The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Accepting The Verdict

It is safe to say that Prime Minister Diefenbaker's announced intention of meeting with Liberal Leader Pearson today to discuss handing over the reins of government will meet with almost universal approval. Mr. Diefenbaker, quite properly, waited until the armed forces returns were in before making this announcement. He could, technically, remain in office until the coming Parliament, but this would run against the country's voted preference and would be in striking contrast with Prime Minister St. Laurent's action in 1957.

On the afternoon of June 11, the day following the federal election of that year, Mr. St. Laurent telephoned Mr. Diefenbaker and told him that if the armed forces' vote did not change the situation, he would resign and advise the Governor General to call upon Mr. Diefenbaker to form a government. On June 17 Mr. St. Laurent resigned.

The service vote still hasn't assured Mr. Pearson's party an overall majority in the next House of Commons, but at least there are prospects that he will be able to maintain himself in power for the next few years. He promised, in his campaign, to call Parliament at the earliest possible date, which is May 16, and he has undertaken to bring in a Budget by June. There will be a host of pressing problems awaiting his attention, and he has said that he has legislation already drafted to deal with many of them. The country has now put the election behind it and is anxious to see this legislation brought forward and processed through an orderly and efficient Parliament.

The Ottawa Journal, which supported Mr. Diefenbaker throughout the campaign, sums up the present situation succinctly. "By accepting defeat in a sportsmanlike manner," it says, "Mr. Diefenbaker will be beginning at once and in the soundest possible way the rebuilding of his party. He saved it from the humiliating defeat many thought it was headed for just one month ago; he may now further restore it to the good graces of supporters and opponents alike and make of its conduct in the new Commons the stuff that future rewards are built on."

Fixed Terms Proposed

According to Mr. J. Donald Smith, a member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, the chief thing that stands in the way of government stability in Canada is the absence of a fixed term for our provincial and federal parliaments. In a speech in the B.C. Legislature, Mr. Smith proposed that a national commission be set up to provide ways and means of bringing about a change. Membership on this commission, he says, should be drawn from former national and provincial leaders, former MPs and MLAs, Legislative Clerks, representatives of unions and industry, professors and others. Leaders now holding office "would be of little help because they would not want to have their powers reduced."

We can see obstacles in the way of making a change along these lines, but Mr. Smith's views are theoretically intriguing. Government leaders receive a very autocratic weapon in the right to demand a dissolution of parliament on a moment's notice on any issue, real or imagined, during their 5-year term. It is a weapon which is not available to either Soviet Premier Khrushchev or U.S. President Kennedy.

Mr. Smith's suggestion is for a fixed 4-year term. Other nations have made great progress under a fixed term system. The only right this would take away would be the right of leaders to threaten elections month after month— a situation which places not only MPs and MLAs on tenterhooks, but the public generally, retarding economic and industrial long-range planning and leaving the people in a state of confusion and indecision.

Governments pass legislation making it illegal for unions to go on strike during the term of their contract with industrialists, for the obvious reason that stability in industry is necessary. On the other hand, our political parties negotiate a 5-year contract with the people and any time after taking office can go on strike on a moment's notice and come back to the people to renegotiate another contract. This weakness in our present system is not corrected by a majority government—it is, in fact aggravated.

There have been many recent examples of snap elections brought on in this country for partisan reasons; no doubt about that. But we have little hope of seeing the abuse corrected along the lines proposed. Governments in power would have to take the initative in passing the remedial legislation, and we don't see much prospect of them doing that in the forseeable future.

Deterrent Dilemma

On his recent visit to Washington the British Labor leader, Harold Wilson, came out strongly against Britain retaining an independent nuclear deterrent. Prime Minister Macmillan wants to keep the deterrent, but Mr. Wilson said he would be ready to see Britain become a second rate power if first rate means following this policy. He would strengthen Britain's conventional forces for the defense of Europe. In short, he would fill the role the United States administration apparently wants Britain to fill at this time.

