

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.

Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers
Advertising Services: Toronto 425 University Ave.
Empire 3-894; Montreal 440 Cathcart Street
University 6-5942; Western Office 1030 West Georgia
Street Vancouver B.C. 7037.

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Not over 40c per week by carrier.
\$12.00 a year by mail on rural routes and areas
not serviced by carrier.
\$15.00 a year off Island and U.K. \$20.00 per
year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Com-
monwealth.
Not over 7c single copy
Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

PAGE 4 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1965

Another Year's End

It is said that we are all optimists at heart, which probably accounts for the fact that we never stand on the threshold of a new year without a thrill of expectancy. This year's end is no exception. The "end," of course, is just an arbitrary assumption of our own, to aid us in keeping count. No year is complete in itself. Even the seasons overlap the divisions we make. The New York Times puts it neatly when it says: "Any year is a vast procession ofnows, which add up to the continuity of foreverness. The totals are eternally incomplete, eternally changing. What is past is past, a part of experience. That is the only summary, and it leads on and on, beyond endings or beginnings to the hope that is tomorrow, all the tomorrows mankind will ever know."

With this perspective, we can see that the year 1965 wasn't much different from its predecessors. It came perilously near the brink of disaster at times, but it had its good moments too. Perhaps the challenge of transforming crisis into opportunity was never more apparent today than in the Viet Nam war, which has taken what may prove to be a new turn in the peace offensive launched by President Johnson. The Communists show no signs as yet of cooperating; but the effort is worth a try. Several tries, in fact, if this one fails.

There are other touchy problems, such as the racial conflict in Rhodesia. But we hear less today than we did some months ago about the Congo, about Cyprus, about the border conflict between India and Pakistan, and other smouldering issues. External Affairs Minister Paul Martin, in his year-end broadcast on international affairs, expressed hope that peace efforts here and elsewhere in the coming year would be more successful than in 1965. That doesn't amount to a concrete prediction, but we can take some comfort from it.

For Canada, it has been a prosperous year; and barring trouble from inflationary pressures the prospects for continued improvement are bright. We haven't shared as widely in the economic upsurge in this area as the overall reports would indicate, but certainly we have made some gains. Our merchants report a good pre-Christmas season, and our farmers have had an increase in cash income generally.

As reported by Mr. Dewar in his Federation of Agriculture newsletter, they have done very well indeed in potatoes, hogs and poultry products. There are less satisfactory aspects of the picture; however, and it is evident that there is still much to be done in coping with our agricultural problems. Here, as in other matters, the coming year will hold its challenges and opportunities. Enough to warrant, surely, our planning hopefully to meet them in the right spirit.

May the New Year bring comfort to those who have experienced illness or the loss of loved ones in recent months, and may all our readers find an abundant measure of that happiness we associate with the season's greetings on this occasion.

Heavy Job Ahead

Prime Minister Pearson is looking forward to "a most interesting, stimulating and challenging year" for Canada's new Parliament when it opens on January 8. That's the spirit! No more dilly-dallying, wrangling or scuttling! The legislative program will be a heavy one, so heavy, indeed, that Mr. Pearson says "we may easily be here all year." The last Parliament having been cut short by that unfortunate election, half its chores were left unfinished. They're piled up mountains high, and it will take a bulldozer to get through them. Not to speak of all the new legislation needed to give effect to

Liberal pledges made during the late lamented campaign.

There is, for example, the redistribution of seats, held up by the election. There is a major revision of the Bank Act; a medicare plan hopefully to be put in being; new railway transport legislation; farm laws to help eastern farmers; collective bargaining in the civil service; a new tax structure in the wake of the Carter Commission Report; rules on election expenses; a free vote on capital punishment, perhaps even a new broadcasting setup in the light of the Fowler Report.

There is also the need of bringing down to earth the \$40 million university scholarship program and the \$100 million roads program for the North; the pledges of more funds for the Atlantic Development Board and the \$25 million investment boost for Nova Scotia's coal industry; adjustment of the Canada Pension Plan basic rate "if necessary," plus increased old age pensions to the needy; improved and extended crop insurance program; national dairy commission, similar marketing agencies for other products and a feed grain agency for eastern Canada and British Columbia; unemployment insurance for full-time farm workers; planning for long-term water use, and so forth.

