The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Sad State Of Affairs

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Are its chances any better because the disintegrating elements, before the collapse, kept insisting that there was no division at all and that the house was never in better shape? This is the position of the Conservative party nationally at this time, and it would be an optimist indeed who would predict any kind of success for it when it goes to the polls.

The cabinet crisis has so far produced three resignations in a week. First Defense Minister Harkness, now Trade Minister Hees and Acting Defense Minister Sevigny; all have quit, dissatisfied with Prime Minister Diefenbaker's nuclear arms policy and fearing the results of an anti-American election campaign. They have announced that they are doing so on principle, Mr. Hees going so far as to say that, in all conscience, he cannot even run as a candidate under Mr. Diefenbaker.

What amazes the public more than these acts of repudiation are the circumstances that preceded them. Mr. Harkness, before he resigned, was insistent that there was no disagreement on this issue between him and his leader. Following the government's defeat in the House and rumors of a more extensive revolution in the cabinet, there was full-throated denial that there was any disharmony at all.

Only last Wednesday the Ottawa Journal, leading Conservative organ, quoted "reliable sources" as saying that Mr. Diefenbaker had asked for, and obtained, individual expressions of loyalty from each minister. Some of them "tendered their pledges of loyalty in tears." And after the two and a half hour caucus at which the whole matter was threshed out, it was Mr. Hees who proclaimed the glad news to the press.

"You tell them, George," said his chief, on emerging. "Best caucus we ever had!" chortled Mr. Hees, "The show is on the road. We'll beat hell out of the Grits" "That's right," piped the Prime Minister: "The best caucus we ever had."

Senator McCutcheon, who was reported to have been the leader of the cabinet rebels, added his enthusiastic comment. "There was no rebellion," he declared. "I just can't imagine how such a fantastic story could start." Was the Prime Minister resigning? "Of course he remains. What else did you expect?" What about the many stories of the PM being under pressure to resign? "Fantastic! Fantastic!" And what really had gone on at the caucus? "Nothing but a Hallelujah Chorus."

This talk, in the light of subsequent revelations, will take some explaining. Whether Mr. Diefenbaker stays on as leader or not, it will give the whole Conservative campaign an air of fatuous and misleading double-talk.

Facing Bankruptcy

Among the items of unfinished business left by the warring factions in Parliament was the legislation to repair the teetering unemployment insurance fund. Now it is predicted that the fund will become bankrupt within two months. Benefit payments to the unemployed will be continued, likely by government loan; but the state of the fund will present a financial headache of grave proportions to whatever government is returned in the April general election.

It is likely that more heat then light will be thrown on this matter during the coming campaign. But it is worth noting that originally the unemployment insurance scheme was designed to take care of victims of legitimate unemployment. It was a method whereby moneys from the various contributors, paying in good times, would accumulate a fund ample to provide necessary assistance in bad times. On this basis, of course, it would have continued solvent.

As recently as six years ago the fund had accumulated reserves of close to a billion dollars. Yet a recent report indicates that, if unemployment this winter is roughly the same as last year, the government will have to put up at least $74,000,000 to tide the fund over till the end of May.

Last winter, the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association urged separation of the insurance and welfare functions of the Unemployment Insurance Act. This called for an end to federal contributions to the fund, and the establishment of a benefits program to help workless people whose claim to insurance benefits was exhausted, as well as general assistance to jobless who had run out of all assistance. The Gill committee, which reported to Parliament last December after 17 months of inquiry into the matter, proposed a complete overhaul of the scheme along similar lines.

This issue has been a causalty of the political stalemate resulting from the government's indecisive victory in the last election. What can safely be predicted is that in the event of another such stalemate on April 8, unemployment insurance will be in an even more hopeless mess than it is now.

ADB's First Chore

It is interesting to note that the Atlantic Development Board's first project is to be a survey of winter navigation and its effect on ports in the Atlantic area. This is a real live issue, and the board should lose no time in coming to grips with it. The urgency is indicated by a recent statement by Mr. Howard A. Mann, chairman of the National Harbors Board, that he favors winter navigation of the Port of Montreal.

If this recommendation goes through, it could have adverse effects on the winter ports of Saint John and Halifax, and indeed of the whole Atlantic area. It seems to have been thrown out as a direct challenge to the Atlantic Development Board, and has already raised strong protests in Maritime areas.

It is recalled, with some bitterness, that Mr. Mann formerly occupied the post of executive manager of the Maritimes Transportation Commission, with headquarters in Moncton, and at that time was an energetic booster for federal recognition of Maritime transportation claims. Since moving to Central Canada he appears to have been brainwashed by the smart boys up there, who do not care whether Canada's depressed areas ever rise to better things as long as they continue to expand their already well developed economies.