This has made Mr. Wilson pretty popular in Washington, but the reaction has been different in the Old Country. At the time he went to Washington the odds were running 4 to 1 in London in favor of a Labor Party victory in the next general election. But Labor stock slumped on the political exchange when word came in of the Wilson statement. The Conservatives are joyfully predicting that that phrase "second rate" will be hung around Mr. Wilson's neck a thousand times from now until election day.

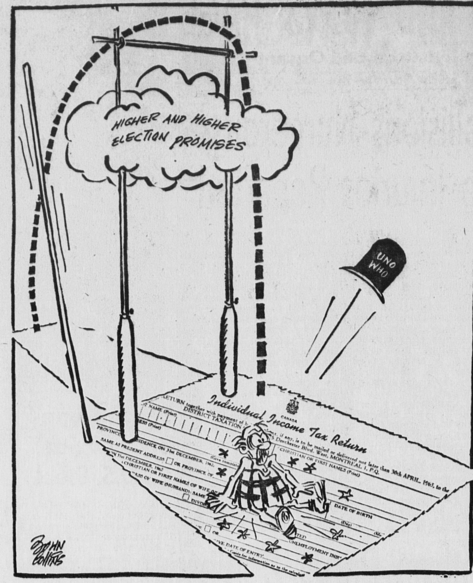
The odds, reportedly, still heavily favor a Labor Party victory; but Mr. Wilson now has made Labor vulnerable on the patriotic front. If the economy should begin to pick up in the wake of the new Maudling budget, there could be a revival in Conservative political fortunes that would upset the Labor applecart—and perhaps Washington's plans along with it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The design of a 15-year-old school boy, Sam Isaac, has been chosen as the national emblem of Canadian Indians. The choice, made at a conference of the National Indian Council of Canada, is an emblem made up of two peace pipes crossed in front of a wigwam. "Probably many people are puzzled by the traditional design," says Sam, "but to me the crossed peace pipes are the symbol of peace among nations of the world, while the teepee represents the nations in Canada."

* * *

According to The Economic Analyst, a Federal Department of Agriculture publication, the Prairies accounted for about 82 per cent of the value of all Canadian agricultural commodities exported in 1960. The Ontario-Quebec region was the source of about 15 per cent, British Columbia about two per cent and the Atlantic Provinces about one per cent. The Prairie region's main exports were, of course, grain and grain products. In Ontario-Quebec, the predominant exports were dairy products, oilseed products, vegetables and maple products. British Columbia led in exports of fruits and nuts and the Atlantic region in potatoes.



COMING DOWN TO EARTH

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Turbulent Election Brings Wide Publicity

"Residents of the United States do not know enough about Canada, and are inclined to take Canada for granted."

That blunt assertion was made, just two years ago, by Canada's Prime Minister at a press conference for visiting United Nations journalists.

Whatever else our recent general election achieved, it certainly made residents of the U.S. very much aware of their neighbour to their North.

In no previous span of one month have three mass circulation magazines each carried a feature story on Canada; in no previous election have our hustings been so densely populated by U.S. journalists and punnits; not since the invasion of Toronto by U.S. troops 150 years ago hove our neighbours played such a prominent role in affairs on Canadian territory.

VALUABLE PUBLICITY

"I never knew before that we had a problem with Canada," one prominent Washingtonian visitor to Ottawa commented. "Yet affairs have never before been described to us."

Previously, peaceful relations with placid Canada had not rated the headlines in U.S. publirations. The turbulent affairs of the Latin - American republics had been more newsworthy, as Mr. Diefenbaker pointed out at that press conference.

"I am amazed," he said, "by the degree that more attention is paid in the U.S. to a coffee plantation than to Canada There is no serious endeavour, not the same degree of endeavour, to understand or to place before the American public the views of Canada."

But now, thanks to our turbulent election and its overtones of pro - or anti - US feeling, many residents of the U.S. have become at least as conscious of this "newsprint forest" as they are of say Brazil.

