The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Thanksgiving

From an old "Book of Days" we learn that Thanksgiving, as a social and religious festival, was introduced as a substitute for Christmas by the New England Puritans, who had abolished Christmas as a relic of prelacy, and passed laws to punish its observance; but, wanting some day to replace it, the colonial assemblies, and, later, the governors of the American states, appointed every year some day in autumn, generally toward the end of November, as a day of solemn prayer and thanksgiving for the blessings of the year, and especially the bounties of the harvest.

Unwittingly the Puritans were following a custom as old and universal as the harvest season itself. The ancients called it by a different name, but there was never a time when people were not profoundly thankful for earth's bounties at this season, or blind to their Providential significance.

Canada has long celebrated a Thanksgiving Day, and let us hope that it will never cease to be observed with praise and gratitude. The present season has been a precarious one for our farmers locally, but the improvement in weather conditions this week has made a marked difference in the harvest prospects. On the prairies, it is one of the most promising years in history.

But it is not only the immediate returns that should determine our attitude on this occasion. All of us, surely, must have found what "a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful," and how much reason we have, all through the year and every year, for giving "thanks unto God for a remembrance."

While Business Waits

There was a feeling in Conservative quarters at Ottawa that with the defeat of his non-confidence motion on Thursday, Liberal Leader Lester Pearson had shot his bolt. How much more effective he could have been, indeed, if he had kept the Government in suspense instead of challenging a head-on vote, the only effect of which has been to prove that the splinter groups won't close ranks with him on a government-beating issue.

Perhaps the Liberals would not have been able to vote out the Government in any case, but at least a "suspended sentence" strategy on Mr. Pearson's part—say the Conservatives—would have worried the Government more, created tension and suspense, and given the Official Opposition the next best thing to a whip hand in the Commons.

When he announced that he was fixing to throw the 116 Conservative rascals out, the two splinter groups promptly reacted by proclaiming they wouldn't support him merely to overthrow the Government and force an election. Then, the Social Credit members proposed a non-confidence motion of their own, so worded as to deliberately avoid support by the Liberals, or, indeed, by any other party. That left them free to claim that they were the only true-blue Opposition, and to swing in behind the Government against the Liberals any time they liked, on the ground that the Liberals had done the same to defeat THEIR attempt to oust the administration.

When the New Democrats moved their amendment the Liberals followed a different course. This was a socialist amendment, denouncing the Government for having failed "to propose a program of economic planning," and heretofore Mr. Pearson has shown no very keen interest in a program of this kind. But he and his followers gave it their unanimous support, and received, in return, unanimous New Democratic support for THEIR non-confidence motion. A case of mutual back-scratching which didn't pay off.

Yesterday another Liberal non-confidence motion was put, aimed, presumably, at bringing the Socreds as well as the NDPs into line. How it will fare when voted on Tuesday night we have no idea. But if it proves another dud, let's hope that Mr. Pearson and his followers will forget their dreams of power for a while and get on with the business of the House. There's lots of it to be attended to.

P.E.I. Has A Stake In It

Awareness that this province has a serious alcoholism problem of its own needs to be kept a part of the welcome extended today to the two-day 15th annual conference of the Atlantic Provinces Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous, which opens this morning at the Charlottetown Hotel. There is much for P.E.I. to learn, in its own behalf, from this conference.

The attitude toward AA of a community—of its doctors, clergymen, social workers, police, government officials, "ordinary drinkers," and compulsive drinkers—can have a great bearing on the effectiveness of AA's work. It is with the purpose of explaining what that attitude should be, on the part of all such persons, that the conference has arranged a public meeting, to be held in the Prince of Wales College Auditorium, at 8:30 p.m. Speakers from New York and Montreal, who are closely associated with the world wide activities of AA, through some 9,400 groups in more than 80 countries, will be heard.

There are, of course, no exact figures as to the number of alcoholics in this province. After all, how do you take a census of skeletons in family closets? But responsible estimates say the minimum figure would be 1,200, and that it may run as high as 3,000. As one indicator, a recent report showed that more than 88 per cent of all cases handled in Charlottetown courts by the police in August involved charges of misuse of alcohol in some way—84 cases out of a total of 95.

Apparently P.E.I. needs an AA conference, just as surely as it welcomes the one that opens today.

De Gaulle's Referendum

It is expected that a decree dissolving the French National Assembly will be issued today, with the government remaining in a caretaker capacity following its collapse on a vote of censure, until after the next election.