Plenty to do, indeed! Viewed in this context, perhaps the major accomplishment of the last session was the change in the rules of the House and habits of parliamentary committees which may produce more useful work from the \$18,000 a year MPs than anything else, while keeping House debates in hand. Mr. Pearson is hopeful that these changes will speed up the legislative program. Provided that debate isn't unduly curtailed, it is a sentiment in which we can all concur.

Moves To Geneva

We are still a long way from realizing "World Peace Through Law"; but that is no reason for scoffing at the achievements of a very practical organization which goes under this name, which is representative of 117 nations, and has a secretariat and a work program. Temporarily based in Washington, the organization will begin the new year in permanent headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.

Launched eight years ago by the then president of the American Bar Association, Charles S. Ryan, the organization had its first world conference in Athens in 1963, when it formally established the World Peace Through Law Centre. At the second conference in Washington this fall were 3,200 chief justices, ministers of justice, attorneys general, lawyers, jurists and legal scholars from 121 nations.

As emphasized at this conference, a great body of international law is already firmly established and ever growing, which most nations recognize and live by—in such matters as transportation, communications, finance, trade, property rights. It is no less practical and necessary to develop similar acceptance of international law in such other areas as space, human rights, disarmament, arbitration, peace-keeping. The World Peace Through Law Centre seeks to keep these objectives in the forefront, as the only conceivable means by which nations can hope to live together.

On The Decline

A trend that is not conducive to the health of the nation has been noted by an official of the poultry division of the federal department of agriculture. This is the fact that egg consumption is on the decline. Fresh eggs in the home are largely a breakfast item but the number of Canadians who sit down to a bacon and egg breakfast has dwindled in recent years. They are now eating dry cereal, or doing without the meal altogether. As the dispatch from the capital says, there is a growing trend towards a cup of coffee and a cigarette.

The nutritive value of eggs should be played up more by our health authorities. According to the source above quoted, our annual consumption ranges between 21.5 and 22.5 eggs per capita. The figure includes not only fresh eggs, but dried, frozen and liquid eggs which are used in commercial baking, ice cream, noodle soups and such non-food items as shampoos, leather, tanning, pharmaceuticals, adhesives and lithographing. Something wrong here. And, as one farmer assured us emphatically, it isn't the hens' fault. They're turning out as fine a product as ever, and simply can't understand why humans have let them down this way.



MORE MANOEUVRES IN SPACE

CALENDAR CHANGES

Year Didn't Always Open On January 1

Canadians are so accustomed to the present calendar which closes the Old Year on December 31 and opens the New Year on January 1, it is not always realized that this system of counting the days and weeks and months is comparatively new. In 1752 Great Britain decreed that the day following September 2, 1752, should be September 14, 1752. That means 11 days were dropped from the calendar just like that. It was an adjustment in time measurement to bring Britain under the Gregorian Calendar. At the same time the British commanded that all dominions and colonies and possessions should also adopt the new scheme.

Gregorian Formula Since then, Canada, the United States and other countries affected by the decree have been using the Gregorian formula. So we have only been observing this plan for two centuries, which is not long in the life of the world. It was Pope Gregory XIII who

declared that the date following October 4, 1582, should be known as October 15, 1582. By the adjustment of 10 days Pope Gregory brought the old style calendar into conformity with the new style. The idea was not adopted by every nation at once. The Roman Catholic areas of Germany, Holland and Switzerland followed the plan immediately. But, the Protestant parts of those countries waited until 1700 and 1701 to get in line.

France accepted the Gregorian style at once. Poland took up the new calendar in 1586 and Hungary in 1587. After Britain had adopted the Gregorian system in 1752, Sweden followed in 1753. Japan did not take the idea until 1873, or not a century ago. China accepted the Gregorian Calendar in 1912 and Turkey in 1917. Russia came into the Gregorian orbit in 1918 and Romania in 1919.

