The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest link"

Unwelcome Visitation

Our oldest citizens will have difficulty in recalling anything like the havoc caused by the washout of bridges and flooding of highways over the weekend. Spring floods of such a nature are fortunately rare events in this Province. We are not experienced to cope with them, but from the detailed reports in our news columns it will be seen that strenuous efforts are being made and that the provincial department of highways is acting vigorously in meeting the emergency.

Highly commendable have been the precautions taken by the railway authorities in preventing serious damage to this vital line of communication. It speaks volumes for their efforts that all trains locally, were on schedule yesterday.

The damage caused to bridges and other permanent structures will run into many thousands of dollars, and their replacement will involve time as well as money. Planning on a province-wide scale will be needed to complete this work, with prior attention being given to the main traffic routes. Meanwhile, temporary arrangements to keep traffic moving and to aid families whose homes have been made untenable are under way, and we have no doubt that there will be the fullest cooperation with the authorities in speeding up this work.

It is fortunate that no serious accidents have been reported as a result of the flood conditions. In the long run, too, there will be advantages to the farmer in expediting his work on the land, and to the unemployed in the amount of extra labor that will be required during the spring and summer in repairing the widespread damage. It will not be all loss, by any means, though in this motorized age the traffic tieup is naturally a matter of prime concern. As for the budgetary plans about which we have been hearing so much in the Legislature, perhaps the less said about them now the better.

The Arctic Frontier

The Soviet Union has many things to answer for, but it would seem that in its relations with Canada, on our common frontier in the Arctic, co-existence is working pretty well. Indeed, as Dr. Frederick Roots, one of Canada's top Arctic scientists, has pointed out, "so far we're still on the receiving side" in the exchange of amenities. Much of our knowledge of the polar seas comes from freely available Russian technical journals, and our best maps of the area still originate behind the iron curtain.

Right through the much-discussed cold war, Russia has continued to transmit its Arctic weather sequences "in clear." Combined with the reports from a handful of joint Canadian-American weather stations in the Arctic islands, these have been the raw material for the Western world's forecasting, for it is in the swirling air masses around the pole that much of the weather of North America, the Atlantic Ocean and Western Europe has its origin.

Russian scientific teams camping on ice islands have drifted through what are at least technically Canadian waters. Not a cry of alarm has been raised—perhaps because Ottawa feels that eventually we shall benefit by this research. At any rate, the exchange of Arctic information continues unbroken.

Some Russian scientists have suggested politely that Canada might contribute more to this common knowledge. Perhaps with more and more technical experts going into the high Arctic each summer, including men of the polar continental shelf project of which Dr. Roots is co-ordinator, we shall be able to. Meanwhile we remain indebted to a supposed opponent for a type of knowledge which admits no boundaries.

Doubtless, of course, the Soviets find it to their advantage to act in this co-operative manner. It doesn't prove that they are less dangerous in their aggressive activities in other directions, or in their deep-rooted antagonism to our system of government and that kind of thing. But it does afford an example of the advantage of neighborly give-and-take that could be helpful in solving other difficulties, if the world would set its mind to it.

Good Work, Mr. Fulton!

Justice Minister Fulton has announced that four special penal institution for young offenders will soon be built by the federal government—one each in the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and the West. Present plans call for their completion within four years, and it is emphasized that they will not be solely for custodial purposes. They will be institutions of juvenile correction and reform, providing treatment and rehabilitation for those committed to serve terms for their infractions of the law.

This is a move to be welcomed by all interested in prison reform, and by all concerned with the problem of juvenile crime. The lack of facilities in present federal penitentiaries, according to Mr. Fulton, has made it impossible to carry out full segregation of juvenile incarcerees from older prisoners, and this has been one of the major factors in retarding rehabilitation at the stage where it is most needed.

