

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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PAGE 4 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1966

At Terrible Cost

A fresh round of controversy has shaped up over the Vietnamese war and the damage to civilian areas of North Vietnam in recent U.S. bombing attacks. Despite the prayers and pleas of spokesmen for the vast body of world opinion, the fighting shows no sign of abatement. It has become more bitter and more intense, with less prospect of reaching a settlement, at this year's end, than when the year began. It is a war which the Americans do not want, but in which they are getting more and more deeply involved. And there is no doubt that it is leading to a serious deterioration in U.S. relations, even with friends and allies.

During 1966, the United States poured still more men and machines and money into the besieged peninsula. Nearly half a million American men are now fighting there. President Johnson, just before Christmas, announced he will ask Congress for between \$9 and \$10 billion for the war effort next year. The struggle has become, in Mr. Johnson's words, a matter of U.S. national honor. That does not, unfortunately, preclude the possibility that the same sentiment is being exploited on the other side to make peace efforts unavailing.

To date, according to Secretary of Defense McNamara, bombing of the North has not achieved any progress in its political objective—which is to weaken the resolve of the Hanoi government to keep up the war. That assessment is apparently borne out by recent Central Intelligence Agency evaluations. With respect to the interdiction of supplies and troops flowing from North to South, it is acknowledged that bombing has had some impact; but not decisively so, and at absurdly heavy cost. In line with this emphasis on costliness, civilian authorities at the Pentagon have recently put out the figure that the U.S. is spending about \$322,000 for every enemy soldier killed in Vietnam.

History, as one commentator observes, may record that Mr. Johnson pursued the only possible course in this matter, or it may judge it to be a wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time. In the here and now, however, it is a war that is being pursued at terrible cost to the President, his party, his nation and perhaps, ultimately, to the world.

A Master Strategist

Who was it that thought up the bright idea of making federal tax deductions at the source? Tax collectors of national revenue make no secret of their belief that this was the greatest thing that ever happened in their line of business. The tax is taken out of your pay before you ever see it, and in that way it's regarded as "painless," or relatively so. Certainly the taxpayers, if they had to cough it all up at the end of the year in one shattering payment, would raise such a rumpus as to scare the daylight out of any government.

Writing on this subject in the Ottawa Journal, Richard Jackson comes up with an interesting bit of information. The honor of thinking up the gimmick of having the revenue department save everybody the trouble through collections at the source, he says, goes to none other than our old friend Transport Minister Pickersgill. At least he was credited with it, not long after it was introduced in 1942, by no less an authority than the deputy minister of taxation, Fraser Elliott.

Mr. Pickersgill, with understandable modesty, has declined this credit mark; but Fraser Elliott never hesitated in according him thanks for having made administrative life in the taxation division of revenue so much easier than it might have been

without those it won't-hurt-a-bit deductions at the source. In support of this contention The Journal man notes that in 1942, when national revenue began clipping pay cheques before they ever reached the taxpayer, the key man on Prime Minister King's staff was Mr. Pickersgill. Mr. Justice Lisle then was finance minister and Colin Gibson was revenue minister, but Fraser Elliott always insisted that the tax suggestion—or, more likely, order—came from the prime minister's office.

Four or five years later, Mr. Pickersgill, still a power in the prime minister's office—he served both Mr. King and Louis St. Laurent from 1937 to '52—was given credit for thinking up Family Allowance, or the "Baby Bonus" as it initially was known. And this is one honor he hasn't been, in a hurry to decline. For it was the "Baby Bonus" the Liberals thanked for bringing them back from their 1945 election ebb of 125 seats to their 1949 resurgence of 190. And conversely, the Conservatives blamed the "Bonus" for their slump from a modest 67 seats in the '45 election to 41 in '49, only two more than they held in the worst days of the Depression.

That, be it noted, was before John Diefenbaker took over and made Toryism stand for aggressive welfare policies.

Another Committee?

