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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1952

A Question of Justice

Justice is not in too happy a shape in this province if a man can be held in jail for a week as the result of an unfortunate misunderstanding...

Apparently this would not have happened, as Magistrate R. S. Hinton explained in Summerside police court when he cleared Stanford MacDougall on a forgery charge...

While Magistrate Hinton was generous in his expression of regret as to what happened to Mr. MacDougall, the thing that remains unclear is whether the required steps are being taken to make sure the same sort of unhappy incident will not happen again.

As of last Saturday Attorney General McQuaid was quoted as saying that his department has no person in mind as an immediate replacement for Mr. MacMahon, and that prosecutions meanwhile would lie with the police except in those cases where legal assistance is arranged.

In view of what happened to Mr. MacDougall — an unnecessary week in jail as a denial of justice — there is room for the feeling that Mr. McQuaid's plan is in need of an urgent review.

Belated Denial

The federal government's expression of willingness to give financial help to parents of babies deformed as a result of use of the drug thalidomide, as reported yesterday, not only is welcome in itself but serves to clear away a misunderstanding which was unfortunate and should have been avoided.

While Health Minister Monteith has "categorically denied" ever holding certain attitudes credited to him — they were attitudes that brought the government under vigorous and legitimate attack — it seems that some of the blame must still accrue to him for failing to state his position with clarity.

It was last Saturday, following a telephone interview, that Mr. Monteith was credited with backing a statement by a government health department spokesman who said federal authorities had no direct financial responsibility to the victims of the use of thalidomide. It was more than four days later, on Wednesday, when Mr. Monteith got around to denying the implications of the statements credited to him.

Meanwhile, the government had been shown in a most undesirable light; something that would not have happened if Mr. Monteith had spoken with greater clarity in the first place, or issued his denials with the speed required by the urgency of the matter at issue.

True enough, even if he had spoken at once, no cabinet action could have followed until Wednesday, in any event, but the result at least would have been to hold in check fears and misunderstandings which have ultimately been made groundless.

It is to be expected of members of the government that they will speak in ways which will avoid misinterpretation, or not speak at all in the present case, Mr. Monteith

does not appear to have met with expectation, any more than Mr. Fleming or Mr. Hees have always done so in the past.

Anthony Hope once observed: "Telling the truth to people who misunderstand you is generally proving a falsehood..." Perhaps that is putting the matter too strongly. Certainly, though, it is unfortunate to say things in ways that permit, much less encourage, misunderstanding, and then to allow them to stand.

Binge And Hangover

The manner in which the federal government's austerity program has hit RCAF Station Summerside is a cause for concern not only to the immediate district but to the whole province. So far some 57 out of 80 civilian employees in the construction engineering section, or 71 per cent, have been laid off with considerable abruptness.

Of course one answer to this concern lies in the proposition that similar layoffs undoubtedly are taking place in many other parts of Canada; that austerity inevitably brings some economic upsets in its wake.

It is true also, however, that cut-backs of this character are more damaging to some parts of the country than they are to others. In the Maritime Provinces, for instance, the unemployment level is consistently higher than in the country as a whole, with the result that any arbitrary increases in it do disproportionately larger damage to the general economy here.

Points such as this invite the consideration of Ottawa, in selecting projects to be curtailed or cancelled as part of its current economy program. The Maritimes had the smallest share in the boom which preceded and, in a measure, helped to cause this year's foreign exchange emergency. If Canada has been on a financial binge, as the financial experts seem to be arguing, the Maritimes were not invited to the party. It follows that there should be limits, too, to the extent to which they are expected to suffer from the resulting hangover.

Misdirected Zeal

There's a moral in this news item from the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford University, but we won't press it too strongly. The museum recently opened new galleries for its department of Eastern Art with superb sculpture, ceramics, porcelains and bronzes all shown against their proper background. The curator of the galleries explained how they had "combed the world" to obtain the right background material for the right object, and how the magnificent objects themselves had for the most part been obtained from generous benefactors.

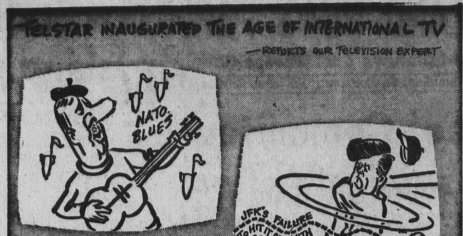
One of these benefactors was a person who came in with a rare Han dynasty tile—about 1,900 years old. "He brought it in," the curator explained in a BBC overseas broadcast, "because it had four characters on it, two of which he thought had the word 'God' on them, and he had had it hanging in his church for twenty years to show his parishioners that God was universal. Unfortunately, when we translated the four characters, when we translated the four characters we found out that the tile originally hung outside the harem of a Han nobleman."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A cartoon in The Christian Science Monitor shows the U.S. ship of state halted on the shoal of "Public Uncertainty." The situation is not at all exclusive to the U.S.

In Albany, Georgia, the police chief has complained that the task of controlling demonstrations arising out of racial unrest "is depriving our men of their rights to be home with their families." But it is the deprivation of more fundamental rights of Negroes that gives rise to the demonstrations.

The hazards of operating an internal combustion engine while under the influence of alcohol are not limited to the highways and waterways. The U.S. Federal Aviation Agency has found that drinking was "a contributing cause" in 54 airplane accidents during 1961 which took the lives of 28 persons. This, it is emphasized, was in the category of "private pilots using personal, sports, or business planes in helicopters."