Strangely, the first impact on many of those newly - conscious neighbours is that they want to visit us. Storm on the hustings will lead to a louder rattle in the cash registers of our tourist industry.

This, according to U.S. talk, is not just a trite reaction inspired by curiosity. Thanks to our angry election, they have learned that we are a modern industrialized nation, mature enough to have problems they can understand: foreign trade problems, balance of international payment problems, excessive taxation, shortage of jobs, a crisis of conscience about weapons of mass extermination, an internal racial crisis. These are all problems familiar to them, because they also must face them in their own backyard.

TOGETHERNESS

This has made them, according to my informants, recognize us as being like them - warm, human and sometimes troubled persons; not monsters ten feet high speaking a strange jargon, nor ape - men swinging from the treetops without modern plumbing. Not a musical comedy set peopled by red-coated Mounties but otherwise in some way inferior to a "coffee plantation."

Strange how that remark of two years ago was echoed only two weeks ago by Alvin Hamilton - "What do they think we are, a Guatemala or something?"

Well, among the many minus signs of the election campaign that nobody is proud of, we can now add the plus sign: it brought us millions of dollars worth of publicity in the U.S.A., and largely publicity which befriended rather than antagonized our neighbours.

A Shell-Rich Island

National Geographic Society

Shell collectors, happily combing the fruitful beaches of Florida's Sanibel Island, expect an influx of rivals.

A new causeway is underconstruction between the sparsely settled island and the west coast mainland near Fort Myers. With a highway stretching the island's 12-mile length, the sands seem destined to echo more and more discovers' glad cries.

Sanibel is one of the world's richest shelling grounds. Conchologists from all parts of the world come to collect and take part in Sanibel's annual shell fair, held in March.

Florida is a shell collectors' paradise. Because the east-coast beaches are steeper, and deep water comes closer to shore certain species see there rarely appear on the west side. But it is on the gradually shelving beaches of the west that America's most brilliant and varied shellfish are cast up by the sea.

SKELETON IS THE THING

A shell is actually a skeleton, worn outside by creatures that have no backbones. Though mere blobs of life, often without heads, they lead animal lives.

Some shell collectors take their game alive, like hunters, and dig the animals out of their hiding places. Others pick up the empty shells after their inhabitants have departed.

Of the two main groups of shells, the univalves (single shelled), far outnumber the bivalves (two shelled). The univalve is the higher form, and includes snails and their various spiraling relatives, slugs and limpets. Univalves may be marine, fresh-water, land or tree creatures.

The bivalve group — clams, mussels, and oysters, among others — is largely made up of sea dwellers. Though there are many fresh-water clams and mussels, bivalves never live on land or in trees, despite the cheerful little oysters that walked to their fate in "Alice in Wonderland."

All mollusks, univalve or bivalve, bear a remarkable organ called a mantle, a kind of living skin or pad that secretes a limestone substance for the shell. Shaped into forms characterizing their kind, shells are painted with pigments synthesized by the animal from chemicals in its environment. Shell material is soft when secreted, but quickly hardens to become one of the most time-resistant substances known.

The chambered nautilus, subject of Oliver Wendell Holmes' famous poem, is a striking example of the shell-creating art. As the baby grows, it seals off old rooms and builds over larger chambers for its increasing bulk.

100,000 SHELLS NAMED

About 100,000 species of shells have been found and named so far. In endless colors and varieties, they inhabit the world's seas, coasts, and inland areas. Tropical waters breed the most and the brightest species. But the chilly shores of Maine, Alaska, and Patagonia, and fresh-water streams of Labrador and British Columbia also offer gemlike specimens.

Along the coarse white sands of Sanibel Island, shell fanciers gather more than 300 varieties, including cockles, buttercups, angel wings, chinese alphabets, lion's paws, and Scotch bonnets.