Before Parliament recessed, Prime Minister Pearson intimated that the question of a national anthem for Canada would be referred for consideration by a parliamentary committee. Why this should loom as an issue on an already overcrowded agenda has not been made clear. Canadians generally regard O Canada as their national anthem, and God Save The Queen as the royal anthem. But there is supposed to be a difficulty in that O Canada occurs in several versions, and an official spokesman seemed particularly concerned about the fact that in the most popular English version the expression "we stand on guard for thee" is repeated five times in two minutes, "which is a bit too much." So a parliamentary committee is to sit on this grave matter, and determine what to do about it.

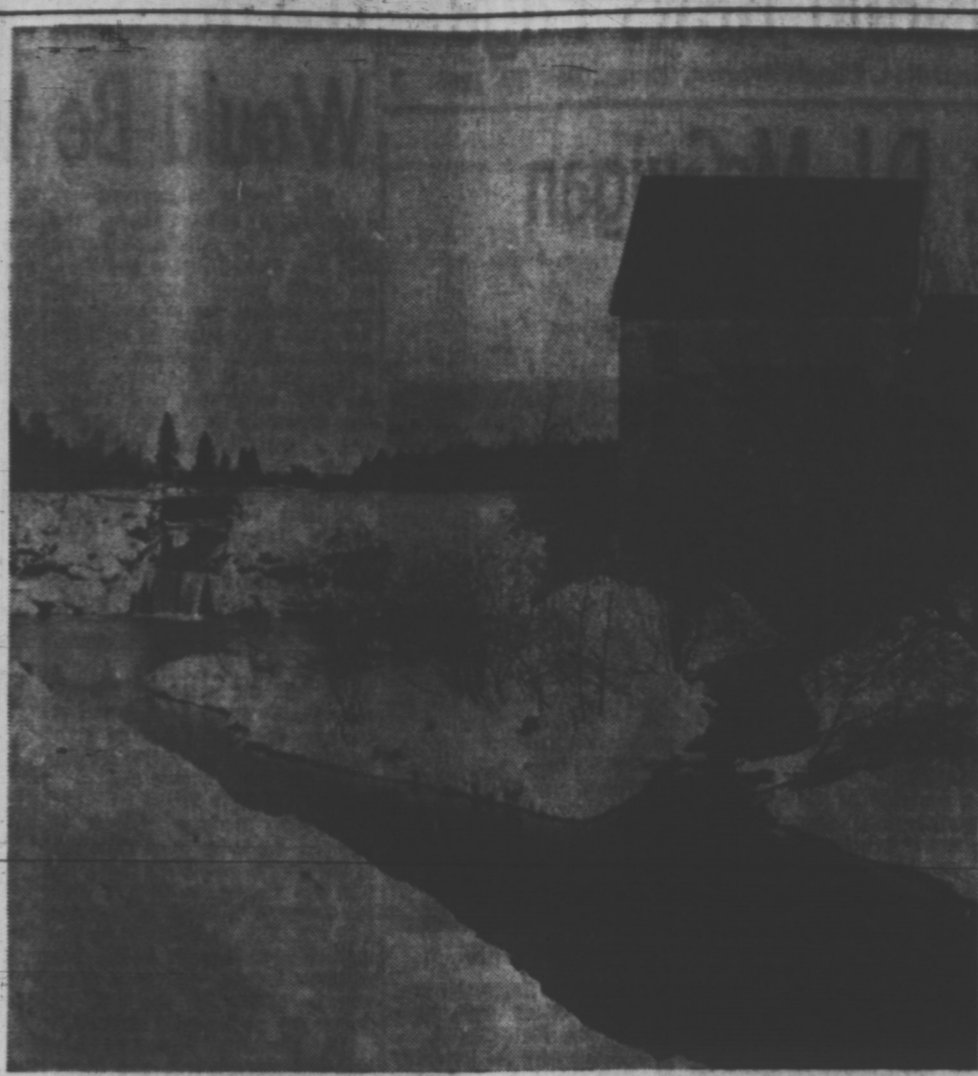
As a writer in the Winnipeg Free Press remarks, the question could be settled, very simply, without annoyance to anyone and with the least possible public expense, by a parliamentary resolution declaring the two anthems official. The words could be left to the people of Canada to settle in their own way and in their own good time. If we choose to sing different versions, what matter? We sing them, presumably, with the same general intent, which is surely all that counts. We have been singing them for years without involving ourselves in any issue subversive to our national unity, such as it is. Up to now, it has occurred to few people to worry about this minor untidiness but once Parliament embarks on the business of song writing, re-writing, changing guards here and adding co-operative federalism somewhere else, we will probably be at each others' throats.