The real target of the censure motion was not Premier Pompidou, but President de Gaulle's plan to seek by national referendum a constitutional change permitting direct popular elections of future presidents of France. Sponsors of the censure motion, backed by most Frech jurists, contended that de Gaulle, by by-passing Parliament, would be violating the Fifth Republic Constitution, which specifies that constitutional amendments must be approved by Parliament before being submitted to a referendum.

The hand of the deputies was greatly strengthened last Monday, when the highly respected Council of State, an independent advisory body to the government on legislative matters, voted against the constitutionality of the President's method. Two former presidents, Rene Coty and Vincent Auriol, condemned it on the same ground.

De Gaulle appears to be confident that the new elections will return a Parliament more loyal to him than the last one. He is said to feel that the eventual result—assuming his national referendum is approved—will be a polarization of French politics into fewer and more stable parties, co-operating with, but subservient to, a president elected by the people themselves.

This measure would seem intended to perpetuate the sweeping powers de Gaulle now possesses. It may be for the country's own good, but there is no saying how de Gaulle's successors in the presidency would use it for their own ends.

THE INK OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

New Speaker Off To A Good Start

The new speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. Marcel Lambert, evidently believes that rules are intended to be obeyed. He obviously intends to insist that all MPs should submit to the discipline of the rules of procedure, which were designed for the efficient conduct of the business of the nation.

This tough but brilliant French-Canadian from Alberta surprised the new House by himself making the first contribution to its regular business. Rising to his feet, in a short but sharp homily he drew the attention of all members to the standing orders governing questions addressed to Ministers by the members.

This was very apt, because during our last Parliament, from 1958 to 1962, Question Period was allowed to be prolonged by very many questions which should not have been asked. So much time was added to the daily question period that this addition above the normal was calculated to absorb the equivalent of one whole month of regular sitting hours during a normal six-month session.

IMPROPER USE OF TIME

The reason for this, as this column often pointed out, was that M.Ps flagrantly disregarded the rules without being pulled up by the than Speaker.

The rules say that questions must be submitted in writing, and be placed upon the Order Paper. In due course, perhaps ten days, a written reply is normally given; but MPs may ask for an oral reply in outstanding cases. But, on any matter of immediate urgency, a member may ask a question orally at once, and without giving notice of his intention to do so.

This creates the informal "question period" at the opening of proceedings on most days. It defers the planned business of the House, but it serves as a daily spur to the administration, and provides a valuable safety-valve on our national affairs. It also quickly shows up any Minister who does not familiarise himself with the work of his department.

"Beauchesne", the standard text book on the rules, makes it clear that oral questions should only be permitted if the subject is of immediate urgency which cannot brook delay. Further, such questions should be brief, and unadorned with opinion, innuendo or proposal; should genuinely seek information and not proffer it; and should not be based on allegations in some letter, telegram or newspaper which happens to have just reached the questioner's desk.

Obviously too, an oral question, generally asked without notice, cannot expect a reply containing details or statistics.

SPEAKER CLAMPS DOWN

Speaker Lambert's warning led to an example of what we may expect. Although it was the first day, with five months backlog of material and a surfeit of publicity available, there were only 20 questions and 9 supplementary questions, and the time consumed was down to normal — saw 40 minutes.

Three times the Speaker admonished an M.P. for over-stepping the rules. But the Ministers quickly recognised that their full co-operation with the Speaker is essential to uphold the rules; so six Liberal questions, five NDP questions and one Social Credit question all prompted the Minister to whom they were addressed either to ignore them — as he is entitled to do if the question is irregular — or to administer a mild rebuke. For example, Hon Howard Green goodnaturedly and properly retorted once: "Mr. Speaker, the hon. member (Mr. Lional Chevrier), as a former Minister of Transport, should have asked a more sensible question that that."

Speaker Lambert would deserve the support of the House if he also enforced another rule recently more honoured in the breach, which is that members should deliver a speech, and not a pre-composed essay.

These two rule enforcements could together eliminate the drag and restore the elan in the recently tedious proceedings of our House.

Younger Men Alienated

By Doug Marshall
Canadian Press Staff Writer

There was a glint in the eye and a jauntiness in the step of most delegates to the conference of Britain's Labor Party this week.

It wasn't just the fresh sea air breezing across the Brighton promenade. It was the general feeling that for the first time since 1951 Labor has more than a fighting chance to win the next election.

Labor's biggest gun in the coming political struggle is its new-found opposition to joining the European Common Market on the terms the Conservatives so far have been able to obtain.

Party Leader Hugh Gaitskell has left the door to Europe only barely ajar by throwing in his lot with the majority anti-market group within the party.

LOSES FRIENDS

This has given labor the closest approach to national unity it has had in years. But by alienating the younger, pro-market element Gaitskell has lost some of his closest friends and run the risk of directions.

