The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1963.

The Farmer Budget

Provincial Treasurer M. A. Farmer delivered his maiden budget speech in the Legisiature last night, and he is to be commended upon the thoroughness with which he set forth the complicated matters involved. He was frank enough to recall that his predecessor, Mr. McQuaid, had anticipated another debt reduction this year. However, we are back into deficit financing and Mr. Farmer could only hold out the hope, on this point, that an adjustment program can be implemented over the next few years "which will retain a reasonable parallel between our revenues and our expenditures."

He listed the important capital and other extraordinary payments involved, which will probably amount to $10,106,075. Against these payments, some $4,795,862 capital receipts are anticipated, leaving a net capital disbursement of $5,310,213.

The government feels it to be a source of satisfaction that it has been able to carry through an advanced program of services even if it had to resort to deficit financing to the tune of $2.4 million. The greater part of this deficit is made up of payment of hospital insurance resulting from the cancellation of premiums, an excess in road maintenance costs of $3/4 million caused by severe conditions of the winter of 1962, flood damages to roads in the spring of 1962, and compensation to grain growers in the amount of $50,000.

Coming to the estimates for 1963-64, Mr. Farmer forecast a revenue surplus of $753,645 and a debt increase of $1,792,464, leaving an estimated total net debt of the province as at March 31, 1964, of $37,422,968.

Moreover, he is proposing to ask the Legislature to authorize a gasoline tax increase of two cents a gallon to provide an additional $320,000 revenue, and a 1 percent increase—from 4 to 5 per cent—in the sales tax, for an anticipated yield of $550,000.

It was a hard budget speech to make, and we are afraid the taxpayers will not accept it with much enthusiasm. It was a post-election budget, all right. More debt, more taxes. The purposes served by the increased expenditures are all laudable in themselves; but that—as the Opposition will no doubt be at pains to point out—wasn't quite the way these policies were presented in the last provincial campaign.

Premier Lesage's Demands

One of the troubles ahead for Mr. Pearson when he takes over at Ottawa may turn out to be the pre-election budget speech delivered in the Quebec Legislature by Premier Lesage. In this speech Mr. Lesage laid down a virtual ultimatum to the next Federal Government to turn over 100 per cent succession duties and a minimum of 25 per cent of income and corporation taxes collected in Quebec to the province. The Premier gave the next Federal Government — no matter which party formed it—one year to meet Quebec's demands on this issue. He added that there were many elements in the Liberal program federally "which correspond on the whole to the demands of the government I direct, at least to its present demands."

As pointed out by the Montreal Gazette, the difficulty here is that if the Federal Government were to comply with these demands, it would have to do the same for all the other nine provinces. The total loss in federal revenue would be formidable

"Nor is the matter even as simple as that," adds The Gazette. "A number of provinces would claim that they were being unfairly treated. For in some provinces where average incomes are relatively low, or where the head offices of corporations are relatively few, or large estates are rare, these percentages would not bring great increases in provincial revenues.

"These provinces might demand that they be given, by some form of equalization, revenues equal per capita to what Quebec would gain per capita by these arrangements. But this would require the Federal Government, by some means, to raise the necessary tax revenues for such equalization. And this, in turn, would require some increase of federal taxes in Quebec."

In other words, the situation would become a headache for all concerned. But Premier Lesage doesn't seem to be worrying much about that. Indeed, he has been under fire from Opposition speakers in the Quebec Legislature for not making greater demands for tax revenues. It will have to be looked at in a different light by even a friendly government at Ottawa.

Belated And Berated

The amendments to the Election Act to eliminate the Fifth District of Kings and add two seats to the Charlottetown area by creating a sixth district in Queens are still in committee. We trust that regardless of the manner in which they were introduced, they will pass, for they would correct a glaring injustice under our present electoral system. The DesRoches Commission had recommended these changes and the question arises, why weren't they put in the new bill in the first place? Why have them dragged in by the tail in this manner?

We don't know whether this was Mr. Speaker MacLean's reason for opposing them, but the unusual course he took serves to point up the irregularity of the whole proceeding. Nor can we blame the Opposition if it now votes against these measures. It is not obliged to give its reasons other than the fact that the Government withheld such important provisions for some reason or other, and it is entitled to know what that reason is.

Nor can it be blamed for drawing the conclusion that it was a political reason. Could it have been because the vote in Prince and Kings in the federal election campaign might be adversely affected? The Government may have had no such motive, or indeed any that smacked of partisanship; but the onus is on it now to prove that the amendments were simply an afterthought, or a plain case of bungling in drafting the legislation. In either case, we don't envy its job of making out a convincing alibi.