This criticism may be unjust to Mr. Mann; but there is no question that his proposal that Montreal become a 12-month port, if acted upon, would pose a serious threat to our two chief Maritime harbors. If the Atlantic Development Board can put this campaign for boosting winter navigation on the Lower St. Lawrence to rout, it will have won its spurs as a go-getting organization.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now it's a plastic train that is being tested in West Germany on a regular run. If it proves to be as safe and durable as expected, as well as cheaper to build, lighter, faster and capable of carrying heavier loads, it may usher in a new age of railway transportation.

* * *

In a letter to the editor of The Times of London a correspondent who kept score of The Times' birth announcements during 1962 said the most popular first names for boys were, in this order: James, Simon, Andrew, Richard, Mark, Jonathan, David, Nicholas, Christopher and John. Order of popularity in girls' first names was Sarah, Caroline, Catherine, Nicola, Susan, Emma, Fiona, Elizabeth, Jane, Amanda and Joanna.

WAITING FOR THE LAW OF GRAVITY

THE MUTED VOICE

Time To Heed Conservationist Warnings

Leon Lindsay in The Christian Science Monitor

The public is continuously exposed to politically motivated views of people who have little knowledge of or concern for the wasting assets nurtured on and under the earth's crust. They are too little exposed to the views of real experts who have no political ax to grind, and who habitually consider today's needs and wants in terms of tomorrow and the day after.

For instance, Dr. Robert Kappeli, in an article entitled "Not Ours to Have Forever," wrote in the autumn, 1961, issue of the CIBA Journal:

"... When we compare the importance of water conservation with that of highway construction and then measure the degree of interest shown by the great majority of the population in these two ta one can safely say that moody feels very happy about what he sees. Even if we were to assume that both these pieces of unfinished business were of equal importance, the definite preference shown by the body politic for the highway and traffic problem is astonishing. It can only be accounted for by noting that an issue capable of appealing to the imagination of the public has always taken precedence over those matters that, by any reasonable definition, are essential...."

WIDELY APPLICABLE

The Swiss industrial leader directed his remarks toward that Alpine country's water problem, but his observations are applicable to virtually every nation on the globe— except, perhaps Israel.

But how far did his comments —wrapped in a slick, beautifully illustrated company publication — carry in the public stream? They were no doubt channeled over some private and public desks where their impact might eventually bring public reaction. But many of the few copies circulated probably wound up in backwater — the wastebasket.

The public is jolted from its apathy by headlines that shout of highway construction scandals which steal money from the taxpayer's pocket. Can the public be aroused as well about the future in the name of more highway convenience— eight lanes instead of four, concrete cloverleafs where once cows munched clover?

Where are the headlines warning of the loss of wildlands and wildlife by the towering cement barricades that turn creeks into lakes that inundate thousands of acres? Sure, this is done in the name of flood prevention, electric power, irrigation, and even recreation. But how much of a hearing does the other side get— the side that argues against populating the flood plains, upsetting nature's balance, and providing costly "benefits" that might last for 100 years, but little more?

COULD BECOME

Once in a while one of the articulate conservationists breaks into the daily press with a dramatic statement, but they usually have to overdramatize to gain attention. This tends to discredit their view in the long run.

Such a case is that of Rachel Carson, whose perhaps slightly overstated view on use of pesticides, expressed in the book "Silent Spring," is now being widely syndicated.

This, in fact, is the danger of the muted voice. After a while it becomes not just muted but distorted. These zealots (which is what they are, and really with good reason) find that normal tones just aren't sufficient even to reach into the half of Congress. So they exaggerate.

Extremism is no substitute for eloquent good sense. And some of the most eloquent good sense comes to the desks of the communications media from conservationist writers.

Scout Movement's Future

Montreal Gazette

Few youth movements in history have earned greater prestige, or rendered greater service than the Boy Scout movement. Yet, as speakers at the annual gathering of the Quebec Provincial Council of the Boy Scouts stated, there may be a need for change and adaptation to the changes that the past 50 years have brought.

The world that existed when the Boy Scouts was founded, after the end, and by one of the heroes, of the South African War, was very different from the world that exists today.

Its intention was to mould character, by giving youth an introduction to, and an understanding of, the world in which they would have to live. Its achievement was to supplement the family, the church and the school in preparing youth for manhood.

But the rapid changes of the past few decades may have created a world to which the Boy Scouts provide only partial, though excellent, guidance. For this is an age when the television, the car, the airplane, the exploration of space, in short the technical and scientific side of modern civilization, have gone far to capture the imagination of youth

And there may be a need for the Boy Scouts to give greater attention to some of these changes so that youth will better understand them, and so that it can better integrate these changes into the scale of traditional values. And this need may be especially great in urban areas.