Besides the Common Market argument, Labor has marshalled a presentable program of alternatives to woo the voters on domestic and economic issues.

Shadow chancellor James Callaghan Thursday announced a sweeping four - year industrial expansion plan that he promised would end the government's "economics of stagnation."

Despite this there are some within the party and many outside it who do not share the hopes of Gaitskell and his followers. Deputy leader George Brown, who favors joining Europe, commented bitterly: "It's death or glory this time."

SOUL WORN OUT

Other observers have remarked that the Brighton health cure that has given Labor possible election-winning prospects has also revealed how tired and worn out the soul of the party is.

There were few bright young socialists roving the conference gangways and the few that did make themselves heard were inclined to back the Common Market.

Gaitskells appeals to "1,000 years of history" his references to Vimy Ridge and Gallipoli, the hushed reverence that clothed most of the remarks about the post-war Labor government, moistened the eyes of many delegates.

But many outsiders thought these sentiments ill became a forward-looking party dedicated to internationalism.

The Curse Of The Congo

New York Herald Tribune

The Congo seems to cast a curse on relations between the Kremlin and the chief executive of the United Nations.

It was the Congo which caused the break between Nikita Khrushchev and the late Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold. And it is the Congo, again which has just soured relations between Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Hammarskjold's successor, U Thant.

Mr. Hammarskjold did everything in his power to come to terms with Mr. Khrushchev. He undertook a special trip to the Soviet Union to plead with the Soviet ruler to be reasonable. To no avail.

THANT UNDAUNTED

Mr. Thant, undaunted by Mr. Hammarskjold's failure, was determined to try his own luck with Mr. Khrushchev. He has returned from a five-day trip to the Soviet Union, singularly silent.

There was hardly any need for Mr. Thant to say anything. The result was quite apparent. His mission to Moscow had failed, just as Mr. Hammarskjold's mission had failed.

And it seems to have failed for the same reason. Both Mr. Thant and Mr. Hammarskjold had appealed to Mr. Khrushchev to accept a settlement which would leave the Congo independent of outside control.

If he were to accept such a proposition, Mr. Khrushchev would have had to abandon his ambitions in the Congo. He would not do that for Mr. Hammarskjold. And Pravda has now made it clear that he will not do so for Mr. Thant, either.

PROVDA UPSET

Pravda once denounced Mr. Hammarskjold. It has now come very close to denouncing Mr. Thant. It is upset because Mr. Thant is promoting a plan which holds promise of solving the internal struggle between rival factions in the Congo and of creating a united, independent state.

The "curse" apparently stems not so much from the Congo as from settlement which would thwart Soviet designs.

SHOPPING HOURS

The increase in the number of working women in Canada is a factor in the trend toward more stores remaining open in the evenings.

Aspirin Reaction Sometimes Fatal

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

DRUG reactions are so variable it is difficult to answer the question, "What symptoms occur when there is a reaction to aspirin?" Physicians make a distinction between side effects, intolerance, or sensitivity to drugs. All are reactions but the cause and manifestations vary.

The more serious reactions stem from allergy. The individual is sensitive to aspirin and develops a rash, hives, swelling of the face, or a severe asthmatic attack after taking one tablet. Occasionally a person is so highly sensitive, shock ensues within a few minutes and, unless treated promptly, death occurs.

In other instances, the allergic reactions are somewhat different. Some develop fever or arthritis, with swollen, painful joints. In others, the white blood cells are destroyed, leaving the individual with little or no defense against infection. Reactions of this type may persist despite withdrawal of the medicine—less so with aspirin than with penicillin. Prompt relief usually follows the use of ephedrine, an antihistamine, or one of the corticosteroids such as cortisone.

Toxic reactions to aspirin usually stem from overdosage and include nausea, vomiting, flushing of the skin, ringing of the ears, deafness, and drowsiness. Mental disturbances have been noted and some bleed from the stomach or from other organs.

Aspirin also is the most common cause of accidental poisoning in children. The youngsters develop a severe acidosis and the condition is suspected when they become drowsy and breathe rapidly after taking aspirin (often chocolate-covered and mistaken for candy). The stomach must be pumped out and fluids are given by vein to combat the overacidity.

A few persons are unusually sensitive to the normal action of a drug and develop all the signs of toxicity even though only a small amount is taken. One aspirin, for example, makes them nauseated or leads to ringing of the ears. This is drug intolerance, or an idiosyncrasy; the individual says "I just can't take aspirin because it makes me ill."

