

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
W. J. Bennett - Publisher and General Manager
Bureau, Lewis
Editor
Published every week-day morning (except Sun-
days and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street,
Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.
Incorporated in Canada.
Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers
Advertising Services, Toronto, 435 University Ave.
(Editors: 3-6231) Montreal, 426 Catherine Street
(Circulation: 62,222). Western office: 1030 West Georgia
Street, Vancouver (C.M.A. 100-7777)
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Subscription rates:
Not over 30c per week by carrier.
\$2.00 a year by mail or rural routes and areas
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\$1.50 a year off island, U.K. and U.S.A.
\$1.00 cash to post office order.
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Mr. Hees & The Jet Age

This Island Province has a big stake in the future of air transportation in Canada. Speaking on this subject in Toronto last week, Hon. George Hees, Federal Minister of Transport, noted that in the past ten years domestic traffic by air has skyrocketed from one million to nearly 5 million passengers a year, while international services will, this year, carry more than a million and a half people to or from Canada—an increase of 5 times the number carried a decade ago. In the same period, the cargo handled by Canadian carriers has increased from 50,000 tons to five times that volume today.

On air terminal construction, Canada spent \$8.5 million in 1957. In 1958, \$13.5 million was spent. For the current year the allotment is over \$20 million.

What does the future hold for Canadian aviation as it jet-propels itself into the second half century of its existence? Lacking the foresight of a Leonardo da Vinci, Mr. Hees confessed that he would have to look into the traditional crystal ball. There he found the image bright indeed. It is quite likely, he said, that fifteen to twenty years from now we shall be carrying over 30 million domestic air passengers a year in Canada, and over 10 million passengers to and from Canada a year on international flights, at 600 miles an hour.

On the longer range flights from coast to coast and across the Atlantic, supersonic planes will be in operation, flying at 1,800 miles an hour and at a height of 75,000 feet—crossing the continent in one and a half hours, and the Atlantic in well under two hours. By that time most of the operations will have become automatically controlled through radar and electronic devices.

In cargo flying also, growth will continue; and just as the railways are now doing piggy-back operations with trailers, we should see some form of combined aircraft-ground operation; planes combined with trucks to offer direct express and cargo services by use of through pallets or pods, in an integrated air, road and possibly rail movement.

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Advised Publicity

It is unfortunate that at a time when unity among the sixteen North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations is so important, open friction should have arisen over remarks attributed to U.S. General Twining at a secret NATO meeting last week. General Twining is reported to have blamed France for being the main nation responsible for delays in carrying out NATO's current defense program. If so, he said nothing new. The misfortune lies in the fact that this talk at a secret session has leaked out, and it would appear that American sources are blamed for the leak.

There would be no point in a secret meeting if matters of internal dissent were not discussed and ironed out. And France under General de Gaulle has become a problem ally to the Western powers. Since he became president a year ago, de Gaulle has worked impressive improvements in the national economy, but he has also raised disturbing issues in connection with free world unity and security.

French naval forces in the Mediterranean from wartime control of NATO. He has repeatedly criticized the integrated NATO command structure, insisting "that France defend herself by herself, for herself and in her own way." He insists that France become a nuclear power and have an independent intercontinental nuclear striking force. He seeks to establish a continental bloc, a Third Force, within the western alliance with France as its leader. Ahead of European unification he puts close Franco-German co-operation, calling it "the condition and perhaps the grandeur and glory of tomorrow's civilization."

Washington is annoyed because the French president has been impeding progress toward a summit conference. The British are concerned about his blocking of a working co-operation between the European Common Market and the peripheral European Free Trade association. Nor do the Germans like de Gaulle's anti-NATO leanings. Only last week Chancellor Adenauer discouraged talk of a continental Third Force and his foreign minister urged "leading nations of Europe" to realize, along with West Germany, that they are no longer great powers able to pursue independent national policies.

The Western powers appreciate the value of having a stronger France as an ally; but allies can work only in co-operation. They have been seeking to obtain this result without open criticism, for it is not a question of seeking to replace de Gaulle, but of winning him over to more reasonable policies. That no doubt was what General Twining sought to do in his frank statements behind closed doors. The French now are incensed at the American press for revealing what went on, and this does indeed appear to be a case of irresponsible journalism.

An Odd Dispute

At their Ottawa gathering last week, the Liberals accused the Tories of an extraordinary crime. They charged them with having constructed the most awesome publicity machine in Canadian political history. It was so big, so good and so efficient, in their view, that there was something vaguely sinister about the whole thing. This was high (if backhand) praise indeed, coming as it did from a party which had itself displayed an amazing mastery of public relations techniques during the last 22 years that it held office nationally.

But, as Arthur Blakely points out in the Montreal Gazette, the Conservatives had a different story at their convention during the previous week. Far from being impressed by their publicity machine, they roundly criticised it on the ground that it was not shedding enough light on what the Government was doing.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The tempo of Christmas shopping has speeded up, and this means a rush of traffic on the streets and in the stores. Motorists and pedestrians both should be alert for accidents. A special thought, too, should be given to hard-working clerks who cannot serve everyone at once, although every patron's custom is welcomed. A little patience on the shoppers' part will be a kindly act of courtesy.