The new juvenile institution for this area will be established in the vicinity of Springfield, N.S., though it will in no way be a part of, or connected with, the new minimum security prison recently established there. It will be strictly a new venture in prison reform, and will help to place Canada in the forefront of nations treating this problem along enlightened lines. Coupled with the plans announced provincially for the establishment here of a prison farm under improved conditions, and with similar activities in other provinces, it marks a forward step of great significance. Perhaps, in the years to come, it will be regarded as of more importance than many of the projects now looming larger in the public eye. Indeed, it is movements of this kind that can be said to be the true hallmarks of a civilization.

EDITORIAL NOTES

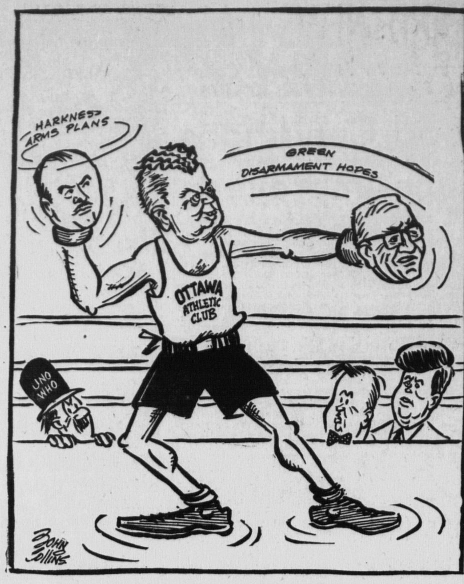
The late Rev. E.J. Dalton labored devotedly in his Master's vineyard, and his personality was such as to endear him to all with whom he came in contact. The Guardian tenders respectful sympathy to his brothers and sisters, and his parishioners at Hope River, in the loss they have sustained through his death at this time.

* * *

We note from an exchange that 2,600 volumes of new fiction were published in the United States last year. In addition, almost 4,500 works of fiction were published in Great Britain. Allowing for duplication in those two lists and for the great quantity of nonserious fiction—mysteries, westerns and the like—it still leaves a huge number of earnestly conceived novels struggling for a place in the sun.

* * *

The joint Canada-United States National Migratory Bird Committee has issued a report suggesting a number of measures for preserving the continent's waterfowl. The committee finds that the future of the waterfowl population as a whole is fairly well assured under the migratory birds convention which dates from 1916, but some species need close attention because their numbers are declining; these include the canvasback, redhead and ruddy duck. One interesting suggestion is that the governments of the two countries should embark on a huge program of water conservation in the prairie regions, in order to save the breeding places of many kinds of ducks and other waterfowl.



THE ART OF SELF DEFENSE

ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Major Legislation Of Local Interest

By Heath Macquarrie, MP

In what is generally regarded as the last session of the twenty-fourth Parliament many major pieces of legislation have already been passed in the thirty-seven sitting days since we assembled on January 18. Prominent among the measures adopted was one to extend the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Program by an additional forty million dollars.

The program, one of the initiatives of the Diefenbaker government, has been of great assistance to Prince Edward Island where more communities than ever before have taken advantage of the Dominion Government's offer to assume fifty per cent of the payroll costs of projects in cities, towns, incorporated villages or school districts Work at Victoria Park and tree removal have provided employment in our capital city and other projects like the Sherwood fire hall and those at North River and Vernon River are indications of increasing use of this helpful program.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

The increase in the Old Age Security pension to $65.00 per month effective February 1 found quick passage in the House and Senate. No doubt it will be much appreciated by our senior citizens throughout the land. Legislation concerning Old Age Assistance, Disability and Blind Pensions providing for an increase in the Dominion share of these pensions was also passed and the provinces are moving to raise their contribution also.

Unemployment, a frequent subject for bitter debate in previous session, has not been in the forefront of argumentation in this one. The figures for many months have shown a marked improvement in this difficult and important aspect of our economic life. Significant and encouraging too have been the increases in our foreign trade.

One of the ablest persons in public life and Canada's first woman Senator passed away recently amid widespread sorrow in both chambers of our national legislature. Senator Cairine Wilson appointed to the red chamber in 1930 was prominent in many fields and recognized beyond the shores of Canada for her great intellectual and humanitarian pursuits.

CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

The centenary of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference will be one of the major events in the history of Prince Edward Island and we were all delighted at another indication of national support for our celebration. The other day the Prime Minister announced that the Dominion Government will provide an immediate grant of $250,000, to make possible a start on the Fathers of Confederation Memorial Building. He also revealed that the Ottawa administration will contribute up to $2,800,000, toward the cost of the building.

Certainly all Prince Edward Island citizens have reason to appreciate the tangible support being put forth by Ottawa. The architectural competition which resulted in the selection of a design for the structure was made possible by a grant of $30,000 from the Canada Council.

In January 1960 and July 1961 I had the opportunity to speak in the House of Commons concerning our 1964 celebration and urged Dominion support for a permanent object of remembrance. This has now been forthcoming in large and generous measure and we all look forward to similar assistance from provincial and private sources throughout the country.

A GOOD SHOWING

It is always a pleasure to welcome Island visitors to Ottawa and we were all delighted to have Saint Dunstan's University debating team and their coach Rev. Dr. Francis Bolger. Although the S.D.U. boys did not win the national contest this year they made a splendid showing and reflect credit upon their alma mater and their instructors.

When it was seeking office, the present government in 1957 promised to end redistribution by political pressure and to set up an imparitial body in its place. Legislation now before the House of Commons is designed to bring this about. Thus another unfortunate and evil practice of our politics has gone into the limbo of discard to which it should have been relegated long ago.

PUBLIC FORUM

ELECTORAL REFORM

Sir,—We have read your lead article of March 31st concerning the report of the Royal Commission of Electoral Reform with considerable interest. Anticipating the public interest which such a report will generate, we have obtained a copy of the Commission's submission, and feel that certain comments would be in order.

Many changes advocated by the Commissioners are immediately apparent as formal recommendations; others, equally important, are incorporated in the final recommendation (Number Seventeen) which advances a draft Election Act.

The Commissioners are to be specially commended for advocating the abolition of the archaic system of multiple voting. Such a system is incompatible with even the broadest interpretation of the democratic function. We commend, further, the following suggestions, included in the report; the appointment of an independent Returning Officer, revision of the Election Act after every federal census, the establishment of advance polls, and the movement, though slight, toward greater representation for the populous urban areas of Prince Edward Island.

It would also appear that the Commissioners have recommended the removal of the obsolescent one hundred dollar freehold requirement (see Revised Statutes, P.E.I., 1952, Chap. 48.-9.d); by this system an elector for Assemblyman was required "to be an owner, occupant, or possessor for at least six months of freehold property of one hundred dollars."

Such suggested reforms were to be expected, and are long overdue; excepting the suggestion on multiple voting, the implementation of the report would entrench the present outmoded system. Royal Commissions should serve as a blueprint for long-range action; they should not be concerned with the immediate implementation of their suggestions. The right to policy decisions, rests, as it should, with responsible ministers and with the Legislature.

Few commission reports have been accepted in their entirety; the sweeping changes or innovations suggested by such as the Rowell-Sirois, Fowler, Massey and Gordon Reports offered a beacon on which progressive governments could set up their sights. These Commissions were not concerned with the social and religious aspects of politics for such are the concerns of those who must implement the submission of a Royal Commission. We are tempted to suggest from reading the report, that the Commissioners have been too modest and short-sighted in their proposals.

We are particularly upset by the proposed retention of the property franchise and the niggardly move in the direction of "rep by pop" for pertinent information on the latter, see Debates of the Legislative Assembly, Province of Canada, 1851-1864). By raising the property franchise from $350 to $1000 it would appear that the Commissioners are suggesting that tne property franchise be entrenched and rigidly applied.

Hopefully, we anticipated the removal of this property franchise, and barring this, some logical defence of the present system, so unique in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth. But the Commissioners advocate the retention of the present system, undefended. They merely point out, quote, "We also recommend that the distinction between Councillor and Assemblyman be retained as essential to the two-member, two-contest constituency of this province."

