

Old Issue Recalled

In a bantering manner Premier Robichaud said in Saint John the other day that once a causeway between the mainland and Prince Edward Island is built "we will be pleased to welcome P.E.I. as one of the great countries of New Brunswick."

But joking aside, it is suggested that the New Brunswick premier has touched on a subject that many people have long felt deserves serious consideration.

UNCONVINCING—This is the old argument that has been advanced on many previous occasions, but never very convincingly.

The commission noted that in all three provinces, the salaries of ministers and officials, and legislative indemnities, were low, and that a larger government unit would probably involve higher salaries, higher indemnities, and higher travelling expenses.

OTHER FACTORS—Undoubtedly, some savings could be effected in federal governmental costs, such as in Lieutenant-Governors' salaries, and in the salaries of certain of the chief federal officials in the provinces who might be able to assume jurisdiction over the larger area.

Some individuals and corporations might also find their costs decreased by dealing with one government instead of three.

What clinched the matter, in the opinion of the Rowell-Sirois Commission, was that provincial legislatures are deeply rooted in the Maritimes because of their long history as separate provinces.

was adverse to the proposal and expressed the view that there was no large measure of support for Maritime union among the people of the three provinces.

We have no reason to suppose that public opinion has changed very greatly since this report was prepared a quarter of a century ago. This doesn't mean, of course, that we should be lacking in cordial goodwill and co-operation with our sister Maritime Provinces, and their with us.

Timely Questions

Mr. Heath Macquarrie has placed some good questions on the House of Commons order paper with regard to the construction of the proposed Northumberland Strait causeway, in the light of recent assurances given by Solicitor General MacNaught.

As reported from Ottawa yesterday (17) for assurance that in the proposed new design, consisting of two miles of underwater tunnel, rail traffic would be provided for; (2) upon what facts and considerations the estimated cost, as suggested by Mr. MacNaught, has been reduced from \$105,000,000 to \$80,000,000;

The significance of Mr. Macquarrie's first question is underlined by the fact that in the only full interim report on the causeway's feasibility study ever officially released—back in May, 1960—it was intimated that the consulting engineers did not carry their investigation of a tunnel through to the design stage because in their view a tunnel, to meet the joint operation of both rail and highway traffic, was not economically feasible.

The engineers found at that time that the only economic possibility of this means of crossing would be to reduce the cost of the tunnel by providing for rail traffic only, with vehicular traffic to be carried on a railway shuttle service. Such a service was considered unacceptable. It would, of course, be equally unacceptable if it provided for vehicular traffic only. At that time the consultants advised that the cost of a tunnel to handle both rail and highway traffic would be prohibitive "in relation to all other alternatives."

As Mr. MacNaught stated in his recent announcement, the new causeway-tunnel design is based on improved engineering techniques; and it is understandable, on this basis, that the cost of tunnel construction could be considerably reduced. But it is well to have assurance that in any case the design will indeed provide for both traffic systems, and not make necessary an auxiliary "shuttle service" for either trains or motor vehicles.

We gathered from Mr. MacNaught's statement that a more detailed announcement may be expected shortly from the Minister of Public Works. In the meantime, Mr. Macquarrie's questions are a timely reminder of the great interest which our people have in this matter, and of the desirability of clearing up any misunderstandings as quickly as possible.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to latest reports, the Soviet Union will be out of pocket about \$250 million in closing this year's Soviet-Cuba trade gap. Last year this gap amounted to \$200 million, so it is worsening. And by all accounts the Cuban economy is still deteriorating, despite the \$1 billion-a-day aid program to Cuba from the Communist bloc.

The first all-British nuclear submarine has taken to the water. She is the Valiant, sister ship to the Dreadnaught now in service with the Royal Navy. The Dreadnaught is powered by a nuclear reactor of United States design and manufacture. The Valiant will be driven through the oceans at speeds above 30 knots by a pressurized water reactor of British origin.



JINGLE BELLS OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Downhill Slide In Parliamentary Status

Our parliamentary system of government is being assassinated before our eyes, sacrificed to death beneath a mortal blanket of irrelevant and unnecessary words. The murderers are our members of Parliament, who have collectively downgraded our once effective legislative assembly into an unseemly electoral hustings.

Future historians will trace the beginnings of this parliamentary disaster to the short-lived Parliament of 1937-38, when the Diefenbaker Government was in a minority position. This was in one respect a good Parliament; in its brief life it enacted some excellent legislation. But it saw the Speaker's control weaken, permitting irrelevant speeches which were not debate concerning legislation, but mere venting of the past election and the preliminary skirmishing for the next.

In 1958, the Diefenbaker tidal wave crashed and silenced the Liberal Party. By 1960, the Grigs had recovered their heart. Then for two years the "four horsemen," Pick and Paul and Pearson and Chervier, adopted obstructionist tactics and, aided by their scrappy Tories, turned Parliament into a shambles.

PARTY BEFORE COUNTRY Early 1962 saw both old parties primarily skirmishing for position. The fortuitous election the nation's business took second place. The second part of the year brought another Diefenbaker minority government, and the skirmishing grew into total partisan warfare on the floor of the House. Canada didn't even get a budget that year.