There is no particular reason why members of Parliament should be any worse than anyone else in the business of writing anthems; but neither have we any particular reason for supposing that they would be any better than other citizens in a task for which no one gave them any mandate. On the other hand there is a distinct possibility that Centennial year will inspire someone of talent to compose words that would be generally acceptable. If so, they would rapidly drive out existing versions. As for Parliament, it can legislate but it cannot compel anybody to sing anything. We may very well end up with words which are ever so official and ever so dead.

EDITORIAL NOTES

No more silver in Canadian dimes, quarters and 50-cent pieces after next year, says Finance Minister Sharp. Silver is becoming too valuable to be used in coin production, and will be replaced by pure nickel. The change-over will save an estimated \$15 million a year.

We hated to mention it before Christmas, but good old St. Nicholas—who was a real-life bishop in ancient Turkey—was among other things the patron saint of a lot of unmitigated rascals. He became popular among thieves when he allegedly intervened miraculously to persuade a robber band to return stolen treasure. Later, pirates respected him for good tips on weather, even flew his supposed likeness on flags of their ships.



WINTER SCENE, GATES MILL

ADAPTABLE SPUD

It Even Adjusts To The Nuclear Age

A dull, dirty brown blob with warts, the newly dug potato has never won a beauty prize. But this homely hunk of vegetable has been making history ever since a Spanish explorer watched an Indian dig up an "earth nut" in Colombia in the 16th century. American scientists recently discovered how to grow two crops of potatoes where only one grew before. The U. S. Atomic Energy Commission's Pacific Northwest Laboratory at Richland, Washington, found that a light dose of radiation from a cobalt-60 source will interrupt the potato's normal 90-to 90-day rest period before sprouting, and cause it to start growing prematurely.

STUDDED TIRES SANCTIONED

After a lengthy period of driver uncertainty concerning the legality of studded tires, the Canadian Highway Safety Council now advises that they are permitted or tolerated on the highways of every province of Canada. Legislation enacted by provincial governments during the past year has made it possible to drive a motor vehicle equipped with studded tires without fear of breaking the law. In four provinces, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Manitoba, their use is limited to the winter months. Yet the motorist has to beware. In most provinces the driver may be charged if his studded tires damage the road. The Council advocates the use of studded tires in winter as a safety measure, but adds that

"That Simple, That Cynical"

"In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperilled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously." — Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis. Whether Robert Kennedy did or did not authorize the illegal wiretapping and electronic "bugging" activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation while he was Attorney General is not merely "so important" as the fact that this activity did go on, and that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover has yet to express the slightest contrition about it. "Your impression that the FBI engaged in the usage of wiretaps and microphones only on the authority of the Attorney General of the United States is absolutely correct," stated Mr. Hoover in his recent letter to

Our Yesterdays

Twenty-five years ago (December 23, 1941) The Royal Air Force dealt heavy blows on western Germany and Nazi-held continental bases in a fiery and destructive climax to a weekend of assaults by land, sea and air along the 1,000-mile front from Norway to occupied France.

TEN YEARS AGO

The Chinese Communist party attacked President Tito of Yugoslavia for his criticisms of Stalinism and warned that he would split the world Communist movement if he continued with them. A new way of producing atomic energy, without either uranium or the million-degree heat necessary in present thermonuclear reactions, was announced by a team of scientists from the University of California. The energy produced so far by this process has come from the fusion of only a few hundred hydrogen atoms—barely enough to be measured with the most sensitive instruments.

