

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew... Published every week-day morning at 185 Prince Street...

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A Place Of Honour

When the fight for civil rights in the Southern United States is finally won and its history recorded, a place of honour will surely be accorded Martin Luther King, a Negro minister of Montgomery, Ala. His home has been bombed, buses in which he and members of his family and congregation were riding have been riddled with gun fire...

The forbearance shown by this Negro leader and others like him deserves a greater measure of Federal Government support than it has received up to the present time. After all, the ruling outlawing segregation in schools and buses came from the highest court in the land...

Several weeks have passed since Negro leaders requested President Eisenhower to go to the South and plead in person, under the great prestige of his office, for compliance with the law. So far he has done nothing except ask the Justice Department to "study" the cry for help...

NATO's Sturdiness

In a recent statement President Eisenhower referred to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a "sturdy" alliance despite all the difficulties it has had to face in recent months. He mentioned particularly the decision of the British and French Governments to cut down their military contributions. This decision, he seemed to think, was dictated solely by economic considerations...

To put it bluntly—as it has been put by British and French political observers in recent weeks—there is a growing feeling in Britain and France that United States' participation, at the very outset, in the defence of Western Europe can no longer be regarded as a certainty. This doubt, or something akin to it, grew, in part, from Mr. Dulles' on-again, off-again tactics in the Suez dispute and, in part, from the British and French experience in World Wars One and Two...

Then, there is the status of West Germany. There is no doubt at all that at present and for so long as Chancellor Adenauer is in control West Germany can be counted on as a part of the NATO defense system. At the same time, there is no hiding

the fact that there are many influential West Germans, some of them in Dr. Adenauer's own party, who would be quite ready to give up the NATO connection if that would help further the reunification of the country. Dr. Adenauer dwelt on that at some length in an address a few days ago. Indeed, he expressed himself as being very uneasy about it. If the time should come when public opinion in West Germany were to go against NATO or even adopt a lukewarm attitude towards it, the whole system would crumble, for West Germany is the strategic hub of it.

Under conditions like these it is not surprising that Britain and France are looking more towards the defences of their own respective territories than towards the overall shield which NATO was intended to provide, especially in view of their financial difficulties which make re-investment in one phase or the other necessary.

Educational Problems

Deserving of serious study by all concerned is the article on educational problems in this Province which appeared in yesterday's Guardian in the "Widening Educational Horizons" series conducted by the Teachers Federation. It recommends a thorough revision of the basis of local tax assessment; widespread appreciation of the principle of the larger school unit of administration; a planned program for taking out grades 9 and 10 from one-room schools and having these grades taught in a room built on to one of the existing schools in a central position; adoption by local districts of a scale of supplements which recognize classes of licenses and experience of the teacher. Recommendations to the Department of Education would be to raise substantially the differential between different classes of licenses with increased increments for years of service; reclassification of licenses based on academic proficiency; increased subsidies for summer school attendance; application of present statutory allowances for teachers with university degrees teaching grades 11 and 12, to all teachers regardless of grades taught; consideration of establishment of a Certification Board with teacher representation for granting of licenses; refusal of licenses to all applicants who do not have at least grade 12 academic standing.

With the Legislature meeting shortly, education will doubtless be a matter of general discussion and it would be well for all our members to acquaint themselves fully with the views of the Teachers Federation. If there are objections to some of their recommendations, this is where discussion and constructive criticism will be helpful. Our teacher shortage problem in particular is a matter of serious concern, and every means should be canvassed of meeting it as adequately as possible.

