

Burton Lewis, Editor
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PAGE 6 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1962

Water Pollution Problem

A policy to which both parties in the provincial election campaign were committed was to put an end to the pollution of the Charlotte-town harbor and waterfront areas. We have discussed this matter before, and need not enlarge on its importance again. The missionary work, if such was needed, has been accomplished, and we can confidently look forward to co-operative action on the part of the Provincial Government and the municipalities of Charlottetown, Parkdale and Sherwood in achieving the desired results.

This is implicit in the assurance given by the successful Conservative candidates, Hon. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Farmer. An engineering firm has been selected to prepare an overall plan, which will be 50 per cent underwritten by the Provincial Health Department and will include the building, by the department, of a sewage disposal plants near spring at Beach Grove and Riverside Hospital.

Legislation will be passed at the next session of the Legislature to regulate and control water pollution, and we can safely assume that it will pass without objection from the Opposition—indeed, with their active co-operation and support.

This will be building for the future in a very real way. It will mean that clean, attractive bathing within the city limits will be assured to all our people, and will do away with a health problem which, if neglected, would become more and more menacing to citizens and visitors alike.

We cannot end this comment without recalling the service rendered by the Provincial Health Department officials in sounding the alarm about this pollution problem some months ago. They certainly woke us out of our apathy, for we had no idea that the problem had become so serious. We imagine that our legislative members were in the same spoken out or they would have been.

This is the kind of leadership we require from our health officials in matters of this kind, if public interest and concern are to be aroused. The response has been productive of most encouraging results.

Will He, or Won't He?

There are rumors now that a Prime Minister Diefenbaker himself may spring another federal election while Parliament stands adjourned for the Yuletide holidays. This view is based on the speculation that an element in the Conservative party is dissatisfied with Mr. Diefenbaker's leadership and may bring their dissatisfaction to a head at the national meeting of the party, Jan. 17-19, which expects to draw 1,500 delegates and perhaps as many more observers, and which could be crucial in determining the party's fate. Meanwhile the understanding is that the House will adjourn Dec. 20 and reconvene Jan. 21.

Since the most likely contender for alternative leadership of the party was Hon. Davie Fulton—who has now decided to quit the federal political field and take over leadership of the British Columbia Conservatives—we do not think Mr. Diefenbaker is unduly perturbed about the results of the forthcoming party gathering. He may, however, be laying the groundwork for a sudden dissolution by his ac-

cessations of Opposition obstruction to his government's legislation. This is the course he followed successfully after the 1957 general election.

Since Parliament convened on Sept. 27, parliamentary consideration has been completed and royal assent has been given on only nine matters, all considered more or less routine. With the exception of the railway committee, which has disposed of its annual study of the Canadian National Railways and the Trans-Canada Air Lines reports, committee work is barely starting. It is not known yet if the agenda for the period between now and the Yuletide recess will provide for another supply motion or for a similar opportunity for the Opposition to test the confidence of the House in the government. Meanwhile important business has been sidetracked by political squabbling for which the Opposition could with reason be held responsible.

But the situation today is quite different from the situation prevailing when Mr. Diefenbaker sought dissolution of Parliament for the 1958 general election. The chances of any party scoring the kind of victory won by the Conservatives in that election are extremely remote. Much more likely is another stalemate which would set the country back economically without any offsetting advantages.

We are inclined to believe, in the circumstances, that the politicians will be given a month of untroubled recess in which to mend their fences at home and set the stage should a new general election be called in late winter or early spring. But of course we are not Mr. Diefenbaker's confidants, and he may even now be planning to prove the inaccuracy of our forecast.

Research in Germany

One of the greatest fisheries research institutes in the world is located at Hamburg, West Germany. Many of our readers will be interested in the current activities at this establishment, as reported in a bulletin just received. A pressing problem there is one with which, fortunately, we are not directly concerned in Canada.

Since the Russians started nuclear weapons tests at Novaya Semlja, German fishermen are at their guard, because cod are moving from there into areas which are among the fishing grounds of the German trawler fleet. But science can assure the consumer that he has nothing to worry about—yet. Catches are regularly being tested by specialists, and it has been found that twice the amount of radioactivity now present would still not be dangerous to life.

A layman, says the Hamburg bulletin, has no idea what international repercussions a simple herring can have, depending on whether it was caught with a close-meshed or wide-meshed net, with trawlers or with the electrical method. Many experts are sceptical about modern fishing methods where swarms of fish are being herded together by electric waves or rays of light and then sucked aboard through special sucking equipment.

