

Our Friends, the Newspapers

UP in New Brunswick, Canada, in what Engineer Archibald McColl refers to as "the bush country," his reports in HGN on the building of a bridge, with asides aimed adroitly at the local tax situation, were reprinted in full in the *Miramichi Press*. A next logical move was that the author was asked to speak at several public meetings and even invited to run for office as a Conservative. But McColl will be McColl, and he pulls no punches. Asked to "talk on the bridge" he careened off into economics and ripped the \$40 poll tax on one occasion, after which the council repealed it.

The editor in a recent column wrote: "Last week's article by Arch McColl has caused the biggest reader response we've got to anything. This phone's warmer than the 'Hot Line.'" The reference was to a McColl article published on the editorial page, in which he flung out the taunt, New Brunswick leads in wealth, then "why ain't you rich? The answer is taxes — wrong taxes, a middle-ages type of taxes — taxes that have been foisted on the people by monopoly-loving governments of the past hundred years. . . . Why are there not more people? Taxes — that's why!"

The editors work hard and don't have time to write editorials or do research, but they like to raise a little commotion, says Archie, the bridge builder. "So give my love to all the boys and girls and tell them to write to the small weekly newspapers."

Newspapers, it seems, are a churl's best friend.

With our immodesty shamelessly showing we confess that two somewhat random HGN reports on Alex J. Duris's newspaper series in the *Western Carolina Tribune*, Hendersonville, North Carolina, have been repeated in the newspaper which pub-

lished them in the first place. A February 18th headline reads: "Duris' Municipal Series and 'Moment of Truth' re-printed in *National Weekly*."

"That's us," cried Director Robert Clancy. We aren't weekly but we *are* national—international, in fact.

Let's don't overlook the dailies. They're friends too. Steven Cord, an economics professor in Indiana, Pennsylvania, sent a clipping from the *Indiana Evening Gazette*, about a Babson Report stating that owning land is vital to the future, and is a hedge against almost anything.

"There are certain basic factors that make the buying of good, well-located land advisable at almost any time," says the report. "First, there is only so much land in the country, in each state, and in each community. There will never be any more, except for the minor instances where fill-ins form small areas out of watery shallows. There can be more stock issued, more bonds floated, more businesses established—and even more money printed—but the land now existing is the only land we will ever have." (How many times have we told you this?)

"While a severe depression would probably cut into land values to some degree, even then prospects would favor a more rapid recovery than might be expected in other forms of investment," not only because of the "absolute" limit to land amounts but also the unparalleled population growth. Buyers are told they should choose carefully, preferably near a growing city, and then be patient. Keep a sharp eye open for available sites on the waterfront as such property will become steadily rarer and thus more desirable.

If this sounds like a dry review of your basic course in economics, don't blame us. It was *news* to readers of the *Indiana Evening Gazette*.