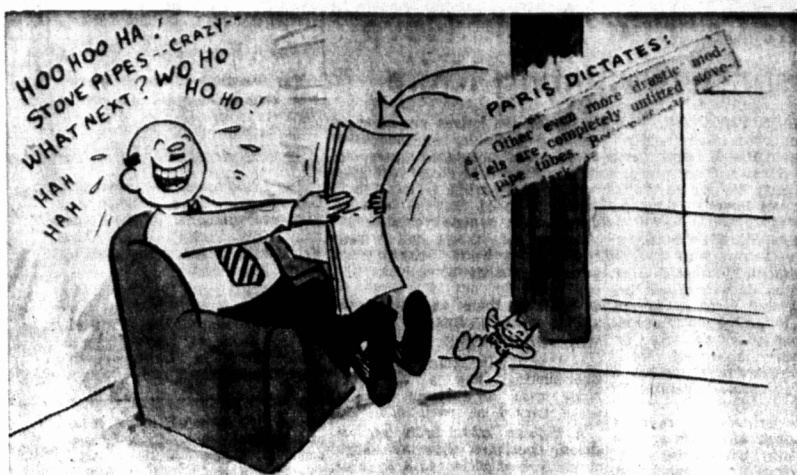
EDITORIAL NOTES

Newfoundlanders should and probably do consider themselves lucky. Vast timber resources, rich mines, plenty of water power, best fisheries in the world, lots of big game—and, to top it all, a trout fishing season that opens January 15 and lasts all summer, while the rest of us have to wait until the middle of April.

A Soviet newspaper has called for a "vigorous shakeup" in the Communist Party. The best thing to do with that outfit, if the Russians only had sense enough to realize it, would be to abolish it root and branch and replace it by something more in accordance with civilized social patterns.

It is reported that the cost resulting from fires in the United States last year was enough to cover all the nation's water, laundry and dental bills. The same thing is probably true of this country's fires. And many of them might not have occurred if a little more attention to preventive measures had been observed.

The sales tax which when it was first introduced not many years ago was considered more of a nuisance than a sound way of raising revenue has practically taken over financial domination in a large area of the United States, according to a report from the Commercial Clearing House in Chicago. It says that in 25 States the tax is the greatest single source of income.



LAST LAUGH

PUBLIC FORUM

THE GORDON REPORT

Sir.—When I read an abbreviated report of the Gordon Commission, my immediate reaction was a contention between amazement and amusement. Amazed indeed was I at the presumably sane Government appointing a commission of such limited mental caliber, that they could think of no alternative for bettering the condition of our Maritimers, than for us to gird up our loins and get the H out of here. Where we would go would not seem to be over important, as presumably any other place would get more consideration from Government than the Maritimes. Amusement followed at the childishness, and immaturity of this concept for our improvement, and at the idea that it is possible for a supposedly wise and parental federal government to appoint such dolts on an investigating and recommending committee. This commission in very fact suggests that we give our Maritimers back to the Micmacs. We have a better suggestion; replace some of our federal legislators with a few good Micmacs, and the Indians will think up something more practicable and beneficial than emigration. We offer this with every apology to the Micmacs of course, should they deem the comparison odious.

The remedy for our backward condition should be the responsibility of the federal government. They coaxed and induced us by false promises, which have remained unfulfilled to this day, to join confederation. They blarneyed us here on the Island by having the fathers of confederation meet in our little Province which was the first, last and only recognition we got from the federal regime. As has been mentioned frequently, we were promised uninterrupted communication with the mainland. For many years, we had to manage with little iceboats equipped with steel runners and operated by the passengers, between Traverse and Tormentine. If you were young and agile, you got across the straits, by paying your way, and then pulling the boat and the older and weaker passengers on the ice, and jumping in when you hit open water. You then took the oars and rowed. In this way by muscle power, you finally got over, and thanked the Lord if you suffered nothing worse than a wet behind.

We obtained better transportation as needs developed, and we are now shown with pride the Abegweit "successor to the sunken "Charlottetown" as the newest and best ferry in the world. We still have to wait hours in the wet and cold when ice conditions are bad, and traffic heavy. Combined with the Wood Islands Ferry, they are at best poor and cheap substitutes for uninterrupted communication, and that would put us on par with the other provinces, and we mean the Causeway, the only practicable solution.