To be specific: in Charlottetown (5th Queens) in 1959, 10,010 people voted. Of these electors, in excess of fifty per cent (5372) were allowed a second vote merely because they possessed property valued in excess of $350. Why should the remainder (4638) be considered politically inferior to their compatriots in every other Canadian city? As regards "rep by pop", the transfer of a single riding from Kings to an urban area in Queens and the slight modification made in Prince appear as little more than sops to the swelling urban population.

Two minor criticisms concern the hours of polling, and the time to be given to employees to exercise their franchise on the provincial polling days. The Commissioners suggest that the Election Act be patterned after the Dominion Election Act. This latter act states that employees must be given up to three hours free time to vote on a federal election day; the Commissioners suggest one hour be provided in provincial elections. Does it take three times as long to vote in a federal election?

Secondly, polling hours in federal elections are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., local time. We suggest that it would be wise to consider altering the Commissioners' suggestion (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) to conform with the Dominion Election Act, thus allowing a heavier morning vote, and spreading the vote more evenly throughout the polling day.

We trust that the members of the Legislature will give serious consideration to the qualifications for voters as advocated by the Commissioners. Section 22 (1) and 22 (b) of the draft act state that in order to vote for a Councillor or an Assemblyman the individual must be a "Canadian citizen". This is in direct contrast with the Dominion Election Act (see Revised Statutes, Canada, 1952: Chap 23. 14. 1. b.) which states that the individual must be either a Canadian citizen or other British subject, and the present P.E.I. Election Act (see R.S., P.E.I.: Chap 48. 8 and 9) where the requirement is simply "British subject". The application of this proposed act would result in the disenfranchisement of a number of prominent Island residents.

On one point we would suggest a deviation from British practice.

In New Brunswick and Quebec a commendable trend has

(Continued on page 11)

X-ray Is Said Good Method To Detect Cancer

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

DEAR DR. VAN DELLEN:

Is X-ray the only method of detecting cancer?" writes Mrs. L. No, but it is one of the best ways to uncover cancers that cannot be seen or felt. In addition, X-ray provides an excellent screening device for the early detection of internal cancers.

When certain shadows are noted in the chest X-ray, the physician may suspect a malignancy but other tests are needed for confirmation. The sputum is sent to the laboratory to determine whether it contains cancer cells. If this test is negative, a bronchoscopic examination is recommended, provided the lesion is located in an area where it can be seen.

The tube is passed through the mouth and into the lung. A small piece of the tumor is removed and sent to the laboratory where it is examined for cancer cells (biopsy). In other instances, a biopsy of neck gland material is done because lung cancers often spread in this direction.

If all the tests are negative and the physician still thinks the lung lesion is malignant, he may recommend an exploratory operation. This is worthwhile because there is no surer way to diagnose cancer than to see it, feel it, remove it, and have it examined by a pathologist.

External cancers can be seen whereas those just under the skin or in the superficial tissues can be felt. This is true also of breast cancer. These lesions can be diagnosed by biopsy or by examination of the tissues after removal. Laboratory tests of the secretions (cytology) are done frequently to detect cancers of the cervix or uterus. Many physicians do these tests routinely and it is surprising how often an early malignancy of the uterus is detected by the Pap test in a woman who had no symptoms.

Radioactive isotopes and sound waves also are used in diagnosing certain cancers. The physician also has available many devices and chemical solutions such as barium, which is employed in conjunction with X-rays, when examining the gastrointestinal tract. But we lack a single easy procedure, such as a blood test, possibly because cancers are not all the same.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self - addressed envelope accompanies request.)

PROLONGED TREATMENT

R. W. writes: Three months ago I started treatment with a doctor who says I have fluctuating high blood pressure and a high cholesterol count. I take two kinds of medicine and have to see him every two weeks. I'm on a low salt, low cholesterol diet and have lost 15 pounds. My blood pressure has been normal since two weeks after I started with him but he tells me to continue. Must this go on forever?

