

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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Published every week-day morning (except Sundays and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.
Printed at the Associated Press & Publishers, Ltd. Press, 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Those Causeway Reports
Premier Shaw has made a spirited reply to political attacks upon his party and himself with reference to the Causeway issue.

The storm in this case broke out in The Guardian news and editorial columns on November 26, while Premier Shaw was away at Ottawa. It was occasioned by a story from our Ottawa correspondent that the Causeway report had been delayed indefinitely, that no interim report was available and that the responsible minister, Hon. David Walker, had nothing further to say on the matter at present.

Less than two months before, on October 9, The Guardian had given equal prominence to the minister's assurance that an interim report would be available within two weeks and that December 15 had been set as the final deadline for completion of all the various reports, after which they would go to the Cabinet for consideration, with the prospects of a start being made on the project in 1961.

We accepted this assurance in good faith and warmly commended the Government on the zeal and initiative it was showing. Emphasis was placed at that time on the many difficulties which had arisen, necessitating delay in completing the survey which had originally been scheduled for last June. We urged the need for frequent progress reports in the event of further unforeseen delays, and we felt quite happy in presenting our readers with what we thought was a new and more hopeful picture of the whole situation.

That picture was rudely shattered by the minister on November 26, without any explanation. It was only on December 4, after strong newspaper protests and a meeting with our federal and provincial representatives at Ottawa, that he condescended to reply. His statement, when it came, was merely an elaboration of the problems touched upon in the October 9 statement, without any of the comforting assurances the previous interview contained.

That is the situation, and we do not think that the "storm", so far as The Guardian's participation in it is concerned, was uncalled for. Indeed, we are still far from satisfied that it has blown over. The causeway survey has been dragging on now for over three years, and there has been no explanation why, in the brief period between October 9 and November 26 last, so many new obstacles should have arisen.

We expect the Conservatives provincially, in view of their election campaign promises, to be as much concerned at this unexplained lapse into vagueness and ambiguity as we are. The federal Works Minister is new on the job, and it may be that he spoke rashly two months ago. If so, the fault was his, not ours. But we feel a responsibility for having unwittingly misled our readers at that time, and we have no intention of resting under criticism, direct or implied, for voicing our reaction in the strongest terms at our command.

We have raised the question whether some other interests, adverse to the priority being given to our causeway project, are not actively lobbying at Ottawa at present. We do not know. But nothing that Mr. Walker or Premier Shaw has said has reassured us on this point. Something very strange has happened within the last two months, that is sure. The more we study the two statements attributed to the Works Minister on the subject, the more puzzled we are that they should have emanated from the same source.

After Deputy Soviet Premier Mikoyan took off from Halifax on the last lap of his trip to Mexico, we sort of lost sight of him. We knew he was going to peddle Communist wares, and incidentally sow as many tares as he could in the field of U.S. relations. We have great respect for Mr. Mikoyan's persuasive abilities, but this time he seems to have run into a hornet's nest.

Things also went badly for the Soviets at their trade fair in Mexico City, which Mikoyan had opened. Russian guides were heckled. Anti-Communist stickers were surreptitiously pasted on exhibits. Police once had to move in to prevent a physical clash between Mexicans and Russians.

Now this is remarkable. Mexicans have had reason, over the years, to be critical of our American neighbors. Since the war of 1848, which ended in the U.S. acquiring vast Mexican territory, there was the Veracruz expedition of 1914 and still later incidents involving Mexican rights or sensibilities in border and trade disputes.