With reference to the difficulties in constructing the proposed causeway, we would like to recall Bishop Fulton Sheen's address on Ancient Babylon over T.V. recently. He described the walls of the city as from eight to one hundred feet high, and so thick that a chariot and four horses could turn on top of them at full gallop. Babylon was sixteen miles square and the wall was 64 miles long, averaging 100 feet high and sixty feet thick. This was built by hand labor entirely. It would, we believe—though we have not taken the time to compute the cubic feet necessary for the causeway—be sufficient to fill it. With our vaunted modern machinery we should be able to duplicate easily the slave labor of ancient Babylon.

The other remedy for our backward condition agriculturally is as plain as the broken nose on the Sphinx. We want a Maritime Federation with double representation at Ottawa. This in consideration of our distance from central markets, our comparative isolation, and the promises made to us of equity with the other provinces in the confederation pact. We want an agricultural policy endorsed

and subsidized by the federal government, that will present the opportunity for the grouping of a dozen or more small farms as one operating unit while maintaining the proceeds of each individual farm. The federal government should finance the purchase of a single unit of heavy machinery that would plant and harvest approximately a farm a day. The work would be done co-operatively and thus save wages and facilitate the work. One man, the best qualified machinist would take care of the machinery and have his cropping taken care of by the other members of the group. A sinking fund imperative to the organization would take care of repairs and replacements. This federal loan on a twenty year low interest rate would not cost the farmer one tenth of what the individual units cost, and the saving in labour would be a very decisive factor towards rehabilitating our backward farms. It would not cost the federal government one cent, and would give some of their underworked bureaux something to do. We have had a lot of experience in farming and in dealing with farmers, and are familiar with their difficulties and their problems. We maintain that there is nothing impractical or impossible in these ideas, that they are operable and sound and a solution to the problem of the farmer and the different government would have proposed long ago. They at least offer hope for the rehabilitation of our non-productive and vacated farms, and the cessation of the rapidly increasing exodus from

our rural areas, to the industrial centers. We need immigrants and the right type for agriculture. We need some such policy as we have outlined that will preclude the idea of failure.

In this connection we might say that we need such immigrants as the Amish people, who we believe wished to settle on some of our vacated farms and who were refused entrance by authority of Mr. Pickersgill, or so it is alleged. Why has the federal government the right to exclude such industrious and desirable immigrants as these peaceable Pennsylvania Dutch people without referring to our representatives? When our Mr. Angus McLean asked this question on the floor of the House at Ottawa not once but several times we believe he received unsatisfactory and evasive answers. We also believe Mr. MacLean is not one to be continually denied and that he will finally get at the bottom of this matter and be able to give us correct information.

We need more and better representation. We need men to represent us who are not merely employment agents for their friends and localities. We need men with vision, with altruism, with direct and independent outlook, with determination and dynamic to represent us. While we wish to avoid political partisanship we believe we have such a man in Mr. Angus McLean. Let us fortify his hands by letting him know that his efforts are appreciated. Let us pick our men in the next election, for their worth and ability irrespective of political affiliation, and let us ask them to strive to the limit, for Maritime unity, Maritime strength, and eventual Maritime prosperity notwithstanding Mr. Gordon and his gloomy outlook. I am, Sir, etc., C.C. PRATT, St. Peters, P.E.I.

Nature's Hypodermics

National Geographic Society

Pain-killing injections came along relatively late in man's history, but nature has been using them for ages.

The recipient of one of nature's merciful hypodermics, however, generally ends up dead and eaten. Most spiders, for example, have fangs and poison to quiet the struggles of their insect food. But the tarantula, one of the largest spiders, is itself victimized by the Pepsis wasp. Its death comes after a strange performance in which the tarantula makes no move to defend itself until the end.

DUEL IN THE SUN

Each species of Pepsis preys on a particular species of spider. Flying low over the ground in the southwestern United States, the female wasp searches out her own spider and examines it with her antennae—a tactic that would get most insects killed. But, from the wasp, the spider accepts this handling. Reassured that she has the right victim, the wasp moves off a little and digs a grave. The spider makes no attempt to escape. Pepsis digs a hole some 10 inches deep and wide enough to accommodate the spider.

