The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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PAGE 4 SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1964

Pushing For A Thaw

Soviet Premier Khrushchev has been exchanging New Year's greetings with everybody he can get in touch with these days. His message to Prime Minister Pearson, extending congratulations (was that for beating Mr. Diefenbaker?) and best wishes for happiness and well-being was coupled with the hope that co-operation between the USSR and Canada would continue to develop and that there would be a strengthening of general peace. He sent a similarly warm greeting to President Johnson and other Western leaders, followed by a proposal for an international agreement renouncing the use of force in settling territorial disputes.

This proposal is being given somewhat sceptical consideration at Washington. In Britain, however, there is a feeling that Mr. Khrushchev's recent advances should be met half way. Not that the British government, any more than the Johnson administration, is unaware of the motives behind the Soviet leader's show of amity at this time.

After all, every world power has selfish motives in dealing with rival powers. The point is that the interests of the Soviet Communists and the Western world do seem to coincide at this juncture, and it would be folly not to make the most of the opportunity in the interests of peace.

The British Prime Minister is perhaps in a better position to give a firm lead here than President Johnson, if only because the latter must be careful not to leave himself open to attack at home for any compromise he might suggest. British political parties, on the other hand, are in agreement on seeking friendlier relations with Russia. This year will see an election in Britain as well as in the United States, but the Conservatives are in no danger of this issue backfiring on them.

Mr. Butler, the new British foreign secretary, may indeed become the advance probe of the western alliance in this matter—the one to feel out the Russian proposals for thawing the cold war. His first probe will be in Geneva, where the 17 nation disarmament negotiations resume on January 21.

The prospects at this meeting look moderately encouraging, if only because all the participants see the need of keeping up the pace set by the test-ban agreement last year.

Honoring Sir John

January 11 will be the 149th birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald, without whose vision—historians agree—there would be no Dominion of Canada today. Confederation would have been dissolved into geographical fragments, and much of what is now Canada would long ago have been taken over by the United States. It is planned, next year, to take appropriate steps to make the 150th anniversary of the chief architect of Confederation an event worthy of the man and a fitting prelude to the Centennial of our country.

Meanwhile, a notable historical project to commemorate Canada's first prime minister was recently announced by Rt. Hon. Lester B. Pearson at Ottawa. The government plans to purchase a former Kingston, Ontario, home of Sir John and restore it as an historical monument. The property can be bought for $35,000, and a somewhat smaller sum will be required to restore it.

"This house," said Mr. Pearson, "will be refurnished not only in the style of Sir John A.'s time but with some of the actual furniture used by him. It will represent a proud historical trust of the Canadian people. As such, it is my sincere hope that it will contribute in real terms to keeping alive the memory of a very great Canadian."

It is to their credit that our politicians of all parties have enthusiastically indorsed this proposal. Never once during the discussion were political lines drawn. All, in fact, were agreed that the property should be acquired, and quickly.

Perhaps, as the Kingston Whig-Standard suggests, the building will become something more than a memorial to one man. Tribute to Canada's first prime minister, of course, will be the basic consideration, but there is no reason why other reminders of the period should not have their place inside the structure.

It is worth noting, in this connection, that the federal Centennial Committee has decided to place a marker at the grave of each of the Fathers of Confederation—an action long overdue. It is indeed a sad commentary on our sense of history that it should have taken a century to reach such a decision.

And—as noted in a release received from the Committee—it is regrettable in the case of Sir John that his idiosyncrasies, and some human failings, are far better known to the younger generation than are his massive achievements for the land he dearly loved. One reason for this, no doubt, is the fact that so little meaningful Canadian history is taught in our public schools. That's another matter that should be remedied before the Centennial is out.

Changing Times

As the Winnipeg Free Press sees it, the Montreal World's Fair in 1967 will symbolize, among other things, our changing sense of values and the remarkable decline in the value of money which has attended our march to nationhood.

The original cost to the federal government was estimated to be $20 million—and this was to be a ceiling. But the forseeable costs of the fair and related works are now $112,500,000 for the federal government alone, according to estimates cited by Works Minister Deschatelets. In the light of difficulties already experienced and the necessity of building to a deadline, it would be unwise to read any finality even into these figures.

