

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Day... W. J. Hancox, Publisher... Wallace Ward, Managing Editor... Frank Walker, Editor... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 145 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd. Branch offices at Summerside, Montague, Alberton and Souris.

Unpromising Prospects

The defense ministers of NATO countries are slated to meet in Paris during the later part of this week to discuss the vexed question of nuclear sharing within the alliance. Though France is the host country, President de Gaulle has indicated that he will not send a delegate to the conference and without France there is little prospect of any reconciliation of views.

Among the suggested ways of granting Germany's claim to a limited nuclear role have been the multilateral nuclear force, once pressed by Washington, the British plan for an Atlantic nuclear force and the latest Washington plan for a select nuclear committee within NATO to include the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and perhaps Italy to represent the smaller NATO powers.

There will be added suspicion of the efforts to give Germany nuclear status in view of a Washington dispatch in the New York Times which came out over the weekend. This was to the effect that U.S. nuclear warheads have been mounted secretly on planes and missiles of West Germany and other NATO members.

U.S. defense officials declined to comment on this report, maintaining that it was department policy never to discuss the location or operation of any nuclear weapons. Later they issued a statement to the effect that custody of nuclear weapons given NATO allies remains with the U.S.

To those countries which are fearful of giving West Germany any nuclear role beyond that of strategic planning, this explanation leaves much to be desired. Reading it in the light of The Times article they will suspect that it conceals more than it reveals, and that President de Gaulle has become more of a danger than a safeguard and should be reorganized on a different basis.

Testing Time For ARDA

In the short time at their disposal, the Atlantic premiers apparently did not get round to discussing ARDA problems at their conference here yesterday. But according to an Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Times of Canada, this program for agricultural rehabilitation and development is approaching a critical cross-roads.

habilitation Act or its east coast counterpart, the Maritimes Marshland Rehabilitation Act.

ARDA's critics say that the amount of research has been inadequate; also that there is a lack of coordination and that research findings must be published if they are to be of much permanent use. But perhaps the biggest question mark in the whole situation is how effective ARDA can be in arranging for the people displaced by its rationalization program to be absorbed into the non-agricultural economy.

Another problem has to do with the \$50 million fund committed by the federal government in the new agreement to establish special rural development areas. These are described in the agreement as areas which "warrant a comprehensive co-ordinated approach to economic and social development because they are subject to widespread low income, have major adjustment problems, and have recognized development potential."

The \$50 million, which is in addition to the \$125 million Ottawa will contribute to ordinary ARDA projects under the five-year plan, could be applied either exclusively by the federal government or in cooperation with the provinces concerned. The idea is to undertake really thorough development programs in the special areas which would involve physical, economic and social studies of the problems and potentials of the area; training local people to run their own program by establishing rural development committees or similar bodies; preparing comprehensive development plans; and undertaking "a broad range" of projects to increase income and employment opportunities.

A test case for this approach is the joint federal-provincial task force formed last month to undertake a comprehensive development plan for Cape Breton and rural Nova Scotia. On its success will depend its application to rural areas in other provinces. It is regarded, indeed, as one of the blanks in the ARDA picture which will have to be filled in before it can do the job for which it was designed.

A Note Of Caution

The parliamentary library at Ottawa has some 250,000 reference works on its shelves and another 200,000 in storage. Now, to make easier the labors of our members when Parliament meets in January, a research branch of the library has been established, headed by an experienced British librarian and providing for one research assistant for every ten Senators and MPs. It will be some time before a staff of this size is assembled, but a start has been made and as the demands for its services grow, it is expected to add more researchers, abstractors, indexers and secretaries.

This is a good move, of course. There is a definite trend toward specialization in public affairs and members must become better informed on subjects which interest them. The cabinet ministers have many facilities available to them through their own departments; but to criticize government effectively, opposition members must have equal sources of information.

But there is a danger of overdoing it if, as we note from a press report, the new branch will not only provide statistical data and investigate the pros and cons of any question referred to it, but will summarize press comment on public issues and provide notes for speeches as well.