Then she attacks, seeking to put her stinger into a soft spot where one of the spider's legs enters its body. A tough shell protects it elsewhere. The tarantula, though clearly annoyed, does little to save itself, except shift its ground slowly. At the climactic moment, the spider seems to realize its danger and puts up a strong fight—too late. Pepsis inserts her stinger, pumps in poison, and the spider drops, paralyzed. Then it is dragged to the hole and placed—still alive—in the bottom. Taken away at this stage the spider can be revived to some degree in the laboratory.

If nothing interferes, the wasp lays her egg on the anesthetized spider and fills the hole. When the larva hatches it will find a plentiful supply of fresh food. THE STINGER STUNG Wasps and bees in their turn may learn what it is like to be stung. The robber fly, large and fast-flying, is a match for all ex-

cept: the biggest bumblebees. This marauder seizes its prey on the wing and jabs in its proboscis. Almost instantly the poison paralyzes and the robber fly carries its catch to a handy perch to eat. With its sting and ceramic skill, the potter wasp provides its young with a carefully planned and well-stocked nursery. On the upper side of a leaf or twig, it builds a clay "jug" about half an inch in diameter, having a perfectly fitting lid. Inside are placed several paralyzed—but still living—caterpillars. From the top the wasp suspends one egg on a silken thread. Thus it dangles out of harm's way in case one of the worms retain consciousness and thrash about when the larva hatches, it has a hearty breakfast close at hand.

Halley's Comet Coming

BBC (London) News

"This original creature, who rubbed shoulders with Newton and d d Eievelius and was one of the most lively men when science first started in Britain," was the description John Maddox, scientific correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, applied to Edmond Halley. The exhibition arranged recently in London by the Royal Society, of which Halley was a member, to celebrate the three-hundredth anniversary of his birth, showed the remarkable quality of the man who was the second Astronomer Royal and had a comet named after him. Halley's comet, Mr. Maddox said, was now moving rapidly towards the earth and should be visible in about thirty years time. "There is still something uncanny about the way this comet makes its gigantic and regular journey to the limits of the solar system, returning to our field of view only for a few days every seventy-five years. It is not hard to imagine how deep an impression it made on the whole world—not just the astronomer—when it appeared on Christmas Day, 1758. For then its arrival had been predicted fifty-eight years earlier by a man who was already dead."

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

COTTON IS HIGH STYLE IN OPERATING ROOM

The well-dressed surgeon and nurse wear cotton. That is, when they are in the operating room. It is generally advisable that all outer clothing as well as slips or stockings worn by doctors, nurses and other personnel during an operation be made of cotton. Outer garments of wool, rayon, silk, dacron, nylon, sharkskin and the like are usually banned in the operating room. Why? To safeguard the patient—and the attendants as well.

COMBUSTIBLE AGENTS

Some anesthetic agents, such as ether or combustible. Should some anesthesia accidentally be released in an operating room, there might be a chance of an explosion. For this reason, all concerned with the surgery wear cotton garments to prevent the possibility of static electricity setting off a blast. They also wear plain leather shoes, sometimes with special insulating devices. Moistened cotton boots also are permissible, but shoes with rubber or gum rubber soles are banned from the operating room. We require that all rubber sheeting be fabricated from conductive rubber. Stretcher pads, the covers on the operating tables, pillows and cushions also should be made of conductive material.

Equipment grounded. All anesthetic equipment and operating tables must be grounded. Even the furniture should be made of metal or another material which will conduct electricity. Hospitals also insist that surfaces on which movable objects are placed must not have paint, lacquer or other insulating finish if they are to be used in operating rooms. Although such explosions are very infrequent, they do present a hazard in some cases. However, the patient generally is safer than he would be in his own bathtub.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

T.M.: I bumped myself on the breast in some cases. How sore will this cause a cancer? Answer: There is no evidence that an injury of this type leads to cancer.

