The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1956

Grave Financial Picture

Our financial situation was frankly revealed in the Legislature last evening by the Provincial Treasurer, Hon. B. Earle MacDonald. It is by no means one for complacency and many will find in it strong grounds for alarm. Since 1945 revenue and expenditure have more than doubled and our debt has grown from $9,676,429 to $20,108,222—almost 108 per cent. Notwithstanding the increase in our gross expenditures from $4,320,801 to over 12½ million dollars in that time, many of our services are still below the standard of other provinces. The estimates for the forthcoming year far exceed, both in revenue and expenditure, the forecasts of any previous year, yet we shall still be working on a marginal basis so far as our public services are concerned.

The operations of the year ended March 31, 1955, showed an overall deficit of $987,693 as compared to a budget deficit of $985,577, a reduction of $6,880. On current account a surplus of $1,874,977 was shown. But for the present fiscal year the figures show a quite different trend. The forecast expenditures as of March 31, 1956, are $12,547,591. representing borrowings of $2,274,501 and an increase of $1,445,510 over the budget appropriations voted last year. Highway construction, including Trans-Canada, bridges and new machinery required an additional appropriation of $766,425; bridges, roads, pavement and snow removal a further allotment of $250,000. On current account the Government has a forecast surplus of $721,528, but it will have exceeded its estimate of last year on these items by $494,383. The $4,327,944 anticipated by the Province under the tax rental agreement and subsidy grants for the current year, owing to a decline in 1954 gross national production, has been reduced by $232,101, an amount which the Province can ill afford to lose. In connection with ordinary revenue the Minister pointed out that we are dependent on Ottawa for nearly 55 percent of these amounts; and there is a strict limit to the increase we could make in our remaining sources of taxation however much we tried.

The Minister is to be commended on the thoroughness of his presentation. He concurs with his predecessors of recent years in the view that if this Province is to achieve greater financial independence, it needs a substantially greater population, further development of our natural resources, more local processing of basic products and expansion of industry, coupled with greatly improved transportation facilities and lower transportation costs. It is for the Government to give leadership in this direction, on a scale greater than anything that has heretofore been attempted. In the meantime, the financial picture should arouse all our members to the fact that we are drifting seriously, notwithstanding the favorable rates received on our bond issues during the year.

There should be more economy exercised, and this can only be done by the co-operation of the big spending departments in keeping within their estimates. Last year—or rather the current year ending March 31—was election year. The Opposition will not fail to note this fact in commenting on the huge over-run of expenditure and in demanding a strict accounting from the responsible ministers.

Coupled with stricter supervision over finances we should insist on a rehearing of our fiscal claims at Ottawa in conjunction with the other Maritime Provinces. The Federal Government's refusal to budge from its position on this point should not be taken as final. With a federal election in the offing, the time is ripe for another Maritime Claims campaign such as rocked the Mackenzie King Government in years gone by and brought remedial measures through the Duncan Commission, and later through the White Commission, despite federal reluctance at the outset. Why should not our claims be reconsidered along with Newfoundland's, and our existing subsidies reassessed in the light of current values and requirements? We should forget partisan politics completely on this issue and make our united voices heard so clearly that there will be no misunderstanding at Ottawa as to where we stand.

Eisenhower's Proposal

President Eisenhower's new proposal to Russia for the control of nuclear weapons, notes the Montreal Gazette, has an interesting new feature. It is not aimed primarily at scrapping whatever nuclear weapons may now exist. It is an attempt to ban the production of any further weapons. It might seem at first that such a plan would accomplish comparatively little, even if it were adopted. So long as nuclear weapons exist, so long will the fear of their use exist also. But the new plan faces two hard facts. The first is the fact that nobody has yet devised a way in which hidden stockpiles of fissionable materials may be detected. It may be feasible to observe and control the production of these materials. It may actually be impossible to locate their whereabouts, once they have been produced and concealed.

The second consideration is of even greater importance. The total abolition of atomic weapons may not be to the advantage of the Western nations. In the years after the war, the West has been notoriously weak, when compared with the military resources of Russia. All that has saved the West from being overrun—as the NATO commanders have frankly admitted—has been the possession by the West of nuclear weapons.

It is true that the West no longer has a monopoly of nuclear weapons. But so long as they are possessed by both sides, neither side may dare to use them, for fear of the terrible retaliation. This is what Sir Winston Churchill meant when he spoke of peace as being the study child of terror, or when he said that if the time had arrived when everybody might kill everybody else, perhaps nobody might want to kill anybody.