Our parliamentarians now are on full-time pay, and we see no reason why their research chores should be as neatly processed and packaged for them as all that. They are expected to put some mental effort into the speeches they deliver, to do some at least of their own homework and to make their own assessment of press comments, too, for that matter. If they are going to have everything handed to them in capsule form—predigested by industrious bureaucrats—they might as well stay home and let the bureaucrats make their speeches. We hope it won't come to that, but we can see a danger here of putting a premium on laziness that would be anything but conducive to the interests of Parliament or the public at large.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The United States and Britain have joined in a unique offer to supply Saudi Arabia with a modern, \$200 million air defense system. It includes in part the sale of American Hawk missiles, British supersonic intercepter jet fighters, and a highly advanced radar and communications system.



STILL OF PRIME CONCERN

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Nightmarish Spectre For Poor Grits

"Wanted — a powerful tranquilizer to enable a score of Liberal Cabinet Ministers to sleep soundly, through darkness now made nightmarish by the spectre of an Opposition Leader grown ten feet tall, with x-ray eyes and a tongue like a cat's nine tails."

There is no doubt that a reassured and reinforced John Diefenbaker is the most feared of the many unwelcome and unexpected bogymen now striking the Liberals from their "unnecessary election."

Top Liberals made no secret of their hope that their main benefit from the election would be the disappearance from the House of Commons of a mortally wounded Diefenbaker. Their reasoning — which they shared with the less courageous of the anti-Diefenbaker Conservatives — was that the Tories under Dief's leadership would suffer such a savage defeat in the election that the Pearson government would be secure for the next five years, and a disappointed Dief would be forced to retire.

TERRIFIED GRITTS The less glib Tory rebels were prepared to pay that desperate price, with the voters committing the political murder which they were afraid to perpetrate themselves. Many equally glib Liberal Ministers had believed a "logical fear" that each day yet another of their blunders or scandals would be destructively and ridiculingly used against them by Dief. In their arrogant confidence that they would triumph in the election, the \$25 million cost and the four-month disruption of the nation's business seemed their only way to free themselves of that nightmare.

But now both groups find their hopes in ruins and their fears amplified. For John Diefenbaker is more solidly entrenched at the head of the Conservative Party than at any time since the Cuba crisis of October 1962. And when Parliament reassembles in January, he will be supported by the strongest Opposition to threaten any Prime Minister in the past forty years. Parliament will not have seen such talent and experience

on the Opposition Front Bench since Conservative Prime Minister Arthur Meighen and was overthrown in five days, by the Liberal Opposition under Mackenzie King in 1926. TORIES OUTSHINE GRITTS There will be fifteen ex-Cabinet Ministers on the Conservative Front Bench. In experience, ability and even in geographic representation, they will make the Pearson Cabinet look handicapped. Besides John Diefenbaker there will be two former Trade Ministers, as well as former holders of such important portfolios as Justice, Public Works, Immigration, Labour, Health, Fisheries, Revenue, Forestry and Northern Affairs. Missing only will be a former Minister of Finance.

True, Diefenbaker has lost three ex-ministers of the last parliament, by death, defeat and defection. But that loss is abundantly compensated by the return of George Hees and Dick Bell and David Fulton, and also by the very able Quebecer Martial Asselin who had little chance to shine in Parliament but sparkled brilliantly representing Canada at the United Nations.

Every province except Newfoundland and Nova Scotia will be represented among that Conservative "Shadow Cabinet", making it more nationally representative than the Liberal Cabinet itself. Man for man, in question and debate in the House, the Conservatives should outmanoeuvre and outshine the Liberals impressively.

Failure In Methods

Cape Breton Post A study of the huge sums spent on behalf of the Indians hardly suggest a lack of generosity, but does suggest a failure in methods, a failure in intelligent direction.

In the past decade the expenditure of the Indian Affairs branch has increased 260 per cent. Much of the \$100 millions budget goes into a school system for 55,000 children. It has the highest rate of drop-outs in the country. While relief cheques have climbed to \$13 millions annually, living standards on the reserves have been going down.