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

SWOLLEN ANKLES

Mrs. V. writes: I'm heavy and my ankles swell after being on my feet all day. I like to sleep with my legs elevated on a cushion. Is this a safe thing to do?

REPLY

Yes, but it may not prevent swelling during the day. This symptom deserves investigation, even though the cause may never be found. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on edema of the legs.

NICKEL ALLOY

Mrs. L. writes: I had my rings reset from yellow to white gold and whenever I wear them my ring finger enlarges. Do you think I'm allergic to white gold?

REPLY

No, but you may be allergic to nickel, which is a constituent of white gold.

BONE DEAFNESS

Mrs. J.S. writes: Since otosclerosis is a progressive loss of hearing, how long does it take to get completely deaf?

REPLY

It varies with the individual and with each ear. Deafness may progress slowly or rapidly or become inactive.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Don't leave leftover insecticides around in pans or pails.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Middle age is that uncomfortable time of life when people expect you to be sensible all the time. — Ottawa Citizen.

"My husband would never chase after another woman," declared the lady. "He's too fine, too decent, too old." — Galt Reporter.

A little boy was asked, "Whom do you love Most?" "I like Daddy and I like Mommy," he answered, "but I love pie." — Windsor Star.

Business Week reports that "the recent tidal wave of management changes in companies surely indicates a volatile executive market." We take it to mean some top brass has been fired and has trouble finding other work. — Ottawa Journal

The first thing a man does when he drives a new car home is wonder if all the neighbors are looking. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Ever notice how quickly a man who really knows something can break up a discussion? — Brandon Sun.

Applaud Deputy Chief George Elliott, head of Metro Police criminal investigation squad. When it was alleged at the convention of the Ontario Police Association that professional safe-crackers were being imported from the U.S. by the province's underworld, he stood righ up thundering that that was nonsense. "We've got our own good purebred Canadian safe-crackers," he declared. "Anything the Americans can do in that line we can do just as well, if not better." — Toronto Telegram.

Shinplaster Era

Chatham Daily News

Even in these modern, expansive days, when the pegged Canadian dollar might be reckoned as the equivalent of the New Orleans picayune, old timers become tenderly reminiscent regarding a financial fixture of the early Confederation years.

These old-timers refer to this bit of paper money as a "shinplaster."

A reminiscent editor, perhaps recalling Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall's pronouncement that what America needed was a good five cent cigar, remarked the other day that what Canada needs, along with the removal of traffic jams, lower meat prices and lower taxes, is the return of the shin-plaster.

He may be right; with this qualification, that Canada also needs a return of the sturdy buying power which the shinplaster once possessed.

The shinplaster was an undersized piece of money, resembling a dollar bill that had failed to grow up, but with a designated value of 25 cents.

The shinplaster had its uses.

For over - generous parents and visitors, it was an impressive gift by a guest to the juvenile members of a host's household, with the virtue that, being paper money, the youngster bitterly hated to part with it.

A few shinplasters in an envelope saved the cost of buying a postal money order for a trifling amount. By a happy chance, it was the exact amount to enclose for postal charges on the advertised "free" selling outfit. Or, for a somewhat older juvenile, it would buy no less than five of Tom Marshall's coveted cigars.

But, by and large, it was a thing for people, and especially youngsters, to treasure.

At that, some of our opposition parties may be missing a bet. When M. Real Caouette's Creditists did so well in Quebec with the promise of funny money possessing no purchasing power at all, a promise of shinplasters guaranteed to be worth at least 25 cents each in real money might well have swept the country.

P.E.I. Junior Farmers Field Day

MacRAE BROS. FARM

Mt. Mellick

October 8, 1962

Junior Farmers Program for the Day

9 a.m. Beginners Class; 10 a.m. Entry for Pony Class; 10 a.m. Junior farmers plowing; 1 p.m. Pony Class; 1:45 p.m. 4-H talent contest; 2:30 p.m. Jr. Farmers Debate; 3 p.m. Tractor Roadeo; 3 p.m. Small Children's Relay; 3:15 p.m. 100 yard dashes; 3:30 p.m. Jr. Farmers Relay; 3:45 p.m. Senior Relay; 3:50 p.m. Ladies Special Relay; 4 p.m. Special Stunt Races.

Cash Prizes in all classes

PONY CLASSES Providing there are enough entries

1. Small Pony to Saddle; 2. Large Pony to Saddle; 3. Small Pony to Harness; 4. Large Pony to Harness; 5—Mare with Foal; 6. Stallion to Halter.

Junior farmers will require ponies for pony rides. Proceeds: ½ to owner of pony, ½ to jr. farmers.

Judge for Pony Classes: Gail Johnston.

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