REPLY

Why not ask for a consultation, since it is obvious you feel you are being overtreated.

CLIMATE AND GLAUCOMA

B. D. writes: Is there any kind of climate that is considered good for a glaucoma sufferer?

REPLY

No. In this condition, the pressure within the eyeball is increased and I doubt if temperature or humidity influences the tension to any degree.

A NEW WRINKLE

B. F. writes: Will spreading mayonnaise over the face and neck counteract wrinkles?

REPLY

No, and it won't take the wrinkles out of prunes, lettuce, or anything else in salads or sandwiches.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The one time a husband has a chance for the last word is when he says, "Okay, here's the money!" — Chatham News.

The British are experimenting with a detergent which will dissolve in sewage disposal systems. If that won't work, perhaps we shall have to return to using those old-fashioned cleansers, soap and elbow grease. — Toronto Star.

A woman in Providence Rhode Island, raised $63 for the Republican National Committee by betting acquaintances that they could not spell Khrushchev's name. Each bet was 25 cents. The party might consider putting the money toward adult education on foreign affairs. — Ottawa Journal.

After the second act of "Avante Garde" in Champagne, Mrs. Frances left the theatre for the maternity hospital. Her husband was playing the mayor in the play, but went along to the hospital. The audience waited patiently for half - an - hour. There-upon, Monsieur Baron walked on stage and announced: "It's a girl!". After wild applause the play went on. — Le Figaro, Paris.

Asked why he murdered his wife a man told the authorities he did so because he didn't like her. That seems a plausible explanation, but scarcely a valid excuse. — Sarnia Observer.

Sailor (to judge at dog show): "Yes, sir, I paid $1,000 for that dog. He's part bull and part collie. Judge: "Which part is bull?" Sailor: "The part about the $1,000." — Montreal Star.

I see here vitamin pills now can be purchased in a dispenser that you must lift and a pill pops out automatically. It seems if a fellow takes vitamins every day, he ought to have the strength to take a cover from a bottle and shake one pill from it. — Chicago Tribune.

Chiang Kai-shek now tells reporters that an assault on the mainland by his forces is fast approaching. Chiang has about as much chance of successfully invading Communist China as Fidel Castro has of carrying the United States by storm. International relations are uneasy enough as it is. Let the United States, Chiang's only friend, now put him firmly in his place. — Fredericton Gleaner.

Fabled Sherwood Forest

National Geographic Society

British tree lovers want to keep Sherwood Forest as English as cricket and crumpets.

Her Majesty's Forestry Commission says the growth of English oaks in Robin Hood's woodland is being stunted by factory fumes and feeble soil. It has suggested the planting of American red oaks, which are sturdy, grow like weeds, and seem indifferent to their environment.

But the commission plan has not enchanted some Britons. "Nonsense-" said the elderly chairman of the organization Men of Trees. He gave English oaks a rousing vote of confidence, and suggested that the two species be planted side by side for a growth test. A decision would be deferred 500 years.

Sherwood's most famous tree —gnarled, wide-spreading Major Oak—is reputed to be about 1,400 years old. A ton of iron bands supports the boughs.

GREATLY DIMINISHED

Though Sherwood Forest's botanical future may be in doubt, its past is one of solidly English history, romance, and lore. The original expanse covered some 200 square miles. It was never unbroken forest, but a region of woods, glades, open heath. and wasteland. Pleasant byways connected the scattered hamlets, abbeys, and priories.

Near the end of the 18th century, the Crown permitted tracts to be sold. Today, much of the finest woodland stands on vast private estates known as the Dukeries. About 12,000 acres are publicly owned.

Man has encroached, but Sherwood Forest remains the most extensive area of woodland and heath in the industrial Midlands.

The major town is Nottingham, whose Sheriff was Robin Hood's archenemy. Anglo-Saxons occupied the site as early as the 6th century A mint was established there in the 10th century William the Conqueror in A.D. 1068 ordered a castle erected in place of an old wooden fort. The Domesday Book (1086) recorded 120 inhabitants.