The new Eisenhower plan would leave the nations with whatever nuclear weapons they now possess. What it would accomplish is the control of further manufacture by inspection both by air and on the ground. The plan, presumably would put an end to the explosion of nuclear weapons in experiments. This, in itself might be a most important thing, as the radiation from such explosions has become a matter of some scientific anxiety, or at least of some scientific uncertainty.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The new and controversial farm bill now being debated by the United States Senate calls for federal government assistance for the actual planting of trees on farmland in the big reforestation program now under way. Hitherto the government has paid only for the trees; farmers were expected to look after the planting.

• • •

Reports from Washington indicate that President Eisenhower is still hoping that the Russians will accept his plan for aerial inspection of armaments, or some modification thereof. And reports from Moscow would seem to give that hope some measure of reasonableness. Premier Bulganin is quoted as saying he would have no objection to it "under certain safeguards". This is much better than his outright rejection at the Geneva Conference.

• • •

If Joseph F. McGinnis, whom police suspect to have been the "brains" behind the much publicized Brink robbery, doesn't make a good defence, it won't be because of lack of diligence on the part of his counsel. So far, 567 motions have been filed in his behalf, the highest recorder in the country's legal history. A court official says it will take him and his 38 member staff many thousands of hours to process the motions. They contain approximately three-quarters of a million words, which will have to be read by the presiding judge. Should the judge deny the motions, or any one of them, they still will have to be read to the Grand Jury along with the indictments—the whole 81 of them.

POSSIBILITIES UNREALIZED

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.

REPLY TO MR. PRATT

Sir,—In reply to a statement made by Mr. C. C. Pratt which appeared in the March 12th edition of your valuable paper, I wish to say that I believe the majority of the people in the District I have the honour to represent are in favour of a Producers Marketing Board. This was shown in both plebiscites.

The question I wish to put Mr. Pratt right on is this: The delegation which he refers to presented a resolution and their views to Mr. Thomas Cullen and myself at Mr. Cullen's home, where I was invited to be present. Contrary to Mr. Pratt's statement, the resolution they brought in was presented to the Government by Mr. Thoma Cullen at my request, as he was going to Charlottetown the next day. A few days later, at a caucus of the Liberal members, we both mentioned the delegation, the number presenting it and their views, also another delegation with a resolution with different views.

So M. Pratt's insinuations that I did not present to the Government the views of their delegation is not correct.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HARVEY DOUGLAS M.L.A.

The Poet's Corner

FROM SNOW-BOUND

The wind blew east; we heard the roar
Of Ocean on his wintry shore,
And felt the strong pulse throbbing there
Beat with low rhythm our inland air.
Meanwhile we did our nightly chores,
Brought in the wood from out of doors,
Littered the stalls, and from the mows
Raked down the herd's-grass for the cows;
Heard the horse winnying for his corn;
And, sharply clashing horn on horn,
Impatient down the stanchion rows
The cattle shake their walnut bows;
While, peering from his early perch
Upon the scaffold's pole of birch,
The cock his crested helmet bent
And down his querulous challenge sent.

—J. G. Whittier (1807-92)

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 14, 1931)

Rum-running by aeroplane between Prince Edward Island and the mainland is believed to be the latest move in what was described as the checker game between law enforcement and boot-leggers. At least two cargos are said to have been landed in the vicinity of Miscouche within the last two weeks.

Large quantities of potatoes are moving at all shipping points in the Province. Farmers are shipping faster than the market can absorb them, and table stocks are from 4 to 6 cents lower than last week. Green Mountain table stock is selling for 30 cents and Cobblers for 20 cents a bushel.

The interior finishing of the new Provincial Sanatorium is rapidly nearing completion. The elevator is at present being installed, it is hoped that the new building will be opened by May first.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 14, 1946)

During the first thirty days of the mass X-ray survey, over four thousand residents of this city have shown their determination to stamp out tuberculosis by visiting the Grafton Street centre for X-rays. All school children will be given the chance to be done during the next few weeks.

Representatives of organized labor in the Province met the Legislature informally yesterday, to petition that a Workmans Compensation Act be placed upon the statute books as soon as possible. Premier Jones and other members expressed sympathy but intimated that owing to the large amount of matter now before the House, it would be practically impossible to introduce such a bill during the present session.

The Growing Atom

By Elton C. Fay
Associated Press, Washington

Out in the distant Pacific, where weapons of city-killing size are tested, the United States will fire within the next few weeks its 64th nuclear blast since the atomic era began.

This explosion, like the last two at the Eniwetok proving grounds, will emphasize the hydrogen bomb—the weapon to which world strategy now is patterned.

This is the heavyweight member of a family of weapons which the United States has developed through more than 10 years of effort and an investment of $12,000,000,000.

Of what does this family consist?