There and many other popular names, such as shark's eye, bleeding booth, and left-handed whelk, hint at the fantastic shapes that fascinate and ensnare conchologists.

A rare shell may bring its owner as much as $35. But it is the fun of finding and showing off the prizes that counts.

SAVED BY DOG

MATSQUI, B.C. (CP)—Three-year-old Shannon Dawson's pet collie saved her from falling down an abandoned well by holding on to her clothing until her mother arrived to pull her out.

PUBLIC FORUM

LIQUOR LEGISLATION

Sir,—I have been following with great interest the recent letters appearing in this column regarding relaxing the liquor laws. I am greatly pleased that the majority of them are against this proposal. However, there are some aspects of this proposed legislation, which in my humble opinion really affect us especially in the country.

At the present time when our residents especially the younger generation, go to the nearest town for amusement and relaxation, which we do not deny is their personal business, they usually go in the late evening when the existing outlets for the sale of alcoholic drinks are closed. However, if the sale of such were extended to restaurents this bar to temptation would be removed and I feel there would be many wives and parents spending sleepless nights awaiting their return.

Another situation of ominous import to my mind would develop in the tourist camps which have been opened in the country all over the Island. How long would it be, especially in the larger campsites before concessions would be given and license extended for sale of drink? If it were only the tourists this affected the implication would not be so ominous, but the tragedy would be with the temptation to our own youth who use the facilities of the campsites as much as the tourist.

We have been treated during the last year through the press with some lurid accounts of crimes on our little Island, ranging from theft and rape, up to manslaughter. Nearly all of these crimes stemmed directly or indirectly from drink. Only last week we were told in the press that nineteen were sent to penitentiary from one county during the year. Is this a situation of which we should be proud?

True we have elected our members to the Legislature giving them authority to make new laws or add amendments to the existing ones, but with the understanding that such legislation would be to the betterment of our province. Surely our government is not so desperate for funds that they would pass laws to the detriment of our own people, just to cater to the sensual appetite of a few tourists.

I would appeal to our two elected representatives from this first district of Kings, whom I know are both men of good moral character and integrity to use the authority vested in them by us the voters, to vote against this measure at such a time as it is brought before the house.

We would bring to their attention the fact that it will be the support of the residents of the district they will be seeking in the next campaign, and not those of a few tourists.

I am, Sir, etc.,

L.D. ROSE

Lakeville, P.E.I.

Science Views Overpopulation

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

We may expect to hear more and more about the population explosion as time goes by. Many hold the medical profession responsible for this crowded old world.

In the past, the world population was limited by the food supply, disease, and enemics (famine, pestilence, and war) While the explosion cannot be blamed entirely on physicians, we have been given the go-ahead signal to save and prolong life with little or no regard for the problems created thereby. The large amount of money spent on medical research by government, industry ,and fund raising groups supports this contention.

The following quotation from the Lancet shows how some British scientists feel along this line:

"Medical science is largely responsible for creating the problems of overpopulation, old people, and survival of the unfit, and it can be expected reasonably to take a share of the responsibility for solving them. Medical science, after long years of looking askance at contraception, is coming to the view gradually that death control must be balanced by birth control. Can medical science now go further and reconcile the interests of demography, of eugenics, and of the individual in other ways also?

"In an overcrowded world, it is hardly logical that time and money should be spent on the treatment of infertility, on facilitating the propagation of defects, or on prolonging life in cases of fatal disease. Further insofar as medical science cannot attack everything at once, it might logically concentrate research on diseases that disable rather on those that kill, and in those common in the less crowded parts of the world."

There is not too much humanitarianism in these words but we cannot dismiss the problem easily or pass it along to future generations. There is some merit in concentrating on research devoted to diseases that cause suffering and disability rather than the fatal varieties. After all, we are all going to die some time.

The human race must decide, perhaps in our lifetime, whether overcrowding is pleasant or unpleasant. We have the remedy but is the world ready for it?