But the problem posed by the herring is by no means confined to this. With the introduction of a new food law in Germany forbidding the use of preservatives dangerous to health, producers of canned food have run into hard times. So far scientists have been unable to find a preservative which is both legal and effective. In the end there may, perhaps, be no other solution but to market herring, sterilized by heat, in fully sealed cans. This way it can be kept for an unlimited period.

The scientists of the Hamburg institute are testing stocks of canned fish put at their disposal by firms from all parts of the world. They publish their findings in international trade journals. A new electrical apparatus developed there can be termed sensational; with its help, it takes only seconds to test the durability of fresh fish. It is a small box looking like a portable radio. The experts now envisage an electrically controlled fish-sorting machine, which will be so reliable that customers will be able to place their orders in writing without even having to look at the fish.

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A POWERFUL WORLD FORCE

The European Common Market

National Geographic News Bulletin... The foot took 157 hours of negotiation, the perusal of 582,000 pages of documents, and three heart attacks by participants. Before the six nations worked out a basic tariff policy in 1958, they had to come to terms on 2,600 conflicting customs regulations. The regulations formed five immense green tin trunks, known collectively as "The Monster" as they were shipped from capital to capital for conference.

THURNAL SKETCHES... The Common Market appears an interesting combination of nations. Belgium, small (11,779 square miles) and crowded (some 9,153,000 people), is a giant workshop. Forty percent of Belgium's work is done in France, Italy, and Switzerland. The Netherlands is the provincial capital of the Common Market. A language it speaks is French, and it is a French-speaking south and Dutch-speaking north.

FRANCE IS GRANARY... France, to the visitor, may seem a handsomely landscaped parkland that one crosses enjoyably to get from Paris to another charming city. Actually, its fertile northern plains make it the continent's biggest wheat producer under Russia. France is also one of the world's leading industrial nations. Its exports, textiles, chemicals, steel, autos, machinery, leather and luxury goods, and fashions. There are some 40 million Frenchmen; their country would fit comfortably into Italy.

Cruise Of The Nina

Christian Science Monitor... First Thor Heyerdahl sailed west across the Pacific on the raft Maori in 1946. He proved that the natives of Polynesia might have discovered their New World. Then Allan Villiers sailed west across the North Atlantic in the Mayflower Zee in 1947. He proved that the natives of North America might also be discovered by an Englishman.

Outrageous Claim

Cape Breton Post... Dame Flora Macleod—in the dignity of her 84 summations—has denounced a Scotchman as 'a' astounding assertion' that the Highland kilts was invented by an Englishman.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the community. Letters should be sent to the Editor, The Guardian, P.O. Box 100, Charlottetown, P.E.I. Letters are accepted for consideration on the basis of their merit. The editor reserves the right to edit and to refuse to print any correspondence that is libelous, defamatory, obscene, or otherwise objectionable. Letters are accepted on the basis of their merit. The editor reserves the right to edit and to refuse to print any correspondence that is libelous, defamatory, obscene, or otherwise objectionable.

White ashes' Are Removed By Transplant

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen... TWO JAPANESE plastic surgeons have grafted the eyelids of a meek little man who was suffering from a rare condition known as "white ashes." The need for the procedure was great. The man had a certain eye lesion which was to be treated by conjunctival autografting. The procedure was successful, the eyelashes turned white permanently in 10 to 30 per cent of the cases.

Rebellion In Brunei

By Doug Marshall... Suppression of the armed rebellion in the British protectorate of Brunei poses few military problems but the political complications could be complicated. An estimated 1,000 jungle-trained Brunei rebels were reported waging out rebel pockets of resistance in the North Borneo sultanate state and restoring order.

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ISLAND FURRIERS

Ltd. 79 Grafton St. Ch'ova Dial 1-2123... POLICE CHIEF QUITS... SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Police Chief Hans F. Kelly resigned Saturday in the midst of an investigation of alleged corruption in the Erie County department. During three days of public hearings last week by grand jury and grand jury commission, it was alleged that Syracuse police were tied in with gambling, prostitution and narcotics traffic.

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OUR YESTERDAY'S

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO... W. G. Gorrall, Canadian fruit trade commissioner, London, England, arrived in Charlottetown Tuesday. He conferred with Provincial Agriculture Minister, Hon. W. H. Dennis... TEN YEARS AGO... Warren Burns, in charge of the Meteorological Station at the Experimental Station reports a result of overtures made to the Dominion Department of Fisheries last week, according to H. B. Howard, Canadian delegation from the P.E.I. Fisheries Federation. The legal regulation regarding salmon fish will clear up obscure points.

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