Since the 1963 election, the positions of the Liberal and Conservative parties have reversed but the political greasy warfare has continued unabated. Meanwhile, the business of the nation, for which we elect our MPs, has been relegated to minor significance in a House better paid and more attended than ever. The Liberals are clinging to their precarious minority position, trying to weather storms created by some inexperienced ministers. The Tories' position seems to be motivated more by narrow partisan ambition than by a real desire to ensure good legislation. They act as if they are trying to create a favourable issue which they can

our Yesterdays (From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO December 13, 1938 Miss Phyllis Reay, N.S., graduate of the Maritime General Hospital is spending holidays here with her parents. On her return to Montreal she will be associated with the Victorian Order of Nurses, prior to taking the Public Health course at McGill.

Halifax, Dec. 11 — William Feindel of Bridgewater, senior arts student at Acadia University, will be the recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship from Nova Scotia. The provincial selection committee announced today. TEN YEARS AGO December 13, 1953 An Island-born girl, Miss Shirley G. L. Eagles, now of Cape Breton, is a science student at Acadia University, is one of approximately 125 students in the country participating in the fifth annual Student Conference on United States and Canada, which is underway at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Mount Stewart, Spring Park Road, is the site of the declared Villages following a meeting of the Executive Council held this week.

WEAKER SEX Can Aid Hubby

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen Men are not nearly so vulnerable as they think. A bride is twice as likely to become a widow by the time she is 45 years old as at the bridegroom is to become a widower. But a wife can help, provided she understands him well enough to aid him in steering clear of hazards that lie ahead. This must be done without nagging, fussing, pleading, babying, or resorting to facts or

A woman's best bet is to select a husband with long living ancestors; a man who is lean, sensible, and moderate in his habits; he should have an even temperament, which means he does not fly off the handle because of a minor

But this type husband is difficult to pick out, especially when the housewife is more of an emotion than a practical affair. When the honeymoon is over and the business of rearing a family and getting ahead in the world become paramount, some women may wish she had been more

These high risk factors are a best described via physical tests. This should be started during the fornication and after the point of no return. Obesity and a high cholesterol level call for dietary modifications. Changes in the social routine may go a long way toward providing more sleep and relaxation. A tranquil atmosphere at home keeps the blood pressure down and the coronary arteries open. A physical fitness program will go far toward maintaining a good physical status. Security in life will help your man reach his expected life expectancy.

CHESS SURVIVALIA C.L. writes: Is there a remedy for interstitial neuralgia or must it wear itself out? REPLY: Most victims get well. This is a painful disorder involving one or more of the nerves located between the ribs. It is not just "any old pain" in the chest and the diagnosis may be incorrect if you do not improve.

Y.E. Surgery is suggested when practical vision is lost. UNREPEATED CATARACT A.W.T. writes: Is it possible to perform a successful operation for cataract cataract before it is too late? REPLY: Yes. Surgery is suggested when practical vision is lost.

E. A. D. writes: Recently I learned that my young nephew is suffering from a type of placental obesity. What part of the body is affected by this odder? All over. REPLY: All over.

No Communist Support

R. Carman, Canadian Press Writer pains to emphasize that they were acting after consultation with Peking. Afterward, several Western delegates said the Soviet position was not unexpected.

A BOMBHELL African delegates were clearly astonished, however. They indicated that they had counted on Peking's support. Alex Quaison-Sackey of Ghana, chairman of the African group, said a reporter the Soviet state had decided to push ahead with present plans, backing a pair of resolutions and the resolutions calling for two more seats on the Security Council and six more on the International Economic and Social Council.

Most delegates seemed to feel the Soviet support for Peking should be kept on record by the General Assembly. Ratification of the measures might wait until later. Still unanswered was the question of whether Peking had done a turnaround, and so why.

Some observers, noting keen competition between Peking and Moscow for backing in Africa, wondered if Peking had engineered the whole procedure to embarrass the Soviets with the African bloc. The Russians, wanting to block extra seats for Peking, had placed the blame on Peking. A third explanation was that there had been a simple misunderstanding over Peking's position. In any event, China will shortly have an opportunity to clarify her position when Premier Chou En-lai makes a tour of several African countries, probably within a few days.

SET RECORD

In 1922 the Polish Olympic skiing team members climbed from the fifth to the 102nd floor of New York's Empire State Building in 21 minutes.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A single jack can lift a car, but a lot of jack is required to keep it up.—Chatham News.

It's odd, isn't it, that so many women seem to like a marriage license is also a license to drive.—Toronto Star.

To anyone who has been brought up in the belief that one should never throw anything away until it is worn out, the fact that life's most ticklish problems is to decide what to do with a glove or a rubber that has lost its lustre.—Ottawa Journal.

The custom of having a "best man" at weddings is believed to be a survival of primitive marriage by capture, when a man seized a woman and carried her away by force. Under such circumstances, he would choose a faithful friend or follower to go along and ward off attacks of the girl's kinsmen while he stole her away.—New York Times.

Kindly Fruits of the Earth

Canada is a fortunate country in having so many millions of acres of farm land, which can provide her citizens with all the good they require and leave a surplus to be sold abroad. She is fortunate in having many of the best farms situated in a large cities. As the population explosion forces people outside the city limits, farms become housing developments and are for ever lost to agricultural production. The farms that remain productive are still doomed, for their value has increased to the point that no purchasing farmer could realize an adequate return on his investment.

As the process of urban growth and rural destruction continues, one may speculate on whether one's grandchildren or great grandchildren will enjoy the kindly fruits of the earth now available in abundance to Canadians of the present day.

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