READING SESSIONS

G.P. writes: A 74-year-old woman reads aloud every day after breakfast for at least 1½ hours. The doctor says her heart is failing and she is collecting water in her tissues. She seems tired after her reading session but insists it is not doing her any harm. What do you think?

REPLY

Let her alone if she enjoys reading aloud.

CHRONIC SINUSITIS

W.V. writes: Is there really a cure for chronic sinus infection?

REPLY

Yes, provided the opening of the sinus in not obstructed by certain tissues in the nose. Such a blockage may require surgery or the correction of allergy. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on sinus disorders.

CAT PHOBIA

J.R. writes: I am disturbed by the belief that continual holding of cats and being near them eventually leads to tuberculosis. Is there any truth in thsi belief?

REPLY

No. Cat phobias (ailurophobia) take many forms.

ESCAPING GAS

C.J. writes: Is there any simple test for carbon monoxide?

REPLY

Yes. Call your gas company and ask them to test for escaping fumes. They have a simple device for this purpose.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Old dogs can learn new tricks.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

April 15, 1938

E.S. Townshend spoke on the Amherst, N.S. Parent-Teacher Association at a meeting of the Prince School Parent-Teacher organization Friday night. Mrs. B.C. Keeping read a letter from Toronto on the same subject.

Invitations have been sent out for the last dance of the season of the Canadian Maritimes, which will be held on April 23 in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Capitol, 51st Street and 8th Avenue New York City. These dances are attended not only by people of the Maritime provinces but by people of Canada who come to New York to attend conferences and sports events.

TEN YEARS AGO

April 15, 1953

Ralph Jenkins and Keith MacKinnon of Charlottetown were elected directors for Prince Edward Island at the annual meeting of the Maritime Motor Transport Association held in Amherst, N.S. last week. The meetings were held at the Fort Cumberland Hotel.

More than 250 United Churchmen attended a supper meeting in Trinity recreation hall to meet the moderator of the United Church in Canada, Rt. Rev. A.A. Scott, DD, and hear his stirring and up-to-the-minute address on conditions in India.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The twist may or may not be good for the back, but it's certain to bring on the shakes.— Sherbrooke Record.

It's strange that when a person has a loose screw in his head, it's his tongue that rattles. — Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

One who realizes how imperfectly he understands his own business may be pardoned for doubting the qualifications of other "experts." — Boston Globe.

Mrs. Jones: "Our daughter is now sixteen and I really should have a talk with her. If I only knew how to go about it." Mrs. Smith (mother of several daughters): "It's really not difficult—just try to look self-assured, and act as if you know just as much as she does." — Montreal Star.

The treasury says dollar bills are lasting longer these days. It credits stronger paper and increased use of credit cards and checking accounts. There's one more reason. There are fewer things for which one dollar can be used. — Indianapolis Star.

Ellen Penny, who lived in the country of Somerset, died recently and bequeathed thousands of pounds to be divided between three cathedrals and seven West of England churches. She asked in her will that the three bishops and seven vicars attend her funeral. Not a one turned up. — Vancouver Province.

All too often a crowd of ulcers join the worry and overwork that lead to financial success. — Ottawa Journal.

The minister was describing Judgment Day: "Thunder will roar; flames will shoot from the heavens; floods, storms, earthquakes will devastate the world." Wide-eyed the little boy turned to his mother. "Mom," he whispered, "will I get out of school?" — Galt Reporter.

A Hollywood producer who had never learned to read or write one day endorsed his salary check with three crosses. "What's happened?" asked his banker. "You usually sign with only two crosses." "My wife's got social ambitions," replied the producer. "She thinks I ought to have a middle name." —Hamilton Spectator.

Perhaps the Europeans are naive, but we must forgive them if they have perverted our national game to the extent that they consider a hockey game a mere contest to see which of two teams can get the puck into the opposite goal the greatest number of times in the course of an hour's play. Unless they have been coached in Canada, how are they to know that the object is really to knock out an opposing player — and THEN to see about getting the puck into the goal? How are they to know that for spectator interest the game must involve ribcrunching body- checks and, whenever possible, a fight or two?— Calgary Albertan.