Irritated Moles Start Dangerous

By Dr. Theodore H. Van Dellen
HOW dangerous to your health are your moles? Not very, considering the billions adorning people throughout the world and increasing in small percentage that become malignant. One skin specialist saw only one mole in 100,000...

NOTES BY THE WAY

A new vacuum cleaner is a not only very easy and grid coffee but you don't have to marry it. — Brandon Sun.
Sources of dirty yarn. Dad gets it in the garden and mom gets it over the back fence. — Chatham News.

The only sort of behavior that seems to please the typical Ontario beverage room is cheerfulness. But in these dingy seamy places there is little temptation to be cheerful. The atmosphere of a beverage room is enough to make the most optimistic drinker — Ottawa Journal.

There is alarming news for residents of Canada's Department of Agriculture: Some of the newly-developed roses have practically no fragrance compared with the ordinary, garden-grown counterparts. Let the flower-breeders not tamper with the fairest flower of them all, you can't improve on perfection. — Windsor Star.

Canadian car makers produced more vehicles in the first six months of 1952 than ever before in their history. A car made is not necessarily a car sold but we can't imagine they are making them for garden ornaments. It follows that 1952 has been a good year for most many car-buyers too. — Ottawa Journal.

Engineers have designed a set for astronauts which will sustain a 12,000-pound impact. An idea of what this means may be gleaned from the fact that the lady who sits down in a theatre seat where you've placed your legs, Homburg has, despite what you might think, an impact force of only about 800 pounds. — Detroit Free Press.

A suggested solution to a recent case that such doors be made of shatterproof glass or plastic. They could also be frosted or otherwise made semi-opaque. Perhaps we need to update an old motto: People who live in glass houses shouldn't try to walk through them.



INTERNATIONAL TV

Ottawa Report by Patrick Nicholson

'Tower Of Babel,' Canadian Version

The increase of the minority racial groups within our population is gradually eroding the French-Canadian language. This conclusion announces itself inescapably from the figures just released by the census division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics here, covering the 1951 census. On that earlier date, 1,659,770 Canadians claimed as their mother tongue neither of our two official languages.

Metropolitan Montreal contains more bilingual Canadians than any other city, while metropolitan Toronto contains more monolingual English or French than any other city or province in Canada. The "true-blue" Anglophone of Carleton, Ontario offers a curiosity. The electoral constituency of Carleton, Ontario contains more bilingual Canadians than any other city or province in Canada.

Geography's Sway In Peru
National Geographic Society
The military junta that recently took power in Peru have a nation profoundly divided by politics, nature, and culture.

COAST IS DESERT
A stone-walled, thatched-roofed house built on a hillside of 17,100 feet in southern Peru is believed to be the world's highest prehistoric habitation.

USEFUL TEST
Winnipeg Free Press
In Canada today there can be no doubt that the cause of controversy that education, better farming methods and improved education were gradually introduced. Within 10 years, the Indians were prosperous enough to buy the estate.

STRICT RITUAL
Descendants of Spanish colonists dominate the coastal region and the capital, Lima. Strict rules and rituals govern their lives. A man entering a public place must have his hands formally all around when arriving and again when leaving. Women who have made calls for a handshake, close friends prefer handshakes with the palm, but insist on greeting with hearty backslapping.

OUR YESTERDAYS
(Taken from the Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(August 1, 1927)
Unusually wide power is held by the International Joint Commission for the settlement of disputes between Canada and the United States, said Dr. Lester B. Pearson, one of the members of the commission when speaking at Rotary luncheon at the CN hotel yesterday.

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(Taken from the Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(August 1, 1927)
At least one tiny islander abroad made the headlines in a United States newspaper. Little three-year old René Fay MacLennan of this city was in Portland, Me., when he was kidnapped and started to run on the last day of her vacation in that city. She came out to the front of the Union Station to hold up her hands and feel the welcome water which she had been told to expect. She was leaving for home. An alert photographer caught her in the picture. The little girl was featured on the front page of a Portland newspaper last week.

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Modern Peril

Another hazard has been added to the strain of modern living — the sliding glass doors which many new homes have. Injuries suffered by people who either fall against or absentmindedly try to walk through the doors have become frequent enough to warrant a study by the National Safety Council in the United States. The study grew out of one where, to date 130 accidents involving sliding glass doors have been investigated. Twenty-one persons were injured in these accidents, most of them in homes. All but one person tried to walk or run through a door he thought was open.

Engineers have designed a set for astronauts which will sustain a 12,000-pound impact. An idea of what this means may be gleaned from the fact that the lady who sits down in a theatre seat where you've placed your legs, Homburg has, despite what you might think, an impact force of only about 800 pounds. — Detroit Free Press.

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Announcing The Beginning of Y. M. C. A. Summer Day Camp

July 24th—August 18th
Programme for boys and girls Mon. thru Fri.
Daily instruction swims and open swims.
Picnics, Crafts, Games, Hikes etc.
Summer Membership (\$11 Sept. 1st.) \$3.50
Daily rates for non members.

For information Contact Y. M. C. A. Ch'town 4-3425

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Advertisement for Schurman's concrete blocks, featuring 'Our PLANT is the most modern on the Island—AGGREGATES Scientifically designed and accurately weighed'.