people had already dropped dead from starvation. This was not considered an altogether satisfactory arrangement. Even Louis Rasminsky, the unflappable governor of the Bank Of Canada was moved to say in his annual report that "the situation may contain negative elements deserving serious thought" and that the current price of bread at \$10,750 an ounce may appear to some members of society as somewhat excessive though it has no direct economic importance, bread being unobtainable.

"Never theless, as a warning of possible inflation in future years such prices must be judged significant and, conceivably, undesirable."

Only the Economic Council and the members of parliament managed to secure a minimal diet, having smuggled the cost of parliamentary restaurant into the health department's budget, and prudently cached some canned goods in the Government's secret bomb shelter near Hull.

When the twenty first century dawned, Edgar Benson then a rather old man and thinner than he used to be, announced that a white paper on economic paralysis and mass starvation would be prepared, with suitable legislation to follow two years later. Meanwhile he reminded the public that it enjoyed a uniquely fair tax system, the envy of the world, and a Just Society where all men starved equally.

A few Eskimos continued to survive on their ancestral diet of seal blubber and, though lamentably uneducated and without medical care, seemed robust and happy.

Naturally, the few survivors south of the Arctic became envious of the northern natives and, with demonstrations, speeches and riots, protested racial discrimination against the white man. The Eskimos eased the tension by gifts of seal skins to the young women of Toronto.

HEALTHY, BUT DEAD. Cont.

In the end only the members of the Economic Council survived because they alone understood economics and could thrive on a simple diet of statistics. After another century they had bred a new race of economists - dull perhaps, and incomprehensible to laymen, but certainly durable. So all the nation's problems were solved at last when a revised education system taught the people to grow food, cut fuel in the woods, weave cloth and stay healthy despite the government, the universities and the medical services.

By Bruce Hutchison ,

Editorial Director, Vancouver Sun.

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By Grace Johnson,
Editorial Director, University Press.