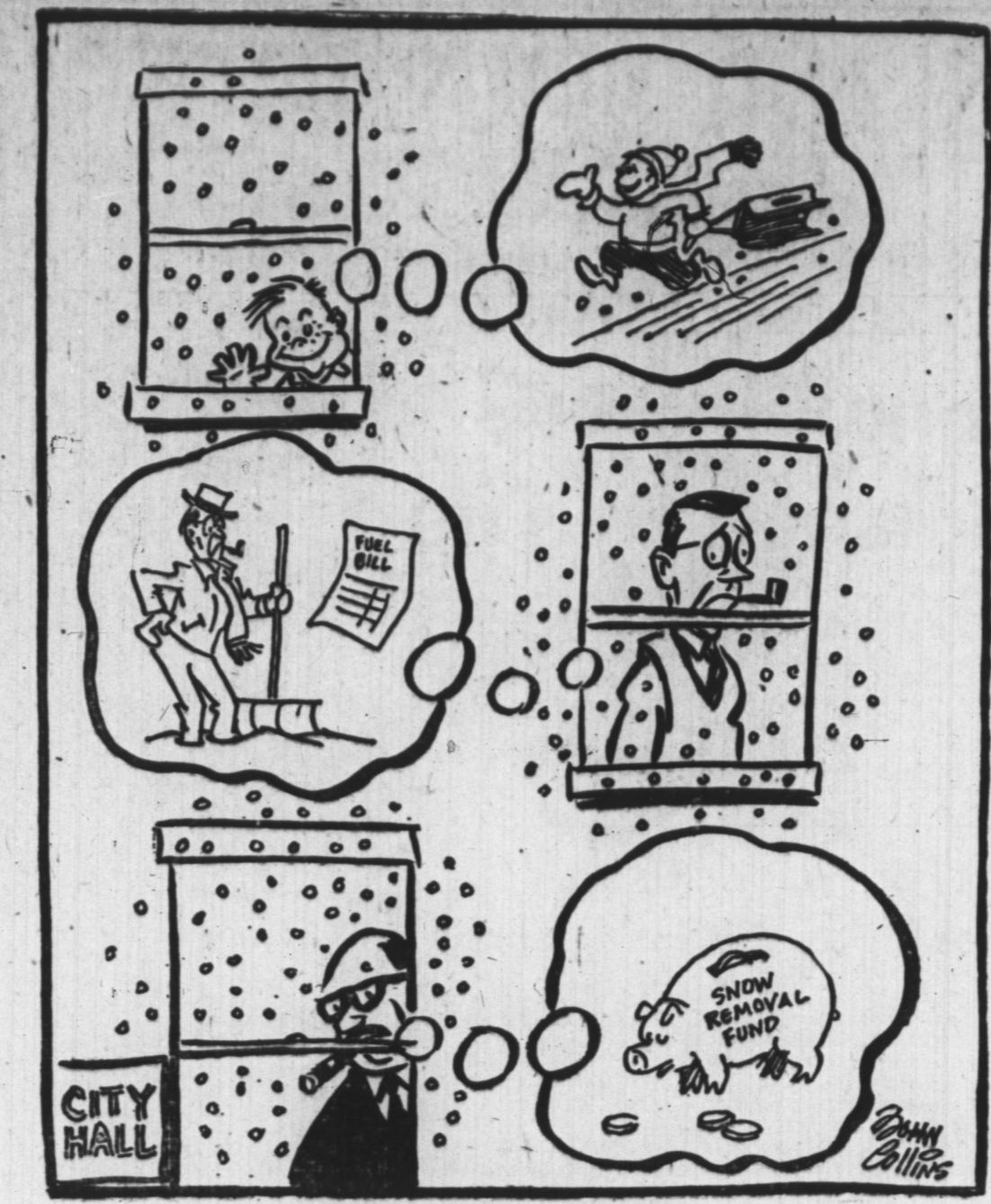
But a change in quite recent years has been going on. Old wounds have healed and there has been an increasing exchange of good-will visits by officials of both countries. This climate of good neighborliness has paid off. Mexicans don't welcome purveyors of propaganda against their friends and allies, and their stout defense against the arrows of Mikoyan has set a fine example.

