The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

W. J. Hancox, Publisher

Burton Lewis, Executive Editor — Frank Walker, Editor

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Potato Plebiscite

The Provincial Government would appear to be on sound ground in insisting that our potato growers should be in possession of more information than they have been given about the mechanics of operating a one-desk selling agency under the proposed marketing board plebiscite. Agriculture Minister MacRae has pinpointed some questions to be resolved, which include how the desk agency will be financed, who will supply fertilizer to the growers, and on what terms, who will manage the agency, and what authority will be vested in it. Questions involving warehousing, shipping and pooling are also pertinent to the issue.

We understand that in other provinces where similar plebiscites have been taken, they were preceded by an educational campaign of some kind. In this case the Federation of Agriculture committee which has been promoting the plebiscite takes no responsibility for explaining these points. It maintains that it is not concerned with advocating any particular policy, but only that the growers be given an early opportunity to express themselves on matters related to the organization of their own industry.

But surely the growers, before coming to a decision, have a right to know what they are voting for. Wouldn't it be helpful if there was co-operation on the part of all concerned in supplying as much factual detail as possible on this important question?

Speaking Of Tunneling

No word from Ottawa about whether they've come to any firm decision about how to build that Northumberland Strait causeway which has been in the planning stage since before the second last federal general election. Is it to be a tunnel-causeway, a bridge-causeway, or a combination of all three, and precisely how much progress has been made since the last detailed progress report was given over two years ago? Are they experimenting with new techniques or have they already got so many schemes on the drawing-board that they just can't make up their minds?

Like the Centipede in the fable, remember? who had so many legs that she couldn't tell which ones to put forward first; this "worked her mind to such a pitch she lay distracted in a ditch, considering how to run." She's there yet, for aught we know; and her example is not one to be emulated.

Meanwhile we note that overseas the English Channel tunnel project is definitely shaping up. Two methods of construction have been accepted by the Study Group comprising French and English authorities: the bored tunnel and the immersed tube ideas. Which idea has not yet been finally decided, but the estimated construction time of either of them would be about five years. And it is intimated that a start on the undertaking may be made shortly.

The proposed tunnel length in this case is 32 miles (23 miles under the sea) with a distance between terminals of 44 miles, and the estimated time of the journey between terminals 45 minutes. This will cut the running time of the crack London-Paris express by three hours. All standard commercial vehicles will be able to use the tunnel, but they will be carried on flat wagons, with an estimated driving on and driving off time of 20 minutes. An automatic signallying system will permit the operation of trains at three-minute intervals.

Three miles inland from the small French seaside resort of Sangatte is a 100-acre farm which the First Lady of the land, Mme. de Gaulle, inherited from her family, and which is at present leased to a local farmer. This is where the tunnel entrance from the French side may be built. On the English side, the entrance would be near Hythe, a place well known to Canadian soldiers during two world wars, whose past goes back to the days of Henry VII.

A Troublesome Issue

Prime Minister Pearson took the right line in emphasizing racial equality in his address at the Commonwealth conference in London on Thursday; but it is noted that he didn't go into specific cases and that Southern Rhodesia was not mentioned. What could Canada's government leader say on this vexed subject that would be helpful? Nothing, apparently. Yet it is clear that the African members intend pushing hard for a conference decision on Southern Rhodesia—a decision that would lead to an early majority rule in a land of 3,610,000 Africans and 250,000 Europeans.

The problem was highlighted by the famous cartoonist Vicky in the London Evening Standard, in a drawing depicting a sword marked "Southern Rhodesia" hanging over the table at which the Commonwealth prime ministers were gathering British Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Commonwealth Relations Secretary Duncan Sandys was shown eyeing the sword apprehensively as they waited for the leaders of the member nations to take their seats.

The British government has insisted that franchises and other constitutional matters are an internal Southern Rhodesian affair over which London exercises no jurisdiction. But the holders of this view are in a definite minority at a conference where Afro-Asian representatives outnumber 14 to 4, the old, white, Anglo-Saxon countries.

At their opening meeting on Wednesday, the prime ministers adopted an agenda which assured that Southern Rhodesia would come up for early rather than late discussions. Mr. Pearson will then have to speak for Canada on the subject; and that will be much harder to do than giving utterance to generalities however well meant and expressed.