A casing small enough to fit into the bay of a medium bomber, containing energy equal to the explosion of 10,000,000 tons of ordinary TNT.

Or a tactical fission bomb, with the power of only 20,000 tons of TNT, suitable for striking enemy troops on a battlefield or taking out a specific group of buildings or an airfield.

NUCLEAR MISSILES

Or artillery shells for the same purposes.

Or missiles which can mount warheads ranging anywhere between the energy yield of the little atom bombs or the hydrogen bomb.

Unhappily, this array is not the only such family of weapons in the world. So the Eniwetok tests will be aimed not only at improving their potentialities but devising or improving defences against them.

Here are some of the considerations involved:

A 10 megaton weapon (10,000,000 tons of energy release) produces a fire ball three miles in diameter. Near the core, objects are vaporized by extreme heat. Farther out, metal melts. Beyond the fire ball itself, thermal radiation instantly touches off all combustible material.

The blast from a 10-megaton hydrogen bomb would leave no survivors, even among those seeking shelter in a reinforced concrete structure, outward for more than three miles from "ground zero." Out to 12 miles average homes would suffer severe damage, with more than ¾ of the people in them killed, the rest severely injured.

LETHAL PARTICLES

The fall-out peril spreads much farther. A single H-bomb blast could dust an area of 7,000 square miles with lingering potentially lethal radioactive particles.

Then there are other weapons which, while not of nuclear nature, must be considered in planning defences for the atomic age. These include toxi warfare devices such as nerve gas, which kills almost as quickly and far more agonizingly than the bomb itself. It can be planted by missile or plane.

Another potential mass killer is bacteriological warfare — "BW"—which can be applied in two ways: Against people and against the food on which they must live. It isn't fully effective in its present form, and its use might entail several applications.

Under pressure of the Second War, science took the abstract theory of atom splitting and translated it into the atomic bomb. A considerable amount of medical and industrial knowledge has since been gained almost as a byproduct of weapon invention and improvement. Take the matter of reactor development, the business of using atomic energy to turn shafts and produce power.

ATOMIC CRUISER

Its first application was to a submarine. Now a whole fleet of submersibles, capable of cruising unlimited distances underwater at speeds impossible for conventional submarines, is under construction. Next will be a nuclear - powered cruiser. Beyond that, aircraft carriers.

Under high priority is the development of another power-producing project — for a military airplane. Tests of atomic engines for aircraft will begin soon.

Why can't more money and manpower now go into the peaceful application of the atom to medical, agricultural and industrial purposes.

The answer lies with that other family of weapons — in Russian hands. In the absence of a workable pact with Russia, the weapon and its deterrent potential may hold the answer whether she could impose her will on, or even obliterate, the Western allies.

So far no such fact has been found. So the vast and costly program of weapon design and improvement must continue.

The total number of all types of nuclear explosions to date is believed to be 76. Of these, the United States has fired 63, Russia 10, Britain three.

The great majority of them have been in the smaller, kiloton range. Probably not more than three or four have been major, megaton bombs. This year, both the United States and Britain have announced plans for more hydrogen tests. Russia makes no announcement of plans.

TV RCMP STORIES

CALGARY (CP) — Documented stories of the RCMP are to be filmed for television by a newly-formed Calgary organization. Glenn R. Handy, president and producer of Glenn R. Handy Productions Ltd. said William Russeau, creator of Dragnet and Medic, will direct the series. Case histories have been made available through RCMP officials in Ottawa.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

FEVER MAY FOLLOW CHILLS

Chills and fever frequently go hand in hand.

A chill, or involuntary shivering attack with a sense of coldness and pallor of the skin, generally follows about an hour after a foreign substance is introduced into the blood stream. Such substances may be parasites, bacteria or bacterial products or even vaccines.

This chill boosts your body's heat production without much change in the heat loss. When this heat production exceeds heat loss, you've got a fever.

Unless there's a head injury, fever seldom exceeds 106.5 degrees. For persons confined to their beds, any temperature above 98.6 may be considered a fever. For persons who have been recently moderately active, temperatures above 99.0 degrees are fevers. Usually normal rectal temperatures are from .05 to 1.0 degrees above oral temperatures.

SOMETIMES HELPFUL

While fever often is useless and even harmful, sometimes it is believed helpful. Antibody production, we believe, is enhanced by high body temperatures. This high temperature may also help mobilize other mechanisms for defense during infections. Also, the temperature inhibits certain microorganisms such as gonococcus and others.

Extremely high fever, however, can be fatal in itself. Some fevers increase the oxygen and nourishment demands of tissues and cause quite a bit of harm. Prolonged fever weakens a person by increasing metabolism.