According to a broadcast by an Oxford University neurologist, after the age of 20 the cells of the brain begin to disappear at the rate of 50,000 a day. This prompts the Manchester Guardian to note that Prime Minister Macmillan's cabinet has already lost 31,150,000 units of intelligence since it took office, and that it will go on losing them at the alarming rate of 950,000 a day for the next five years. Applying this calculation to our own federal and provincial governments, we find... But no, it can't be! There must be a mistake in the figures somewhere.



SPACE AGE PRESIDENT

OTTAWA REPORT

Ross Thatcher Rides Again

By Patrick Nicholson
An almost forgotten man is emerging again onto the political stage and is already meriting the spotlight. Formerly the newspaperman's dream and the Liberal Government's scourge, once the small merchant who appeared to be a traitor to private business, always the politician with the warm heart and the cool head, Moose Jaw's Ross Thatcher has come out of involuntary retirement to lead the Liberals in Saskatchewan.

His battle against the C.C.F. will be easy if he can do this. But as he told me here last week, either the Tories or the Soeds could live off enough anti-socialist votes to let the C.C.F. win again on a minority vote, yet neither of these parties has a reasonable chance of itself being elected as government. In ten weeks, the new Liberal leader has made a typically energetic start on his long-shot task. He has already marshalled 31 excellent candidates for next summer's expected election. These include four mayors, seven reeves, and several former C.C.F. or Tory politicians. He has seven full-time organizers working across the province, including former federal M.P. Irving Stender.

He regards his role not just as another political leader seeking electoral victory, but as a gallant knight who must ride forth next summer to slay the dragon of socialism. To do this, he must defeat the four-time winner, Premier Tommy Douglas, whom he has already bested in the famous public debate on Crown Corporations in Saskatchewan.

His programme has the charm of bold simplicity: to gather all the anti-socialist vote in the province, and all the free-enterprise support in Canada, in one united front. He points out that Douglas has won three elections with a minority vote against a free-enterprise opposition split three ways.

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Europe's Little Six

National Geographic Society
Europe's Little Six have become the Little Six. Meeting at the summit of a hill in Liechtenstein in a one-day conference this fall, the Little Six added Luxembourg and the Vatican City to their organization of compact states. The tiny - power lineup now reads, in descending order of size: Luxembourg, Andorra, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Monaco, and the Vatican City, the National Geographic Society says. All six could easily fit into the King Ranch in Texas.

Inconsistent Views

Daily Cleaner, Fredericton
We were surprised to hear that Mr. C. S. Frost, retired president of the Bank of Nova Scotia, is against subsidies for the Maritimes. We expected more understanding of our problems from this distinguished Nova Scotian, a man who started in the banking business at the age of fifteen. Mr. Frost will get no dissent when he says new industries and markets will cure our ills. But when he says subsidies solve none of our problems, we have to protest.

There are inconsistencies in his views. Why would he cut off subsidies to the Maritimes and do nothing about the mammoth tariff structure which protects Central Canadian manufacturing from U. S. competition? Why is it wrong to subsidize Maritime coal and Maritime transportation, and right to subsidize the great industries of Quebec and Ontario?

Why did Mr. Frost say nothing, for example, about the special freight rates which enable western grain growers to move their wheat at rates set sixty years ago, rates which are now far below the railways' cost of moving it? We are beginning to believe that, in the minds of many people, subsidies are only wrong and uneconomical when they are applied for the benefit of the Atlantic Provinces. We agree with Mr. Frost that

Good Eyesight In Chief Demand

By Herman N. Danderson, M. D.
YEAR by year a college education is becoming more essential. Most of you, I know, are planning, or at least hoping, to send your children to a university. But will these youngsters be physically equipped for higher education? The demands of school and college are growing stiffer all the time.

PRIME REQUISITE
Efficient vision is a prime requisite for most college students, since about 83 per cent of all knowledge comes through the eyes. It's up to you, the parents, to protect this precious eyesight from the very beginning.

For a student who is hampered by visual trouble may fail to be accepted by some colleges and may not even be able to graduate from high school.

BEGINS WITH GOOD HEALTH
Good eyesight, like so many things, begins with good general health. Your child should have a simple, well-balanced diet and, a lot of sleep, exercise and fresh air.

Moreover, I strongly urge a thorough eyesight examination for all children when they are three or four years old. Watch your child's reading habits. For one thing, don't let him read for prolonged periods. Moderation is advisable in everything, as I have so often said.

PERIODIC REST
Advise him to rest his eyes every once in a while, either by closing them or by gazing off into the distance. You can't expect a child to come to you and complain that he is having eye trouble. You must watch for telltale signals.