New Arabian Move

By Joseph MacSween
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The birth of the new United Arab Republic is expected to bring fresh and perilous pressures on the monarchist system of Jordan and perhaps on Saudi Arabia as well.

Already it is being said—despite the somewhat nebulous character of the new U.A.R.—that Egyptian President Nasser's stature as a leader of pan-Arabism has been much enhanced.

Nasser's desire to topple Jordan's King Hussein has been well known for a long time. But an Israeli analysis, for instance, says Nasser's campaign has hitherto been handicapped because in the public eye it was regarded as a spiteful personal feud.

Now that Egypt, Syria and Iraq have come together in the federated U.A.R., with Nasser regarded as certain to become president, it's thought Hussein will have to face a deeper kind of subversion, based on a sort of missionary zeal by an Arab socialist ideology.

ISRAEL WATCHES MOVES

It is not surprising that Israel watches these things with the utmost attention since the Israeli leaders feel that Nasser's brand of pan-Arabism is particularly menacing to them.

Not only impoverished Jordan, observers say, but also oil-wealthy King Saud of Saudi Arabia may be endangered by the new move which, for the first time since the Second World War, has given Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad a common political stance.

The victorious revolutionary leaders in those capitals have already stated their wish to form some sort of association with the other "liberated" Arab countries of Algeria and Yemen.

Oil, of course, is a factor that gives these developments great importance in Washington, London and Paris.

POSSIBLE COUP

The new federation means that for the first time Nasser, as president, would have a direct say in the economic and foreign policies of oil-rich Iraq. The thought of a Nasser-inspired coup in Saudi Arabia causes perhaps even greater concern in Washington.

In London, there are reports that this has already caused a switch of attitude by the U.S. government toward British influence in the Middle East.

Defence Secretary Robert McNamara of the U.S. is said to have urged Peter Thorneycroft, British defence chief, to build up Britain's strength in the Middle East as a top-priority operation. Lord Beaverbrook's Daily Express says:

"Mr. McNamara realizes that the British bases at Aden and Bahrain are the only military protection against a Nasser coup in Saudi Arabia and perhaps in other areas where the U.S. has immense oil interests."

This is described as an "astonishing turnabout" by the U.S. which prevented Britain from overthrowing Nasser during the 1956 Suez crisis.

It Could Get Too Hot

Montreal Gazette

At the Geneva disarmament conference, the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to establish a so-call "hot line" between Washington and Mascow.

Rapid communications between the Soviet and American Governments is not, of course, a measure of disarmament. But since its purpose is to help prevent the outbreak of a war due to accident, it may properly be called a measure of arms control.

It appears to have been the Cuban crisis that caused close and cincentrated attention to to be given to a proposal that had before seemed of little importance. Apparently during that crisis both the Soviet and American Governments felt the lack of sufficiently swift communications. The time lag involved in using those that presently exist seems to have led to sime nervousness, or, at least, some dissatisfastion.

The question must be considered whether this so called "hot line" might not, under some circumstances, increase rather than reduce, the chances of war by miscalculation. It might increase the danger if it led to a speeding up, not just of but the composition of the messages. For careful deliberation, however difficult, is just as necessary during a crisis as at any other time. This danger might only arise if, during a crisis, the 'hot line" came to supplant the normal and slower methods of communication.

But if this special line is kept only for the exceptional moment, it may have value. During the Cuban crisis, an American reconnaissance plane went off course and passed over Soviet territory. This was accidental, not calculated, but it is possible that it could have created some panic in the Soviet Government If President Kennedy could have sent immediate word that this single plane had wandered off course on its own, this would perhaps, have been reasurring.

It seems to be such exceptional cases for which this "hot line" would be suitable. And it is to such cases that it sould be confined.

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