The Boy Scouts will always be needed, and badly needed. And there may be no loss, but rather a lasting gain, if they adjust and adapt themselves to the changes that have come, and will continue to come, upon this complex world.

Let's Feed The Birds

Chatham Daily News

Our recent cold spell has made it more difficult for the native birds which stay with us through the winter to secure food.

Recurrent falls of snow make it still more difficult.

We would urge, not merely bird lovers, but kindly folk everywhere, to take thought for our feathered friends.

It should not be too difficult a matter for people to leave some food out for the birds during the height of winter. Scraps of dry bread, suit, kernals of corn or other grains will be as welcome to the birds as a full course Christmas dinner to humans.

Some people make a habit of placing such food regularly in specially- built feeding stations which are easily set on a window sill or other convenient place. But the birds don't stand on ceremony, they are just as happy over scraps tossed out the back door to some clear spot.

May we suggest that people get the habit of feeding the birds during the rest of the winter. They will be repaid for their effort in more ways than one.

A Lively Tongue

Cape Breton Post

Of all celtic languages, Welsh long has enjoyed the most general everyday use by ordinary people in its homeland— Wales. But the number of Welshmen speaking the ancestral language has dwindled of recent years. This is a trend that some ardent Welsh people now are endeavoring to reverse.

Supporters of the Welsh are taking demonstrative measures to advocate their cause. For instance, 70 college students in Aberystwyth, tried to get themselves arrested Sunday but failed in the attempt because the Welsh policemen just looked the other way.

The students plastered the seaside town with posters saying in Welsh: "Official status for Welsh." They even stuck posters on the police station but the police persisted in keeping out of sight. The police were on the students' side.

Finally, in a last attempt to dramatize their demand that the Welsh be designated as the official language, the students squatted four deep across the main highway. Traffic piled up on both sides, the angry motorists tooting horns. Finally a police inspector strolled up, smiled good-naturedly, said: "If you are hurt it will be your own fault," and then sauntered off.

The news report became vague at this point. Some local youths shouted at the sitting students: "Do we keep you in college for this?" and then "waded in with fists flying, and in 16 minutes it was all over."

A baffling thing about the written language to those unacquainted with Welsh is that it's mainly consonants, with so few vowels that a person who speaks only English cannot imagine how it's pronounced. The last lingering stand of Celtic language on the European continent is in Britany, the westernmost region of France, whose people are amazed when Welsh visitors speak a language having many words they understand.

APPOINTED CONDUCTOR

CALGARY (CP) — Haymo Taeuber, who conducted several orchestras in Europe, has been appointed permanent conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, it was announced Saturday. The Philharmonic Society said he turned down offers to become permanent director of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra or musical director of the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra to accept the position here.

Thalidomide Caused 5,000 Tragic Births

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Delien

THE TRAGEDY of thalidomide never will be forgotten. The ministry of health at Bonn, Germany, reported in August, 1962, that 5,000 deformed babies had been born since 1959, presumably from the use of this sedative by pregnant women. Approximately half of this number of infants failed to survive, leaving 2,000 in need of surgical and orthopedic care.

If the tragedy had to happen, Germany was a suitable place because the art of making artificial limbs is well developed there. The number of amputees from both world wars is high, and many receive attention from 600 prosthetic and orthotic (brace) shops.

Dr. Charles H. Frantz of Grand Rapids, Mich., was sent to Germany by the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults to study the problem. He reported in the Illinois Medical Journal that physicians and technicians have been specializing in fitting children with prostheses for many years.

But the phocomelic extremities often are no more than small flippers, which means there is little to which an artificial arm or leg can be attached. In addition, the flippers do not have enough power to activate or move the prosthesis.

The Germans are using plastic shoulder caps that fit over the shoulders to support the upper section and belt bands or thigh straps are employed for the legs. Cables are anchored to these devices, and by certain manipulations the parts can be moved. But it is too difficult and an outside source of power is being substituted. This comes from carbon dioxide gas under pressure which is held in a small tank carried on a sling.

Small plastic tubes lead to pressure control valves that operate the elbow and hand. The most difficult are children with involvement of all four extremities. They cannot get about unless they have arms good enough to manage crutches. Meanwhile, the surgeons are busy correcting defects elsewhere in the body of these unfortunate babies. What these children will be like in five years from now is not known.

DISTURBANCE OF BEAT

G. E. D. writes: How is heart block treated?

REPLY

Only a small percentage of the many different types of heart block require treatment. This is particularly true when the beat is so slow the individual faints without warning after slight exertion. The most popular remedies include isoproterenol, ephedrine, and the corticosteroids. Now and then a block is associated with another heart defect that requires additional care.