SOME INDICATIONS
I have listed many warning signs in the past, but I don't think this sort of thing can be over-emphasized. So here are some indications that signal a trip to an eye specialist:

Fatigue after continued eye-work, watering eyes, constant rubbing of the eyes, reddish eyelids, squinting, frowning or scowling. Also drooping head, inattentiveness, restlessness, crossed eyes, a dislike for reading, leaning over a desk while reading, tilting the head to one side, aversion to bright lights and holding reading material either too close or too far from the eyes.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. G. K.: Is it possible for a person to have astigmatism in one eye and be near-sighted in the other eye?
Answer: This condition is very possible.

The Poet's Corner

ANY WOMAN
I am the pillars of the house;
The keystone of the arch am I.
Take me away, and roof and wall
Would fall to ruin utterly.

I am the fire upon the hearth,
I am the light of the good sun,
I am the heat that warms the earth,
Which else were colder than a stone.

At me the children warm their hands;
I am their light of love alive.
Without me cold the hearthstone stands,
Nor could the precious children thrive.

I am the twist that holds together
The children in its sacred ring.
Their knot of love, from whose close tether
No lost child goes a-wandering.

I am the house from floor to roof,
I deck the walls, the board I spread;
I spin the curtains, warp and woof
And shake the down to be their bed.

I am their wall against all danger.
Their door against the wind and snow.
Thou whom a woman laid in manger,
Take me not till the children grow!

—Katharine Tynan
in the New York Times

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Dec. 15, 1934)
The North Pinette bridge, the longest, excepting the Hillsboro, on the Island, was completed last week. The new bridge is 1,000 feet long and comprises 114,000 feet of hemlock, 250 piles, 25,000 yards of clay fill, 20 tons of rock and 4,000 feet of railing.

Mr. Gavin Reid, Montague farmer, has received word from Ottawa advising him that he has been elected Director of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association for the coming year, Mr. Reid

NOTES BY THE WAY

Mozart composed music at the age of five. He lived in a backward country that had no laws forbidding child labor.—Sarnia O server
A farmer was the owner of a good bull. A stranger came up the lane to the farmer one day and asked: "What will you take for your bull?" "That depends," the farmer said. "Are you a tax assessor, or has he been run over by a train?"—Financial Post

Lieut.-Gen. Burns says he cannot foresee a withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from the Gaza Strip. Maybe a force of this kind is like income tax, welfare services or pensions—once started they can't be stopped short of an upheaval.—Ottawa Journal

"The British Medical Association has launched a campaign to cure snoring." Press report. This is a laudable undertaking. To date the only known certain way to cure a person of snoring is to take some action that will stop him from breathing.—The War Cry

Mr. Khrushchev's recent boast that there are no persons in Russia being made to stand trial for political crimes marks a great step forward in improving Soviet living conditions. At the same time his insistence on the greatness of this achievement emphasizes the backwardness of the previous situation.—Victoria Times

A London, England, reader has sent us a clipping of a privately inserted notice which appeared, edged in black, in the personal column of a recent issue of The Times. It reads: Harold of England—killed in action defending his country from the invader, 14 October, 1066. There is, it would seem, at least one "old soldier" who not only hasn't died but who, 897 years and goodness knows how many wars later, is still in the process of fading away.—Sackville Tribune-Post

MAXIMS
A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

Bourbon In Yeman

New York Herald-Tribune
Reports from the Middle East last week told of a new man without a country. He is one Alfonso Conde, a former United States citizen who gave up his nationality to embrace Islam and to become a resident of the Kingdom of Yemen, the world's most complete autocracy. According to these reports, Mr. Conde got into trouble with Yemeni royal officials, and was given the choice of either having his hands chopped off, or taking the next plane to Egypt.

Wisely enough, he took the latter course; but in his hurry to save his hands Mr. Conde forgot about such prosaic things as passports and visas. Yemen is somehow a part of the United Arab Republic (nobody knows exactly how), but the Egyptians won't have any part of Mr. Conde as long as his salvaged hands do not clutch a valid passport.

LATERAL BRANCH
The House of Conde is a lateral branch of the Bourbons, the royal house of France; and it was said of the Bourbons, though in a different connection, that they never forget anything nor learn anything.

It seems quite amusing, although undoubtedly less so to the unfortunate Mr. Conde, that the place that suited best the descendant of Europe's most despotic monarchs is that incredible corner of mediaeval anachronism which is the absolutist Kingdom of Yemen.

The Bourbon chromosomes indeed seem indestructible.

The Age Old Story

Thou rulest the raging of the sea; when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

will attend the annual meeting of the Association to be held in Montreal late in January.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Dec. 15, 1949)
Last night at the Summerside Curling Rink the Gaboury Cup was won by the Charlottetown Curling Club by the close score of 32 points to 49. The cup was presented at the conclusion of the games by Mr. F.G. MacIntyre, president of the Prince Edward Island Association.

Air Vice-Marshal C.R. Siemon, air officer commanding Training Command, will visit the RCAF Station, Summerside, on Monday. This will be the first visit to this station of Air Vice-Marshal Siemon since his appointment to his command. He will also be present for the graduation ceremonies to take place Tuesday.

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