Ike A Disappointment

A pathetic aspect of the Republican party's confused situation in the U.S. is former President Eisenhower's loss of prestige and face. At a time when he was expected to give a sense of direction to the rank and file of his party, he has been contradicting himself from one day to the next. This sort of thing, notes an exchange, happens when a man supposed to be a leader is fearful of making enemies. He avoids being hated by anybody but he also ceases to be a pillar of strength.

One Republican summed up the Eisenhower of today shrewdly. He said: "The trouble with Ike is he wants everybody to like him." This is a nice ambition, but when you try to please everybody the inevitable consequence is that you disgruntle both sides of a controversial issue.

In the meantime the Republicans who despise Goldwater's policies, but would rather see him triumph than a Democratic victory, are hopefully saying that if he should become president his sense of responsibility would lead him to modify his extremist views. They shouldn't bank on it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Women who use plastic bags to dry their hair shouldn't. One young Ontario lady, who did, met her death by asphyxiation.

* * *

Why, indeed, should the British House of Commons have to use its time legislating on Canadian matters? This point was raised by Harold Wilson, leader of the opposition Labor party, in commenting on a bill dealing with Canada's proposed contributory pension plan, which under the BNA Act must be sanctioned by the British Parliament. Mr. Wilson urged the British government to discuss with Prime Minister Pearson, now in London, the possibilities of making new arrangements.

NO WONDER HE'S FLUNKING HIS YEAR

RUSSIA'S FARM ILLS

Agriculture In Canada Compared

C. J. Harris in Clip-Sheet

In the course of his recent Scandinavian tour Premier Khrushchev entered a defense of the Soviet's agricultural record. The fact that Russia has to import wheat, he insisted, is mostly a matter of bad luck with the weather. He went on, however, to the rather odd admission that Soviet farm production is low because of insufficient capital investment in agriculture.

He is quite right, but that is an odd admission for a man who preaches that the planned economy is much more efficient than the free market economy in its management of capital resources.

In comparison with Russia, agriculture in Canada employs relatively much less labor but much more capital and achieves a far greater farm output. In the Soviet Union there are 36,700,000 persons employed on farms, compared to 650,000 here.

IN CONTRAST

This country has 62 million acres of sown cropland, as against 539 million acres in the Soviet. On the average, then, one farm worker here tends 95 acres of sown cropland, compared to 15 acres there.

We have in use on farms 550,000 tractors, 302,000 motor trucks and 156,000 grain combines. The Soviet, with nearly nine times as much land sown to crops, has only three times as many tractors, trucks and combines in use.

There are no comparable figures, but in Canada capital investment averages $27,000 per farm, an increase of $12,000 from ten years ago; the size of the average farm is 359 acres, an increase of 70 acres in the decade.

Output is much higher in Canada for every kind of farm commodity. For wheat the yield per acre is 25 bushels here, 12 bushels there. For oats the comparison is 47 bushels to 25 rye, 19 bushels to 12; barley 31 bushels to 20; flaxseed, 11 bushels to 4; potatoes, 158 hundredweight to 64; sugarbeets, 13 tons to 7; tobacco, 1,500 pounds to 882.

EXPORT SURPLUS

Our agricultural industry provides surpluses for export, and could easily produce a great deal more, while the Soviet's is under great strain to try to meet that country's basic food requirements.

Socialists around the world will argue that the Soviet's failure is in the practice, not in the theory, and that better planners would long since have cured Russia's farm ills.

That is nonsense; farmers putting their own skills and their own money on the line to make personal gain will outthink, out-work and out-produce any group of farmers for whom a bureaucracy controls the capital and does the thinking. And that applies not only in the agricultural industry.

Cold Comfort For Britain

Fort William Times-Journal

Prior to Finance Minister Walter Gordon's visit to Britain there was speculation that he would announce modification in Canadian dumping duties which are viewed with strong distaste in that country. His speech to the Canada Club in London was expected to reveal some details.