Bases For Astronauts

National Geographic Society Space scientists are considering the use of asteroids as way stations for astronauts on route from the moon to the beyond. The asteroids, also called planetoids or minor planets, are enormous chunks of rock that orbit the sun like planets. One is named Geographos in honor of the Society. The biggest asteroid, Ceres, has a diameter of 480 miles.

The asteroid Hermes has a come within 485,000 miles of the earth. Significantly, this is only about twice the distance from the earth to the moon. Astronauts assigned to vast interplanetary journeys might conceivably land on an asteroid. If it proved suitable for habitation, the asteroid could be converted into a base for the distant goals. Venus, closest of all the planets, is 26 million miles from the earth. Mars will never come closer than 33,883,000 miles.

LITTLE POWER NEEDED Since asteroids are small, an astronaut's rocket would need little power to break away from the gravitational pull. The orbits of some asteroids have been established. One of these, Icarus, which stretches six-tenths of a mile across, has been seen repeatedly since 1949. Its path around the sun has been precisely calculated by astronomers working under Dr. Samuel Herrick at the University of California at Los Angeles; they predict that it will pass within four million miles of the earth in 1968.

The asteroid Geographos, whose orbit also is known, will soon make its closest approach of the century. The mile-thick lump of rock was discovered in 1951 during the National Geographic Society-Palomar Observatory Sky Survey. Geographos will come within seven million miles in 1969. Geographos can come within three million miles of earth—closer than any asteroid of known orbit—but will not do so for many decades.

Two other asteroids, Eros and Ivar, will swing within 14 million miles in 1967. But most of the 1,651 numbered asteroids orbit between Mars and Jupiter, far beyond earth's ken. One of the first tasks for astronauts landing on an asteroid would be the collection of geological samples. Some scientists believe that valuable raw materials might be found, and that the low gravity of an asteroid might eventually make it economical to transport rare ores to earth.

Son Natural Stone Former

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A Detroit woman has a married son with a kidney problem. "He is a natural stone former and has passed six BB-sized stones. These are torturous exercises, and he is becoming despondent. His physician says the stones are made of calcium and he should avoid foods rich in this chemical. Is there anything else to do?"

Some people are natural stone formers, and the cause is not always obvious. The urinary tract should be examined by a urologist to make sure that an infection, obstruction, or congenital defect does not exist. We assume this has been done and the kidneys are otherwise normal and functioning properly. These little rocks form because too much calcium is leaving the body via the kidneys. The urine is oversaturated, and the calcium salts are crystallizing and forming calculi. A nyctone with this problem should drink two or more quarts of liquid a day to avoid oversaturation of the urine. The chemical remains in dissolved form and does not crystallize. Calcium also remains in solution when the urine is acid, and therefore acid ash diets and drugs such as ammonium chloride are helpful. These regimens are not recommended for long periods because they are difficult to follow. The daily use of aspirin is said to be of value.

It is more practical to reduce the intake of foods rich in calcium including dairy products, egg yolk, green olives, turnip greens, broccoli, kale, and dry beans. The same can be said of excessive vitamin A intake. Since many chronic stone formers also have phosphorous stones, they should avoid overindulgence in meats, milk, eggs, cheese, and cereals. The absorption of phosphorous from the intestines is lessened by taking an aluminum hydroxide gel four times a day.

Excessive calcium appears in the blood when the parathyroid glands are overactive. Immobilization such as being bedridden for months because of illness or an accident is another cause. The chemicals leave the bone, enter the bloodstream and are excreted via the urine.

STONE IN DUCT E. J. writes: Could a stone in the common duct cause a person to vomit after eating?

REPLY Yes, but severe pain and jaundice are more common symptoms of obstruction of this passageway that brings bile from the liver and gallbladder to the intestine.

A READING PROBLEM E. K. writes: When I handle some books and magazines (not all) my entire body starts to itch. Have you an explanation?

REPLY Bookworms?—No. Allergy to ink or molds?—Yes.

OBVIOUS REMEDY D. J. writes: Can nicotine heart be cured?