We in Canada have long since buried the hatchet with our great neighbor to the south, and our quarrels now are of the kind that occur even among the best of friends. Weighed against our incentives to mutual solidarity, they are nothing at all. This is now the situation down south. We don't know what report Mr. Mikoyan has given to Premier Khrushchev about his Mexican trip, but he is not likely to be billed for a return engagement.

The Canadian Mental Health Association has taken on a project of ensuring that no mental patient shall be without a worthwhile gift at Christmas. They are asking the more fortunate citizens outside mental hospitals to add one item to their Christmas shopping list for a mental patient. Cash is not requested; in fact it's discouraged. They want the evidence of personal interest in the form of a gift to pass along to a sick person who'll know by it that someone in the world outside really cares. In this Province, gifts may be sent to the various receiving centres, as advertised through The Guardian, where White Cross volunteers of the Island division of CMHA will see that they are delivered to patients at Riverside.

One good recommendation by the Royal Commission on Price Spreads has received less publicity than it deserves. That was for establishment of a permanent and independent council to make a continuing review of prices, productivity and incomes in the food sector of the Canadian economy. It is suggested that the council be endowed with funds to enable it to operate independently for periods of five years.

According to the Post Office Department, there's only one way for Canadian householders to stop the flow of advertising material into the mailboxes. Any person who objects to receiving this material—usually mixed in with regular mail—can refuse to accept delivery of it. They can meet the postman at the door and tell him to take it back; and he will. But according to the Canadian Press, there is one other course of action for those complaining. They can accept the material, then place it in a sealed envelope without their return address and mail it back to the sender. It's a long-standing postal rule that mail not bearing postage carries double indemnity to the addressee on delivery.



FIRST SNOW

OTTAWA REPORT

New M.P.C.A. President

By Patrick Nicholson
The present Conservative government is the first administration to appoint a woman to the Federal Cabinet.

Thus it was no accident that one of the characters most prominent and most honoured at this meeting was the woman whose active public career stretches continuously from the long-ago time when she was a leading campaigner for "Votes for Women".

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

SPEAKING OF MESSES

Sir.—The leader of the Opposition, Mr. Alex Matheson, was never noted for his modesty, and his government's recent rejection by the electorate has unfortunately not diminished that annoying and even hyperbolic characteristic, if we are to judge from his recent statements as reported in the press.

Trouble In Brazil

By Edward T. Butler
Associated Press Analyst
RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—For more than a year, Brazilian President Juscelino Kubitschek's government has been under heavy fire.

This land of more than 62,000,000 people is racked with serious economic problems. Living costs have skyrocketed, wages have remained low. Housewives have had to stand in line because of shortages of beef, rice and beans—three items that Brazil normally produces in abundance and cheaply.

EDITORIAL NOTES

With all his vaunted knowledge, why did he not keep an eye on his engineers in the planning and attempted construction of the little Hillsboro causeway, which now consists of two unjoined heaps of mud, and hundreds of tons of concrete and steel lost in the mud, and no inkling of when the mess might be cleaned up?

TWO TESTS

With that in the background, Kubitschek last week faced two events that could have caused him serious trouble, if not unseated him. One was a revolt by air force and army officers who charged that Kubitschek's government was leading the country to economic disaster and that it was riddled with corruption and Communists.

Some Allergic To Occupation

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
EVEN IN this weather, allergic diseases are causing absences from work. It is estimated that allergic skin conditions alone cost the national productive effort more than \$25,000,000 each year.

Respiratory diseases, too, take a terrific toll in money and manpower during the winter weather. OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES Allergic occupational skin diseases are encountered in virtually every type of work. However, they are especially troublesome among chemists and laboratory technicians, florists, photographers who handle developers, handlers of fruits and vegetables, rubber compounders, munition workers, cannery workers and persons who work with plastics, dye intermediates and insecticides.