Instead, it gave what the president of the Federation of British Industries called "cold comfort" for the British exporters. Mr. Gordon said that technical problems uncovered by Canadian investigation which caused unintended difficulties to the British would be offered for settlement during the negotiations on the Kennedy round of tariff talks.

He was defensive regarding dumping duties, though he admitted that the Canadian market is highly competitive and that the British exporters face special difficulties.

Evidently Mr. Gordon does not think that there is any need for making unilateral concessions to the British if these can be used as weapons to secure some of what Canada wants at Geneva. The British, who are sharp traders themselves, will probably understand this, though they will naturally be disappointed.

If Canada is unfair, or puts special barriers in the way of British trade, steps should be taken to rectify the matter. The British buy from us far more than they sell us. Largely this has been because they need certain products which we can sell at competitive rates. It is doubtful if they purchase much merely out of any special feeling for Canada.

But it would be wise for Canada to avoid any position where good customers might be moved to reprisals which would limit our trade at a time when it might be expected to grow.

Haggis Stitchers Needed

Cape Breton Post

Scottish authorities say they would like nothing better than to export more haggis for the delectation of Robbie Burns dinners and St. Andrews Day banquets, but there's a short supply of it.

A shortage of haggis stitchers accounts for not enough haggis being produced to meet the demand, they say. To be sure, there is some unemployment in Scotland, as elsewhere, but not everybody has the know-how or intestinal fortitude to stitch a haggis. Apparently, the Scots don't include haggis stitching in their vocational training. It's a type of craftsmanship passed along from one generation to the next in the home.

Times aren't what they used to be in Scotland, nor in Cape Breton Island for that matter. Whoever once would have believed that the Caledonian Society of Cape Breton would change its name on the surprising supposition that few hereabouts longer know what the word Caledonian means?

It will be a melancholy day when everybody of Scottish lineage loses the identifying attributes of Scottish distinction. This sadly has to do with the almost universal urge towards a common conformity.

Whitewashing The Nazis

Christian Science Monitor

Most of us must revise our concepts of modern history, especially of the origins of World War II, if we are to accept the ideas of Prof. David L. Hoggan, an American historian.

Some time ago, he wrote a book entitled "Der erzwungene Krieg, die Ursachen and Urheber des Zweiten Weltkrieges". Hitherto, it has appeared only in German. But it is expected to be published in New York next fall. It's title will be "When Peaceful Revision Failed, The Origins of World War II".

A literal translation of the German title would be, "the Enforced War". Most of us would agree that the 1939-45 war was forced upon the world by Hitler, but this is not Prof. Hoggan's thesis. For him, that war was forced upon Hitler— by the British.

Hitler, it would seem, wanted no war either with Poland or Britain in 1939. Hoggan's thesis, according to an interview in Der Spiegel (May 13, 1964) is that "already a short while after the Munich agreement (which handed over the Sudeteland to the Third Reich), official England, without the English nation knowing this, adopted an extremely dangerous and hostile policy toward Germany".

Prof. Hoggan's book is based upon the theory that Hitler's ideology was not a definite factor in forming his foreign policy. And it was unimportant as far as the origins of World War II are concerned whether Hitler did or did not wish to pursue an policy outside Central Europe.

Probably some people would have expected that there would have been a large number of Germans who would enthusiastically welcome "proofs" of "perfidious Albion's" responsibility for the last war— especially since it came from an American professor. Actually however, this this has not been so. And those Germans who are behind this approval of Prof. Hoggan include many former Nazis, from before 1933, and extreme rightists in politics. To some of these people, Hoggan has appeared as a heaven-sent supporter. As one of them stated, "hitherto, the causes of World War II and responsibility for that war have not been correctly stated. Prof. Hoggan has rekindled our hope". And Hoggan himself appears to be very happy in this company. For as he told the press, "I feel myself happiest in Germany."

Juvenile Diabetes

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Juvenile diabetes usually is severe because the victim is dependent entirely upon insulin. This form of the disease begins before the 20th birthday as a rule and approximately 5 per cent of all diabetics belong in this category. The adult type is different; insulin production is impaired but may get along on antidiabetic pills instead of having to rely upon insulin, as do victims of the juvenile type.