The magnitude of this project, says the Winnipeg paper, may be better appreciated if we compare the proposed federal expenditures with those involved in the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Apart from grants of privilege, the Macdonald government of 1880 had to put up the equivalent of $70 million in order to link the scattered parts of the Canadian nation. Allowing for the changes in values, this was probably quite as much as Parliament will spend on the world's fair although comparisons are difficult because of the estimates (as yet unconfirmed) that the provincial and Montreal shares of the centennial undertaking will run to some $220 million.

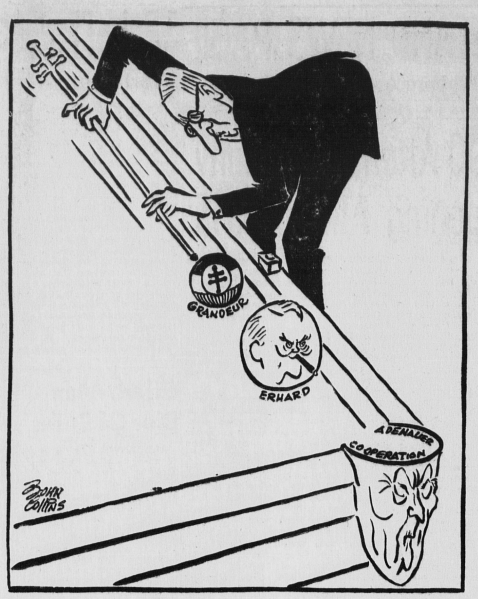
One of the outstanding differences between the two projects is the fact that the expenditures proposed for the CPR shocked Parliament into some of the most memorable debates of our history, whereas the debate of last December 20 over the fair expenditures was not much more than a gesture. The House devoted approximately the same amount of time to world fair costs as it did to the world fair emblem which, in a rare moment of concord, it decided to junk.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now it's trout that are being found with ulcers, due to the "stress and strain of life" in an Ontario hatchery. Soon it will be our Malpeque oysters that will be complaining, and needing tranquilizers.

* * *

Since the departure of Hon. Davie Fulton as Canada's minister of justice, notes an exchange, the movement towards penal reform in this country seems to have stalled. If this be true, some explanation should be forthcoming.



THIS ONE DOESN'T SEEM TO FIT

MOUNT SINAI TODAY

Sacred To Christian, Jew, And Moslem

National Geographic News Bulletin

Mount Sinai has remained a strategic outpost from Biblical to modern times— a place holy to Christian, Jew, and Moslem alike.

But the place where Moses received the Ten Commandments in the Sinai desert is occupied today by fewer than a dozen permanent residents. They are Monks of Greek descent who tend the 6th-century Monastery of St. Catherine built beneath the mountain as a fortress and shrine by het Byzantine Emperor Justinian the Great. The old monastery houses priceless art works.

The bearded monks live a life apart, recalling the hermits who first cared for the sacred spot where, traditionally, Moses' voice issued miraculously from the "burning bush" before he was given the stone tablets on Sinai's summit.

The day of the monks starts at 3 a.m., with morning mass from 4 to 7. They eat a single meal, at noon. The austere round of services is maintained at St. Chaterine's as it has been for 1,400 years.

ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES

National Geographic, in its issue for January, 1964, presents two vividly illustrated articles— "Island of Faith in the Sinai Wilderness" and "Mount Sinai's Holy Treasures." The respective articles by George F. Forsyth and Dr. Kurt Weitzmann grew out of archeological - photographic studies of Sinai's rich history, architecture, art treasures, drawings, and notebooks sponsored by Princeton University, the University of Michigan, and Egypt's University of Alexandria.

Forsyth and his companions first made a bumpy 250- mile desert journey from Cairo, along the Gulf of Suez, inland to the wasteland. Wrote Forsyth: "The truck rounded a spur, and suddenly the Monastery of St. Catherine stood before us, so beautiful, so unexpected, so lonely. I caught my breath."

The old monastery seemed to have grown out of the bleak earth, for its granite was the color of weathering cliffs rising starkly above. But here was a miniature town— a glimpse of vanished Byzantium—with narrow paved streets and small courts, passages and white-washed buildings.

Archeologists seldom are permitted to probe at will in historical shrines. Thus traditions about these places often remain fanciful or unconfirmed. During full-scale investigations at Sinai in 1960, however, the visitors established that the present church of St. Catherine's was built between A.D. 548 and 846.

"With the single exception of Hagia Sophia, Istanbul," said Mr. Forsyth, "it is the best preserved survivor of the countless churches erected by Justinian."