The Age Old Story

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



ENIGMA OF THE ROSE

According to the botanists, the genus of the rose consists of many species, each of them with leaves odd-numbered on the stem: From each thorned stalk extends an urn From which five leaflike sepals turn: Within the sepal, petals thrive To form the cup; they, too, are five. There come the stamens, carpels, stigma, The sum of beauty—and enigma; For how and why this blossom grows So purposefully, no one knows. And who requires an explanation? The bloom is ample confirmation. —Joan Mergand In The Christian Science Monitor

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 5, 1932)

Civic affairs, particularly with relation to the welfare and employment of the labouring classes, were discussed at a largely attended meeting in the Labor Union Hall last night. The meeting, called by the union, was attended by the Mayor and a number of candidates in the forthcoming civic contest.

With prospects of further orders for the shipment of livestock from P.E.I. consigned to the Island of St. Pierre, has gone forward over the C.N.R. to Halifax and thence by steamer to St. Pierre. The shipment consisted of a carload of cattle and hogs assembled from various island points.

TEN YEARS AGO (February 5, 1947)

Mr. J. G. Taggart, chairman of the Agricultural Prices Support Board, Ottawa, in a telephone conversation yesterday afternoon with Mr. J. W. Boulter, advised him that there is every likelihood of the British Government taking between two and three million bushels of potatoes from this province from last year's crop.

No immediate relief from the present lack of continuous light and power service is in prospect for the patrons of the local Maritime Electric Plant, officials of the company said last night. Although progress is being made in overhauling the large steam turbine, it was still unknown when full service would begin.

FINLAND INVITES REDS

MOSCOW (Reuters)—A Soviet Communist Party Leader Nikita Khrushchev and Premier Nikolai Bulganin Thursday accepted an invitation from Finnish Premier Karl-August Fagerholm to visit Finland. The visit is likely to take place this spring. The invitation was made by Fagerholm, who is on a five-day goodwill visit to Moscow.

NOTES BY THE WAY

During 1956 British aviation exports exceeded £100 million for the first time. The December figure, £7,115,739, brought the total for the year to £104,460,562, an increase of 58 per cent over the previous record total in 1955. —British Aircraft Society

A rocket designed to reach an altitude of 120 miles will soon be released at the Woomera Range in Australia. This device is 25 ft. long, 17 1/2 inches in diameter and has been given the name Skylark. —British Aircraft Society

Canadian television fans who do watch purely Canadian programs—and there are thousands who never see a Canadian show because of their proximity to United States stations—must wonder just what the CBC does with its receipts. Certainly the Canadian public doesn't get \$34,500,000 worth of entertainment out of Canadian radio and television. —Brockville Recorder and Times

The ice where a truck broke through on a lake near Kenora with five drowned was said afterwards to have been worn thin by a current. It is one of the constant dangers where ice is used for transportation. A rock or a shoal, or even a difference in pressure from a river some distance off, can cause a movement of water under the surface of the ice so that it is worn thin and, this, made dangerous to those who might travel it. Danger of this kind is especially present in rivers. —Port Arthur News-Chronicle

Down in Havana, Ill., a waterfowl biologist is busy dyeing some wild ducks pink and green in an attempt to learn why ducks go north in the Spring. We don't pretend to know which way or when the ducks will fly. But there's one safe prediction. If the pink ones do head north many a keeper of late hours is going to have his hair stand on end as, weaving his way homeward, he sees a flock of pink ducks go by. He'll probably start flying himself—to a psychiatrist. —Milwaukee Journal

They're Coaching

Remember the fun you had on the old mill pond—everybody played where he wanted, as long as he wanted! Today the kids frequently have to rise at 4 a.m. for their turn on the ice and they're rigidly coached to play positions. They learn to get rid of the puck, not keep it.

In this week's issue of the Star Weekly Gordon Campbell, in his controversial article "Give Hockey Back to The Kids" shows why the Russians can beat us at our own national game. Buy your copy of the Star Weekly today. The New STAR WEEKLY

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