According to Dr. Edwin L. Rippy of Dallas, Texas, there are no known cases of this disorder in newborns. Juvenile diabetes can develop at any time thereafter, one reason it has been called growth onset diabetes.

The outcome was pitiful prior to the discovery of insulin. All died, generally within six months after the disease was detected. Hundreds of those who received the first supplies of insulin some 42 years ago are still alive and in good health.

Prior to the development of diabetes, these children are in good health and of normal weight. Suddenly, increased thirst with excessive urination occur. Apnetite may remain the same or improve so that more food is consumed. This situation continues for two or three weeks when they begin to lose weight and become apathetic and irritable. These youngsters lose interest in other children and no longer play out of doors or care to go to school.

By this time it is obvious the child is ill and the parents consult the family physician who makes urine and blood tests. The results of treatment are miraculous, especially for the child who has been in a state of temporary starvation.

Diabetes is a lifelong disease and the mother is encouraged to learn all she can about the condition. The child is taught later and, by age 14, is given full responsibility for his diet, insulin requirements, and urine testing. The parents often need more conditioning than the victim. By avoiding overprotection, the boy or girl learns to accept the discipline of being a diabetic.

TONGUE SORES

Mrs. F. P. writes: What causes blisters on the tongue now and then? My mother used to tell me these sores came when I told a lie.

REPLY

These blisters are likely to be canker sores which usually stem from allergies or irritants.

CYSTITIS AFTER DELIVERY

E. S. writes: Why does infection of the bladder occur after childbirth?

REPLY

Because of injury or pressure in this area.

The Age Old Story

"For God Speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not." Job 33:14.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Plans for a new public school in one of Canada's bigger cities include provision of escalators for pupils. There are few, if any, three-storey schools being built now. In any event children have been climbing stairs to their classes for years and their legs do not seem to have given out. With escalators now, and school buses which are in general use, a special athletic program will likely be needed for development of legs.— Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

"Whaddya mean, 'N u m b er please'?" said the slightly tipsy gentleman in the pay telephone booth. You got my dime. Now gimme my peanuts."— Galt Reporter.

NORAD predicts there will be 10,000 man-made objects in space by 1975 and some people are worried about a traffic jam up there. But it's the traffic jam down here that bothers most of us.— Ottawa Journal.

After a recent windstorm we were reminded of a story about a windstorm that hit a famous seaside resort not too long ago. The wind was a real whopper. It uprooted trees, sent lifeguard towers into the ocean, knocked down carnival booths and flattened almost everything within reach. Only three things were left standing. You may well ask what. Those three milk bottles that you throw baseballs at.— Hamilton Spectator.

Italy In Difficulties

By Alan Harvey
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Like a sprinter who runs out of puff with the finishing post in sight, Italy is panting under serious economic difficulties at a time of promising political experiment.

Seen from the outside, Italy's centre-left coalition appeared a hopeful, middle-of-the-road approach toward stable government in a land scarcely renowned for governmental discipline.

Basically, the idea was to lure the Socialists away from the post-war embrace of the Communist party—largest in Europe—into a working partnership with the Christian Democrats led first by Amintore Fanfani and later by Aldo Moro.

To be a going concern, the alliance depended on dispensing just the right amount of economic largesse—enough working-class concessions to satisfy the Socialists without alienating the more conservative-minded elements among the Christian Democrats.

INFLATION MOVED IN

In normal times, this might have been achieved. Unhappily, the "opening to the left" materialized just as Italy's remarkable post-war economic boom exploded into inflation, perhaps the sharpest any European country has experienced since the war.

Increased consumption, placing immense pressure on imports, outran production and sent prices skyward in a country in which millions live little above starvation level.

Some analysts say that Italy, like Canada, has been trying too hard to keep up with the economic Joneses next door.

In Italy's case, the "Joneses" are the more advanced neighboring countries of the European Common Market.

The economic setback, frustrating hopes of new political alignments, is dangerous for Italy. She sorely requires a mildly reforming government, and for that she needs a working consensus of the centre; but economic disarray merely strengthens the extremes of left and right, further compressing the room for manoeuvre of the middle parties.

USE OF FORK

The first mention of the common table fork is found in an Englishman's letter from about 1500 commenting on their use in Italy.

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