A mosque— for the prophet Moses is revered by Moslems— stands on the site of the burning bush. Towers of the church and mosque "pierce the sky in friendly proximity."

Archeological studies brought a strange new rhythm to Sinai —the monks moving to and from worship with almost military precision, the archeologists working with specialized equipment such as scaffolding, tool kits, and generators for electricity and photographic lighting. The resident desert tribesmen, who by heredity look after the monastery, also served the outsiders as cooks, waiters, and workmen. One extraordinary young Bedouin was soon processing color film.

In the article on Sinai's "Holy Treasures," author Kurt Weitzmann and photographer Fred Anderegg show the color and vibrancy of the monastery's art works, notably icons and manuscripts.

Says Dr. Weitzmann, "the great value of the Sinai icon collection lies in the fact that it spans the history of this art form... Apart from furnishing a valuable fund for the monastery, the full photographic record of Sinai's 2,000 icons will provide the basis for an accurate history of icon painting."

Justinian chose well the site for his Sinai fortress-shrine, whose marble tomb protects the remains of the monastery's patroness, St. Catherine of Alexandria, martyred in the 4th century. Even as recently as World War II, the fortress withstood a siege by the Turkish Army.

First Canadians' Viewpoints

Ottawa Journal

The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism has acted gracefully in putting within its terms of consideration the first inhabitants of Canada.

The Indians and Eskimos were for years the forgotten peoples of Canada and never more forgotten than in the present anxiety over national unity.

The commissioners, in a working paper giving their interpretation of their mandate, note that various cultures have contributed to the development of Canada and must be respected and safeguarded although not being given official recognition. The paper continues:

"But there is also a prior contribution that all the others followed: that of the first inhabitants of the country, the Eskimos and Indians. They make up the oldest group, and in comparison, all the English and French- speaking peoples would appear to be New Canadians.

"The Commission recognizes clearly that it has a duty to give special attention to the problems of the Eskimo and the Indian in our present world."

That "special attention," it is to be hoped, means Indians and Eskimos will be heard and their aspirations examined. This is not a simple matter. The Commission will find among the oldest Canadians divisions of opinion. These would rush forward into the anonymity of absorption into the general population and others would hold back to nurse on reserves old traditions and privileges of state aid.

But if the Commission had avoided the first Canadians, made no effort to hear from them, it would have been an insult not only to them but to us.

Climate Getting Chillier

London Free Press

Merchants contentedly computing the benefits of a White Christmas may not worry about whether our weather is getting worse. Indeed they may say the worse the better.

But in England the sober Economist has come to the conclusion that the weather is really getting worse. While it is primarily interested in Britain, it extends forebodings to the whole Northern hemisphere—including us.

Actually what it means is the weather is getting back nearer normal than it has been in recent years. Like the stock market the temperature continues to fluctuate. Back in the Middle Ages, England was indeed a green and fertile land where vineyards flourished. But about 1300 there was a change for the worse, and it lasted, with occasional let-ups, for 600 years.

About the turn of the present century, the cycle reversed, and for some four decades there was a gradual warming up, which boosted the mean temperature of Europe, North America and central Asia by a full degree, which did amazing things for the added crop production of the area.

During the decade of the '50s the trend was reversed and the improvement made in 40 years was wiped out in ten. Now we are back in the 1890s—weather-wise at least. And, if the Economist is any prophet, it is likely to get worse before it gets better. Perhaps we better keep that snow-shovel handy.

As The U.N. Looks Ahead

New York Times

The United Nations Assembly, which began its regular session with an address by President Kubedy, ended with an address by President Johnson, who again pledged this nation to unswerving support of the world organization as mankind's best instrument for peace.

This was the quietest and most harmonious session ever held. The impact of the American tragedy, the fact that the major issues that divide the world were largely kept out of the debate, and the greater caution and efforts toward an East-West detente after Cuba all contributed to keep passions down.

The United Nations expanded on the nuclear test-ban treaty by outlawing orbiting nuclear arms from outer space. It gave new impetus to further disarmament with emphasis on "effective international control"— still the crux of the dispute. It approved denuclearization for Latin America. It decided to continue peace-keeping operations in the Congo and the Middle East for a while longer. Finally, it pushed ahead on the abolition of colonial rule by condemning Portugal and imposing an arms embargo on South Africa.