Greek Orthodox The Greek Orthodox communities met in 1923 at Constantinople and decided to depart from their old style calendar and adopt the one which is now in common usage throughout the world. Greece accepted the calendar then too. France decided to get away from the calendar during the French Revolution. It was decreed that time in France should be measured from September 22, 1792, the day of the Autumnal Equinox. Each following year was to begin on the day when the Autumn Equinox fell. When Napoleon saw the confusion this was causing in French relations with other countries, he ordered France to go back to the Gregorian Calendar on January 1, 1806.

Public Forum

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

Comments Shipmates

Sir,—In answer to the letter in The Guardian, Dec. 23 "Across the Island", I would like to correct some of the statements made. Firstly I am not going to single out any of the men that were on that trip. As far as I am concerned all the crew members were the very best. I did not see or hear of any member of the crew panicking. Everyone carried on his duties as usual.

Mr. MacLeod is referring to statements in a letter from Capt. John R.B. Macleod, Senior Master, retired from the Borders Tormentine ferry service. The statements were quoted with comment in the column "Across the Island" on Thursday, Dec. 23.

I was a fireman on watch that night and there were several men from the deck and steward's department who came down to help us and I don't think any one had to be told to help. As for the engine room crew they were a wonderful group of men, everyone worked his heart out. The engines were at full speed. You can imagine the way we had to work to keep steam up.

As to the statement that Capt. John R.B. Macleod had to use force to keep the men from the lifeboats, that is a most untrue statement to the best of my knowledge. Many of the crew members were trying to get life belts but they could not be blamed for that.

As many of the fellows who were on that night are dead now and cannot defend themselves against this attack, I feel it is my duty to attempt to do it for them. A lot of those fellows went overseas for their country after 1942 and served their country well. I could correct a great deal more in the letter but my main purpose in answering it is to wipe out the impression that there was a cowardly crew. To my mind there wasn't a coward aboard that night. I have never sailed with a better bunch of shipmates and if anyone gets recognition it should be the whole crew, as in my opinion every man aboard did his duty 100 percent.

I am, Sir, etc. EVERETT MACLEOD, Local Chairman CBRT and GW Local 127, Borden, P.E.I. Vice President P.E.I. Federation of Labour

Millions Were Saved

By Dr. Theodor R. Van DeLan The recent death of Robert R. Williams marked the passing of the noted chemist who isolated vitamin B1 and prepared its synthetic counterpart, thiamin chloride. The discovery saved millions from the crippling effects of beriberi. He turned over all patent rights to a non-profit organization that has spent a fortune supporting several hundred research projects in nutritional deficiencies.

In 1910, Williams, as chief chemist of the Philippine bureau of science, forced a few drops of brown rice bran syrup down the throat of an infant dying of beriberi. She survived and he was determined to find out why it happened. At least 30 years elapsed before he was able to do this but, meanwhile the incidence of infantile beriberi in that part of the orient was lowered by using extracts from rice polishings. He and his fellow chemists continued their experiment and finally produced the compound known as thiamin chloride.

The crucial tests were conducted during World War II when his research team divided the Bataan peninsula into two areas. One received plain polished white rice; the other got the same except that one in every 200 grains was coated with vitamin B1. The death rate from beriberi among the troops and group dropped within a few weeks.

Dr. Williams had to be content with the experiment because the citizenry soon detected the secret and smugglers began to run "contraband" enriched rice across the dividing line.

Beriberi, a form of neuritis, involves the extremities. The toes, fingertips, and lips become numb, burn, or develop the well-known "pins and needles" sensation. Walking becomes difficult and in time, impossible. The muscles atrophy or waste away. The tissues become dropical and ultimately the heart and brain are involved.

ANNUAL LUMBAGO

D. W. writes: What causes a severe attack of lumbago every winter?

REPLY We do not know why some are so susceptible to these rheumatic conditions and have annual bouts of lumbago, stiff neck, arthritis, or related disorders. In the case in question, there is a possibility that the back muscles have been weakened through strain, fatigue, or infection, making them more vulnerable to injury, drafts, and cold weather.

INHERITED TRAITS

P. B. writes: In a discussion with my friends about whether traits are inherited or acquired, I stated that shyness is inherited but they say it is acquired. I am the mother of two children; one is bashful and the other is not.