When Nottingham was chartered in 1283, townspeople had already established the custom of holding an eight-day Goose Fair. The huge carnival is still held in early October; it draws crowds from all over England.

Nottingham's Trip to Jerusalem Inn, associated with the Crusaders, is one of the oldest in England. Another inn, with the poetic name of Salutation, was host on several occasions to the highwayman Dick Turpin.

WAS ROBIN REAL?

The city's best-known statue is, not surprisingly, that of Robin Hood. In near-by woods, it is easy to visualize the noble outlaw's encounter with Maid Marian, their marriage in the steepled church at Edwinstowe, the roly-poly figure of Friar Tuck, the antics of Little John, Will Scarlet, Alan-a-Dale, and the other merry men in green.

No one knows whether Robin Hood actually lived in medieval Nottinghamshire, but it seems treasonous to doubt it. Since the 14th century, people have told stories and composed ballads about his exploits. The folklore hero filled a need of his time, when common people mattered little in the social order.

Like today's Superman, Robin Hood could do no wrong: He robbed the rich to help the poor; warred against cruel authority; protected the ladies; excelled in sports and archery; lived the good life out-of-doors.

One legend says he was born the Earl of Huntingdon. In 1960. Others assign him to a different time. One diligent researcher found evidence that a Robyn Hod was in and out of the King's service—and the woods—in the 1320's. Another record says a Robert Hod's handmaid was taken to court in 1316 for taking wood from the forest and fined two shillings.

"Her technique was faulty," commented the said London Times, "but clearly she was being trained in the Robin Hood school."

HOOLEY'S MEN'S WEAR

Both stores, in Charlottetown and Montague, closed all day Tuesday due to a death in the family.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(April 3, 1937)

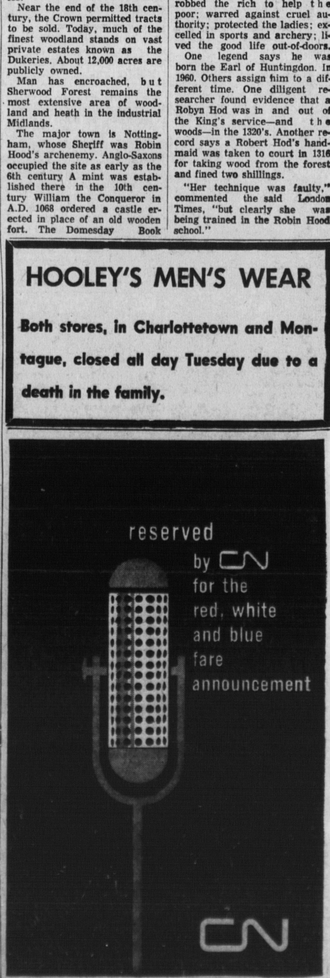
Passengers on the passenger-carrying freighter "Colborne", Canadian National Steamships, which arrived at Halifax yesterday, included Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Murray, Charlottetown. They were returning from a vagabond cruise to the West Indies and British Guiana.

Albert Dennis was unanimously chosen director of Charlottetown Male Chorus at the final rehearsal of the season last evening. Although Professor H. R. Shephard will be greatly missed by the Chorus, its members are enthusiastic about carrying on under the new director, who served at several rehearsals during Mr. Shephard's recent sick leave.

TEN YEARS AGO
(April 3, 1952)

"Country Gardens" an interesting and colorful spring fashion show staged by the Women's Auxiliary of the RCAF Station, Summerside, held its first showing at the station theatre last evening. The show which will be repeated this evening will donate its entire proceeds to the Prince County Hospital.

Donald Campbell, B.A., son of the Hon. John A. Campbell, M.L.A. of Heatherdale, this province, was recently honored by being appointed president of the Student's Council of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. Mr. Campbell received his B.A. degree from McGill and will complete, next year, his studies at the Presbyterian College.

The Age Old Story

He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.