DOCTOR'S ADVICE

While your physician must dedecide how to combat the fever and other symptoms, he'll probably advise that water be given the patient every hour to compensate for fluid loss. Maybe one to three grams of sodium chloride should be given three times a day if the salt intake is low.

Sponge baths, a sheet bath, an ice water enema or cold head compresses may be advised to help reduce the temperature. Your doctor can also administer any of a number of drugs which will help lower the fever.

If the patient must stay in bed any length of time, you can give him daily soap-and-water baths. Follow these up with an alcohol back rub. Besides keeping him clean, they'll help his morale.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

M.M.: Would X-rays reveal a growth in the stomach or intestinal tract?

Answer: In most cases, a growth in the stomach or intestinal tract will be revealed by X-rays.

The Age Old Story

..Before. the. mountains. were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. . .For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Notes By The Way

Nothing increases the value of gold like having it handled by a dentist.—Toronto Star.

An Oakville judge suggests the government should subsidize young newlyweds. It would at least take the burden off some parents.—Toronto Star.

A prison inmate has attempted to stab a guard with a T-bone from a steak. The meat course hereafter, it is understood, will be sausage.—Toronto Telegram.

According to Premier Manning, the opposition in the Alberta legislature is resorting to "political propaganda" again. To any seasoned Albertan, the meaning of this is clear at once. The opposition has criticized Pemier Manning and his Social Credit government.—Calgary Herald.

If we must get rid of any letters from our alphabet, we would suggest starting with Q or F. Aphter all, we could become quite acustomed to spelling it Kwebec if we had to. Nor would we think it kweer to phace the phacts such spelling would phorce upon us. Q and K, and F and PH are largely duplication for the rough and ready, rollicking roll of repeated Rs.—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Two of the one-man submarines invented by Dimitri Rebikoff, a French engineer in Cannes, have been purchased by the United States Navy. The subs, about seven feet long and powered by electric motors, can carry out undersea missions for about five hours and can descend to depths of about 170 feet. They will be used by the navy for exploration work and underwater movies, and in search for wrecks.—France Actuelle.

..A Cape Bretoner, jailed for declaring falsely that his wife is dead, should be asked why he'd squander an exemption, with the income tax deadline so near—Windsor Star.

A southern gentleman is arrested at the age of 70 for burglarizing a house. Well aren't we all supposed to take up some hobby to occupy us in the golden years of retirement?—Winnipeg Tribune

The manuscript of a speech by Mr. Winters, Minister of Public Works, has this in its first paragraph: "Statistics, like women, are liable to many interpretations, but mine are quite innocent and straight-forward." And by inference women are not? Mr. Winters may conclude this could have been put in a different way.—Ottawa Journal

..If a man builds a better mouse trap, the world will beat a path to his door. So the saying goes, and it is being borne out in Canada's northland wher the Canadian Army has been testing some new style snowshoes. Made of light and strong magnesium, the snowshoes promise to replace the old hickory and gut devices which have been in use so long.—Prince Albert Herald.

..E. W. Kenney, director of research for the International Woodworkers of America, says that saws may become outmoded in the lumber industry. Speaking at a district convention in Vancouver last week, he said that logs could be cut by radio waves, which leave no sawdust and produce boards which are already planed. Sounds wonderful. But what happens if the static is bad?—Bellville Intelligencer.

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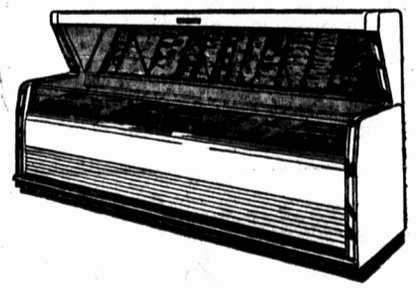

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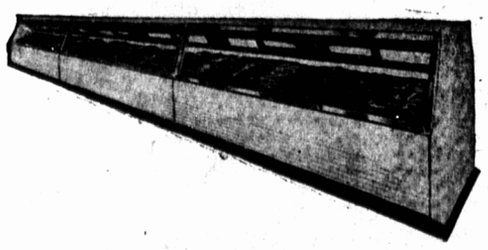

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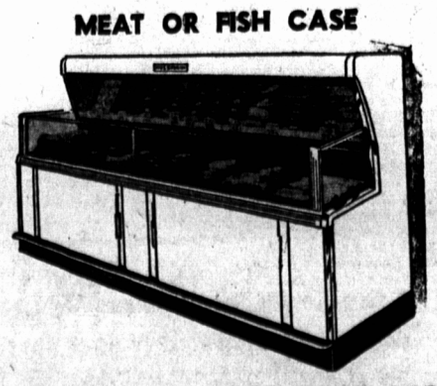

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