REPLY Yes, if you refer to a heart that is sensitive to and easily affected by nicotine. The remedy is obvious.

HOUSEWIFE'S BEER Mrs. V.B. writes: Are six cans of beer a day too much for a housewife?

REPLY In my opinion, the daily consumption of six cans of beer is excessive.

TIRED EYES S. R. writes: My eyes feel and look tired. What causes this?

REPLY You may need glasses. If not, take stock of your activities.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Is the doctor in?" inquired the caller. "No sir," answered the five-year old son. "Have you any idea when he will be back?" "I don't know sir—he went out on an eternity case." —Vancouver Sun.

The lady of uncertain age stimped at the gentleman of about the same age who had offered her his seat in the car. "Why should you be so kind to me?" she asked. "My dear madam, because I myself have a mother and wife and a daughter." —Montreal Star.

Gambling is a harder way of making a living than manual labor, says Auguste Bernard, secretary-general of the Monte Carlo Casino. According to Bernard the professional gamblers expend more nervous energy at the gambling tables than do men who work as truck drivers, ditch diggers or office employees. Indeed, it appears that if gamblers worked half as hard at some regular profession, they could earn a comfortable livelihood. —Ottawa Journal.

"Well is getting nearer every day," says an evangelist. "This is doubtless because an increasing number of people are raising it." —Galt Reporter.

The first grader slipped in the hall and skinned his knee. "Remember, big boys don't cry," called out the teacher. "I'm not gonna cry," the lad replied. "I'm gonna sue." —Financial Post.

"More than 5,000 elephants go each year to make our piano keys." "Really? Well, it's remarkable what those beasts can be trained to do." —Hamilton Spectator.

When a woman called Police Chief Dan Albedyl the other day to report a skunk in her basement, Dan advised: "Make a trail of bread crumbs from the basement to the yard and wait for the skunk to follow it outside." A little later the woman called back: "I did what you told me. Now I've got two skunks in my cellar." —Chilton Times-Journal.

Christmas Cards

Never let it be thought that Canada is unique because of its bilingual and bicultural problems. The lingering reality of age-old cultural gulfs was made plain recently with the news that Scottish members of Parliament are planning to boycott this year's House of Commons Christmas card because it depicts a Scottish king paying homage to an English king. It doesn't seem to matter that the card commemorates the anniversary of the founding of Parliament, which has been the safeguard of British freedoms for 700 years. It wouldn't be surprising, at least to a Canadian, if the dissenters demanded that the greeting on the card be printed in the native tongues of the Scots, Welsh and Irish, as well as the English. This, of course, could give rise to further demands that the greetings be printed, also, in the Cornish, Yorkshire and Lancashire dialects, to say nothing of the many forms of speech peculiar to different parts of London. The strange part about the dispute in question is that it centres on one of the symbols of the year when men are drawn together in the spirit of brotherhood.

The Dying Lake

Canadians have heard much in recent years of the growing damage being done by pollution of lakes, of rivers and of the air. This is a problem which affects the entire Western world. Indeed, it appears as by-product wherever modern industrialization takes place and large numbers of people congregate in small areas. Much has been written recently about the effects of pollution on Lake Erie. It has been said, perhaps with exaggeration, that Lake Erie is in danger of "dying", that it may soon become incapable of supporting normal lake-life. Some scientists have announced that the same danger is facing Lake Constance, the famous tourist attraction that borders Germany, Switzerland and Austria. It is reported to be suffocating under the load of sewage, chemicals and other pollutants that pour into it from the Rhine river and from nearby cities. Bacteria are multiplying at a rate which is endangering health. Ten per cent of its area has become covered with algae and other formations. It is strange that so little should be done about this and other forms of pollution. The problem is international. It is potentially very serious; and could become so within quite a short period of time. Yet there is little sign of a concerted effort to deal with the problem. The attitude throughout the world seems to be to treat it as something that can be put off until tomorrow and tomorrow. People have done this sort of thing before, to their ultimate sorrow. And if they put off an attack on pollution indefinitely, they may find their ultimate sorrow even more warranted than in the past.

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