Yet its frailties remain evident The new African and Asian nations in particular are prone to apply a double standard in the U.N. by inveighing only against a fading Western colonialism while ignoring Communist colonialism. They stage illegal boycotts and seek illegal expulsion of members which, if successful, could wreck the entire organization. They jam through unrealistic "anti-colonial" resolutions that handicap their own cause. They undermine the United Nations in its paramount task of keeping the peace and suppressing aggression by openly threatening hostilities and organizing armed forces for racial "wars of liberation."

The most crucial immediate test for the United Nations will be in its determination to make delinquent nations pay their assessments for the U.N.'s peace-keeping operations. Their failure to do so has already plunged the United Nations into a financial crisis and jeopardizes present and future operations of this kind. Most immediately involved is Soviet Russia.

TWIRLING TARTANS

Woollen plaid doesn't become tartan without official approval from the Court of the Lord Lyon, Her Majesty's Register House in Edinburgh.

Medical Browsing

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

The gamma globulins are the constituents of blood that carry protective antibodies against infection. They can be separated from the blood and are used as a serum against infection by producing temporary immunity in those exposed to infections to which they are susceptible. Recently, these substances were found to be useful in treating highly allergic children who suffered from bronchial asthma or nasal allergy whenever they caught cold. Youngsters who have trouble along this line improve remarkably after minute doses are injected. They become happy, energetic, and much more alert.

A do-it-yourself painter received a strange tattoo when he triggered a power paint sprayer accidentally. According to Dr. Charles E. Workman of Kansas City, Mo., a small amount of red lead entered the tip of the patient's finger. Most of the paint was removed, but gangrene set in, and amputation was necessary.

Approximately 14 per cent of the population passes pink to deep red urine after eating beets (beturia). The remainder does not, because the causative pigment is not absorbed by the intestine.

A group of physicians from the Glasgow Royal Infirmary described a sidelight on this condition. They fed beets to 178 healthy and sick individuals; those with iron deficiency anemia were more likely to develop beturia. The incidence was 80 per cent among patients who had not yet received iron tablets and 48.6 per cent among those undergoing treatment.

Apparently the red-violet pigment of beets follows the same pathway as that for iron absorption. The body is able to turn on and off its absorption of iron, depending upon the need, and may be capable of doing the same with beet pigment. In other words, it is a question of absorption, rather than anemia.

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION

B.K. writes: For what condition is the heart catheterized?

REPLY

Mainly to diagnose congenital heart defects and scarred valves. In this procedure, a small catheter is inserted into a vein in one arm and threaded upward into the heart. Blood samples are obtained and the pressure is determined in each chamber to detect cardiac abnormalities.

TENSE MUSCLES

M. F. writes: Could back strain cause tenseness all over the body to tighten up?

REPLY

This is unusual. The muscles of the back usually tighten up when strain tends to prevent overuse of the ailing part. But there is no reason why the muscles of the face or legs, for example, should become tense from back sprain.

OCULAR INFLAMMATION

Mrl J.M. writes: How is conjunctivitis treated?

REPLY

The cause of this eye inflammation must be determined before the proper remedy can be selected.

DROPPING THE BABY

W. P. writes: My daughter gives her baby paregoric so he will sleep while she is watching TV. Isn't this drug hard on an infant's heart?

REPLY

No, but paregoric contains opium. Need I say more?

BLAND DIET

M. A. writes: Is diet helpful when the esophagus is inflamed?

REPLY

Yes—an ulcer-type diet.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Viruses are unseen adversaries.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY- FIVE YEARS AGO
(January 4, 1939)

Fire damaged a barn on Kent Street, opposite City Hall last night, used to house Pete City horses. The animals were safely removed from the blazing structure. The blaze for a time took on a rather spectacular appearance, when fire in the hay sent up dense smoke.

Stipendiary Magistrate K. M. Martin and Mac Irwin are representating the Charlottetown Yacht Club at a meeting of the Northumberland Straits Yachting Association at Moncton this week. Sessions opened yesterday.

TEN YEARS AGO
(January 4, 1954.)

The large farm house of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Rayner, Kildare Central, seven miles from Alberton, was completely destroyed by fire about five o'clock Saturday evening. Nothing could be done to save the house or the contents which included some new furniture purchased a few days ago.

Keith Rogerson, first year student in arts at Mount Allison University was received and accepted as a candidate for the ministry, by the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island at the United Church of Canada, at the evening service in Trinity United Church, Summerside, yesterday.