MAJOR OFFENDERS There are far too many chemical irritants for me to list here. However, here are a few of the major offenders: Certain soaps, insecticides, coal tar derivatives, plasticizers, explosives, natural and synthetic resins, photo developers, rubber accelerators and anti-oxidants, cosmetics, oils, dye intermediates and dyes used for leather, hair, fur and fabrics.

A FEW OF THEM Let me list just a few of the occupations in which inhalants causing respiratory allergies sometimes may be found: Barbers, bakers, beauticians, flour mill workers, furriers, butchers, rag sorters, butchers, canners, coffee processors and d grocers, poultry handlers, farmers, grain elevator operators and inspectors.

OTHER FIELDS Insect exterminators, florists, makers of artificial flowers, workers in refrigeration, printers, jewelers, metal polishers, painters, toy manufacturers, watch-house workers and persons involved in finishing furniture, bedding, rugs, brushes, clothes, gloves and shoes.

QUESTION AND ANSWER Mrs. H. W. S.: If eyebrow hair between the eyes are removed often in the early teens, will they eventually grow in again? Answer: Unless the roots of the hairs are destroyed, as by electrolysis, they will continue to grow.

STAMP DEBATE

OTTAWA (CP)—Frank Howard, CCF member of Parliament for Skegna, said today he will introduce a bill at the next Parliament sifting the law respecting trading stamps. He said in an interview that he will have the support of the CCF party in proposing the private member's bill, which will take the form of an amendment to the Criminal Code.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Cold weather causes an improvement in the appearance of a man, in that the more of his anatomy that's covered, the better he looks.—Sarnia Observer
Most people get an enormous kick out of doing something they can't afford. That's why so many people are enjoying living more than ever before.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Most Canadian boxing fans will applaud the decision of Yvon Durelle, fisherman-fighter of New Brunswick, to hang up his gloves. Age plus the fearful beatings this game former British Empire champion took at the hands of Archie Moore and George Chuvalo left him little other choice.—Ottawa Journal

Mars, about which astronomers have been speculating for years, is coming in for increased attention these days. Prof. Kirill Ogorodnikov of Leningrad adds his contention to that of many another scientist that Mars contains life. What's more, says Prof. Ogorodnikov, the Soviet Union will soon send a "Marsnik" up to photograph the planet and prove that life exists there.—Milwaukee Journal

A few weeks ago we complained about inability to find a shop that would fix a cigarette lighter. We took it to three tobacco shops which sell lighters and to three jewelers. None would have any part of it, as it was of foreign make, it had no material value but it had a real value as a keepsake, a memento. But none was interested. They offered to sell us a new one (we had a couple of other ones which did work). Finally we found a handy chap in our own office. With a little screw driver he took it apart. A coil on the end of the spring had broken. He attached it up and the whole operation took about 15 minutes. It works as well as new.—Windsor Star

The Age Old Story And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Canada's Generous Offer Milwaukee Journal
One goal of the United Nations in the next year is to find homes for the thousands of persons still in refugee camps of western Europe.

A major difficulty is that many of these remaining refugees are "hard core" cases. They are persons who are old or ill and who, with their families, would be a burden on the receiving country. Especially difficult to resettle are persons with tuberculosis. Most generous, therefore, is the announcement of Canadian Foreign Minister Howard Green before the UN general assembly that Canada will accept a "substantial number" of the tuberculosis refugees. As a beginning, 100 "cases" will be received, with the total number of individuals exceeding that figure because of family members.

Shippers Ahoy! WEEKLY EXPRESS SERVICE all winter DIRECT FROM MARITIMES to ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND
When a service maintains a leading position in its field for 38 years it must have real value. As further evidence of this leadership, CLARKE will operate this winter a greatly increased frequency of sailings from Halifax and Saint John, N.B. to St. John's, Newfoundland, with two large steamers: "NOVAPORT" and "HIGHLINER"
Fixed weekly sailings will permit money-saving planning and inventory control for shippers and their customers, throughout the winter season.

I am, Sir, etc. JON-PARTISAN Charlottetown.