REPLY Both play a role, but I'm inclined to agree with your girl friends. You did not state whether or not you are bashful.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 31, 1940) The last day of the old year broke over London with the flame-scarred city still shrouded in quiet. No alert had sounded since the one which heralded the fire-raid Sunday evening.

New Year's Greetings were published from Lieut. Governor B.W. LePage; Premier Thane A. Campbell; His Excellency, Most Rev. J.A. O'Sullivan, Bishop of Charlottetown; His Worship B. Roy Holman, Mayor of Charlottetown.

TEN YEARS AGO (December 31, 1955) Marilyn Bell, Toronto's plucky 17-year-old swimmer who twice had stroked her way through turbulent waters to fame, was picked Canada's woman-of-the-year for the second consecutive year.

Ripe For Negotiations

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer A faint light appeared in the dark tunnel of the Vietnamese war, bringing hope the enemies may be persuaded to shift their struggle from the trenches to the conference table.

But this hope flickered somewhat with disclosure North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh sent a reply to Pope Paul's peace efforts containing a declaration that "U.S. leaders want war not peace" in Viet Nam. However, the current optimism about the possibility of peace negotiations is based mainly on the massive peace offensive which the United States has launched quietly and secretly, accompanied by the halt in bombing of North Viet Nam.

The speed with which the Viet Cong has offered a four-day truce Jan. 20-24 and the encouraging response from the Saigon administration suggests there may have been an underground peace feeler between Hanoi and Washington which precluded the halt of American air strikes.

LAUNCHES PEACE DRIVE

In any case, Washington now has launched a concerted peace drive with Vice-President Hubert Humphrey pressing his case with the Japanese government while U.S. Ambassador Foy Kohler met Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny and ambassador-at-large, Averell Harriman, talked with Polish foreign minister, Adam Rapacki.

And in Vatican City, Pope Paul received Arthur Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in private audience and was told that the pope appreciated the Pontiff's efforts to bring about the Christmas truce in Viet Nam. Perhaps the Harriman-Rapacki meeting is the most intriguing, for Warsaw is the site of periodic U.S.-Chinese diplomatic talks and Harriman brought a Chinese affairs specialist in.

South Africa Aloof

Montreal Gazette A very significant step has been taken in the Rhodesian crisis by the Republic of South Africa. It is reported that South Africa has frozen the almost \$17 million of Rhodesian foreign assets which it holds, amounting to some 40 per cent of the Rhodesian total. The action was taken on the instructions of the London board of the Rhodesian Reserve Bank appointed by Britain to replace the board which is loyal to the Smith regime.

This action is significant because there can be no doubt that it is not in accordance with South African sentiment and feeling. South Africans are, not surprisingly, sympathetic to the attempt of the Rhodesian Whites to maintain supremacy indefinitely.

Yet in spite of this sympathy, the Verwoerd government has been extremely careful to do nothing to indicate it is supporting the illegal Rhodesian government. It is acting in this manner out of a careful regard for South African interests.

If South Africa were to help the Smith regime, as that regime clearly hoped and expected, it would invite great international hostility. By identifying itself with Rhodesia, it might find itself subjected to many of the same sanctions.

In spite of its sentiments, the South African government has clearly decided not to help the illegal Smith regime. It does not want to risk having its own discriminatory social and political system dragged down along with that of Rhodesia.

SINGER PLEADS GUILTY

EL PASO, Tex. (AP)—Western singer Johnny Cash pleaded guilty Tuesday during an arraignment on charges of illegal possession of depressant and stimulant drugs. Cash, who was allowed to remain free on \$1,500 bond, was arrested Oct. 4 at El Paso International Airport on federal narcotics agents who said he was carrying 688 dexedrine and 475 equanil tablets.

Advertisement for Ford Electric featuring a large illustration of a Ford car and the text: 'FOR ALL LANG-SAVE', 'Wishing you a happy New Year!', 'FORD ELECTRIC', '70 Newland Crescent Charlottetown', 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!', 'FROM THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT', 'COSTELLO'S MEAT MARKET', '73 Spring Park Road Dial 4-7377', 'Cheers! FROM US TO YOU!', 'CURRAN & BRIGGS LTD. Summerside P.E.I.'