ONE TUBE ONLY

Mrs. B. writes: When one fallopian tubes has been removed, can a woman have children of both sexes or only one sex?

REPLY

Either boys or girls, because the ovary has nothing to do with the sex of the child. On the other hand, with only one tube, the chances of becoming pregnant are reduced 50 per cent.

SAILING AWAY FROM ASTHMA

E. F. writes: I work in an office and have bronchial asthma. Would sailing on a ship be a better job for me?

REPLY

Yes, if you can thus avoid the cause of your asthma. Ships are not entirely free of agents that induce bronchial asthma.

SPURS AND SPASMS

F. R. writes: Are arthritic spurs caused by muscle spasms?

REPLY

No, but painful spurs often cause spasm of nearby muscles.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Respect each child's individuality.

ITALY STALLS

ROME (AP)—About 4,000,000 industrial workers quit their jobs temporarily Friday in a general strike that disrupted production throughout booming Italy for several hours. In Turin and Palermo, Sicily, the strike was scheduled to last 24 hours. At other points it was only a four-hour work stoppage. Unions called the strike to back up 800,000 metalworkers who have been agitating for wage increases since last December.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

If a person's religion won't make him happy here, it's doubtful that it will make him happy hereafter.—Galt Reporter.

A Montreal architect has won the contest for design of a dollar coin to commemorate the pre-Confederation conferences at Charlottetown and Quebec. The design shows a French fleur-de-lis, Irish shamrock, Scottish thistle and English rose joined in a circle. What is it — a coin or a seed catalogue? — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

A toper friend agrees with the people who say that Ontario residents are spending too much on liquor. He suggests the government cut the price in half. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

From Pine Bluff, Ark., comes a report that Walter McWilliams, 31, serving 16 years for burglary and grand larceny in a prison farm was baptised. He told onlookers "the Lord has shown me the way." That was on a Sunday. Monday Walter was reported missing.— Sarnia Observer.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO

(February 11, 1938)

A sample of Carrageheen moss, about which the provincial Department of Agriculture was seeking information, was collected at Bay Fortune, P.E.I. last August and sent to a chemist in Montreal, who submitted it for further analysis to a New York firm. The New York firm reported very favorably as to the quality, and requested quotations on car-lots of the moss.

Mrs. Fred Osborne, who is at present residing in Summerside but who spent twelve years nursing in one of Dr. Grenfell's Hospitals on the Labrador Coast, gave a most interesting and delightful lecture on Sir Wilfred Grenfell's work, Tuesday. Mrs. Osborne is shortly going on a lecture tour of the New England States.

TEN YEARS AGO

(February 11, 1953)

It was "Modern Art" night when members of the Prince Edward Island Art Society met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Wright, Green Street, for their monthly meeting. Rev. Adrian Arsenault, instructor at St .Dunstan's, gave a most interesting talk on "Modern Art and Modern Times". In keeping with the evening, each member submitted a painting.

A well attended meeting of nurses held at the P.E.I. Hospital last evening heard Miss Catherine Perkins of Montreal speak on the new trends of nursing, and also gave an interesting report on the study made by Dr. Jewett, regarding the Canadian Nurses Association.

Russians In Cuba

Christian Science Monitor

Rather like the old pastime of trying to guess how many beans there are in a jar is the current competition in appraising the number of Soviet military personnel in Premier Castro's tight little island just off the tip of Florida.

Estimates supposed to emanate from the Central Intelligence Agency place the number at about 17,000. Senators Keating, Stennis, and Thurmond speak of figures ranging up to 30,000 and above.

Probably more significant than the number is the question as to just what types of activity Communist cadres from the Soviet Union may be engaged in. Kennedy administration officials have declared themselves satisfied that ground — to-ground missiles have been removed. But Secretary of State Rusk concedes that the stay of Russian troops in Cuba is something to be concerned about.

NATION STATUS

The United States would hardly wish to undermine the general proposition that a government may invite troops of another power to aid its defense. Of course it is questionable, under his refusal to call elections, whether Premier Castro really speaks for the Cuban people. But it is difficult to say whether a quick plebiscite would have approved President Chamoun's request for American help in Lebanon in 1958.

Marines were withdrawn from that country in a few months and its people became masters of their own fate. Will it be possible to say as much for Cuba after even a few years?

RED BUILDUP

The Communist buildup is not to be feared as a direct threat to the United States but it can have dangerous meaning for many Latin- American countries. One possibility is that the Soviet Union is supplying instructors and key personnel for commando - type units that would be landed by parachute or submarine to support rebellions fomented in other Central and South American countries.

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