Numbness And Tingling

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Most of us have experienced numbness and tingling in the lower extremities after sitting with the legs crossed for 20 minutes or in the fingers by dangling an arm over the back of a chair. These odd sensations are not unusual as a result of sleeping on the arm or twisting the body into a grotesque position. The condition seldom is serious, especially when pressure upon the nerve is temporary. An exception occurs, for example, when a person is dead drunk, and falls asleep with the arms dangling over the back of the chair. Paralysis (Saturday-night palsy) may ensue.

Numbness and tingling may be associated with anemia, poor circulation, neuritis, and a host of neurological disturbances. In multiple sclerosis, these manifestations may be the only early signs. The symptoms last a year or two, disappear and then recur to repeat the cycle. Nerve injuries also are responsible and many people with a numb index finger or thumb may not recall that the sensation followed a deep cut. Tingling in the arms may result from a dozen disorders in the neck alone. This crowded area is packed with nerves, blood vessels, muscles, and glands. The backbone, windpipe, and esophagus also run through it. The slightest swelling may lead to pressure upon the brachial plexus or any other nerve fibers that lead to the arms and hand. Arthritis in the spine or a ruptured disk may do the same. Muscles and tendons that press upon the blood vessels lead to tingling, prickling, or burning sensations in the hands.

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Still In Disagreement

By Alexander Farrell Canadian Press Staff, United Nations UNITED NATIONS (CP)—U Thant still is secretary-general of the United Nations, after five difficult years, because most member countries—Russia and the United States above all—believe they can rely upon him to be impartial. It is ironic, then, that he has yet to hold the confidence simultaneously of all interested parties in the Vietnam conflict. In 1964 he got North Vietnam to agree to send an envoy to Rangoon, capital of his native Burma, for secret peace talks. The Americans gave no answer for a long time—despite Thant's evident conviction that the move was worth exploring, and finally declined with the comment that the North Vietnamese weren't serious. Now the United States, through its UN ambassador, Arthur Goldberg, has asked Thant to do whatever he thinks necessary to bring about cease-fire talks. The Viet Cong guerrilla radio called this move fraudulent, although it described Thant as "a well-meaning personality."

Canada's Helping Hand

External Affairs Minister Martin's announcement of the substantial increase in Canadian aid to South Vietnam will have a mixed reaction in this country—but the majority of Canadians will approve. Not many would favor following the example of Australia and New Zealand and sending troops, or even chipping in with direct arms aid. But, whatever specific form it takes, medical aid falls within the category of humanitarian help. Some may object that if help is extended to one side it should be extended as freely to the other. The argument is specious. Canada is under no obligation to balance its aid. The fact is that it is in South Vietnam that the need is overwhelmingly great and it is South Vietnam which is the victim, not the north.

Increases The Risk

The Canadian Air Lines Pilots' Association, with which many will feel is reasonable justification, has asked the federal Government to ban the sale of life insurance by machines or agents at airports. It has done so on the grounds that it encourages the sabotage of commercial aircraft for profit and that sabotage has already taken place on one or two occasions. Insurance companies are understandably opposed to the suggestion and argue that the collecting of flight insurance is not the prime motive for crime of this sort. The arguments were also put forth that no saboteur or would-be saboteur has ever profited from insurance and that at least one insurance company favors the death penalty or any one convicted of airline sabotage resulting in fatality.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted. THE WRONG SLANT Sir,—On Sunday, Dec. 25, the news broadcast contained an item on the activity of the president of the United States and his family. The same news broadcast however omitted completely any reference to our own Prime Minister's activity on Christmas Day. In my opinion this shows an appalling lack of nationalism. Surely we could forget the United States' leaders at least on this day! I am, Sir, etc., STIRLING REID Rollo Bay, P.E.I.

His Worship Mayor Walter J. Cox and Mrs. Cox will hold their NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION For Gentlemen at The City Hall on Monday, January 2nd, 1967 From 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Callers are requested to present calling cards. John J. Butler, Comptroller