RESUME EXCHANGE TALKS

LONDON (AP)—Tass says cultural exchange talks between the Soviet Union and the United States, suspended in November because of the arrest of an American professor on spy charges, are scheduled to resume in Moscow Jan. 7. They will cover exchanges for 1964.

NOTES BY THE WAY

While the art class was setting up a Christmas scene on the school lawn, one of the boys asked uncertainly, "Where shall I put the three wise guys?" — Gail Reporter.

Pity the poor struggling author in Russia. Not only does he have to produce a plot to satisfy an editor, but he has to make sure that it also suits the government. For example, Pravda has just published a denunciation of a Soviet spy thriller which it said did not paint the Americans bad enough or Soviet counterespionage good enough. —Fort William.

No wonder we spent more money for gum than for religion. Gum is used every day.—Calgary Albertan.

From Great Britain comes warning that bowling to excess can cause a newly identified syndrome—bowler's finger. Dr. B.A. Latham reports in the British Medical Journal that the condition is characterized by soft-tissue swelling of the proximal interphalangeal joint of the middle finger of one hand only. The patient, he said, was "is fanatically keen bowler, playing as much as ten times a week."'— Medical World News.

Standards Drop Still Lower

Montreal Gazette

The latest speech of Ernesto Guevara, the Cuban Minister of Industries, should be broadcast to every part of Latin America. It would be one of the best ways possible to expose the myth of Communist progress. For the speech was a drastic admission of failure.

Mr. Guevara announced that new wage scales are to go into effect. There will be eight salary categories. Those who work especially hard and surpass the government imposed quotas will receive a premium. Those who do not meet their quotas will have their salaries reduced. The reductions will be greater than the premiums.

If this were to mean higher wages in general, the new policy might seem quite an advance. But, on the contrary, Mr. Guevara admitted that the new wage scales will be lower than the old.

And the old, as he again admitted, were "inherited from imperialism as a result of the union's fight for better wages."

It was, of course, already known that many categories of Cuban workers were not benefiting from the change of regime in Cuba, and that their standard of living was slipping. This process is now to be carried even further. This would be an example of serious failure under almost any circumstances. But when it is remembered how brutal was the previous Battista regime, the failure is especially great.

The people of Cuba were exploited and tyrannized by the former Battista regime. They had the sympathy of all reasonable persons. How much greater still must be the sympathy for them now, when even the miserable standard of living they had under Battista cannot be maintained.

Competing In Peace Quest

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

President Johnson and Soviet Premier Khrushchev are slowly and cautiously moving into an era of friendly competition in the pursuit of peace, presenting a somewhat optimistic augury for further dismantling of the cold war during 1964.

While U.S. authorities are not sure at this stage where the peace path will lead, they indicate there now is "active movement" in discussion between the two governments on new possibilities and developments. They say there is even a communion of action along lines of what Khrushchev describes as "mutual example" to bring the arms race under tighter control.

The exchange of New Year's messages between the two leaders was more than an expression of cordiality; it was an expression of anxiety and hope to build a permanent barrier against nuclear war and a will to take unilateral steps, if necessary, to show good intentions by example.

REDUCTE SPENDING

Both sides have given indications of reducing arms spending and of tightening the inventory on military manpower and bases without formal bargaining or agreements on how the cuts are to be made or the reason for the reductions. The U.S. complains that until the West can look at Soviet books, the world can never be sure whether the Soviet cuts are real.

Yet there is less demand from the U.S. these days for international inspection on every disarmament move. There is even a hint in high places that previous U.S. positions may be reassessed if Russia is prepared to reasses its own.

High authorities profess they have ways of knowing what goes on behind the Iron Curtain. They are convinced they have a fairly good idea of the size of the Soviet military force and therefore can judge in a general way whether reductions take place. Accompanying this is increasing confidence in U.S. diplomatic quarters that Khrushchev sincerely desires a detente.

There also appears to be some apprehension that the U.S. may be considered in the eyes of the world as falling behind Russia in demonstrating a quest for peace.

There seems to be a form of competion in the making between Khrushchev and Johnson as to which one can be described by the world as the more active pursuer of peace.

There is confidence in American quarters that new steps will develop this year — perhaps even the beginning of major steps such as the final solution to the highly-explosive German issue—that can strengthen the prospects for a permanent peace.

While at this stage there is no indication that a summit meeting would take place this year, U.S. authorities emphasize that Johnson would agree to a summet if Khrushchev shows willingness to enter into a major disarmament agreement on viable terms with which the U.S. can live.

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