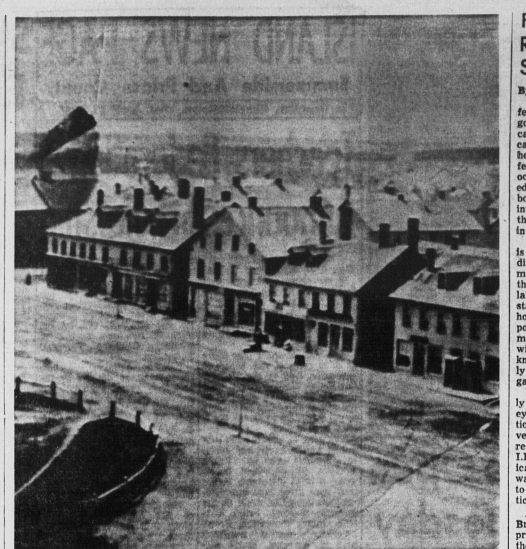
A previous amendment, making changes in Prince County districts, was passed by the House committee on a straight party vote. What is most regrettable is that all these provisions, recommended by the DesRoches Commission and for which substantial reasons exist in every case, have become a bone of political contention. Instead of seeking Opposition cooperation in the matter, and keeping the vote along non-partisan lines as much as possible, a course was followed that can at best be described as a prize example of ineptitude.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The newest thing in weed killers is an old weapon—fire. An agricultural research center at Plainview, Texas, is experimenting with a "flame cultivator"—a huge spider-like machine which sputs fire through metallic lines into low-lying weeds without damaging the soil or crops.

* * *

What's the chaste USSR coming to? From a leading Soviet paper we read this alarming news: "One cannot help noticing that criminal gangs of dealers draw into their machinations a comparatively wide circle of people, sow around themselves a contagion of money-grubbing, corrupt with tips and bribes to individual officials of various departments and institutions and even officials in the administrative organs."



OLD CHARLOTTETOWN

Grafton Street, looking from Provincial Building, early 1800s
Copied by Craswell Portrait Studio

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Joint Fathers Of The Next Commons

Fifty-nine year old Paul Martin and fifty-six year old Azellus Denis will jointly be "The Fathers of the House of Commons" when our newly-elected 26th Parliament meets — probably in mid-May.

Paul Martin and Azellus Denis were both elected to the House for the first time in the general election on 14th October, 1935. Mr. Denis was then 28 years old, and Paul Martin four years older. Thus Mr. Denis has now sat in Parliament continuously for exactly half his life.

Paul Martin is not only one of the real old pros of the House; he is also a triumphant veteran of the hustings. In nine election battles, his majorities have ranged from "comfortable" to "staggering" — mute testimony to the immense application of industry and intelligence which he brings to bear on his every endeavour in his political life. In his first election, he won by his smallest-ever majority, which was yet a comfortable margin of 1,079 votes.

ADVANCES STEADILY

Election after election, he augmented his lead over his nearest rival, until by the 1953 Liberal triumph it had grown to 14,416. By that stage, Paul Martin had progressed from being one of MacKenzie King's "Bright Young Men", through the apprenticeship of being one of Parliament's first "Parliamentary Assistants", to the high attainment of Cabinet rank. That no doubt impressed the voters of Essex East constituency, down in the southwest tip of Ontario; but perhaps he won more votes by his assiduous attention to such significant details as the birthdays and weddings and personal attainments of his electors, so frequently marked by note, or card, or telegram.

The Conservative surge in 1957 cut his majority slightly, but although whittled down to 1,623 in the great Tory Sweep of 1958, it was still a winner. Then Hon Paul Martin had his own surge: back to a margin of 16,081 in last year's election, and to his record majority of 16,423 last week.

Hon. Paul Martin, great student of politics, great practitioner of parliament, was tipped by the Canadian-born news paper tycoon Lord Beaverbrook, as this column reported some years ago, as "the next Liberal Prime Minister of Canada." That cherished ambition has so far but not finally eluded him; meanwhile he can easily nurse his status and stature as "Father of the House".

Mr. Denis, who appropriately represents the Montreal riding of St. Denis, has laboured in less glamorous political vineyards than the Cabinet and the United Nations where Hon. Paul Martin made his name. But whilst the Liberal Party was in opposition during the past six years, he has been official postal - affairs critic, roughly comparable to being Postmaster-General in the shadow cabinet. Here he has repeatedly entertained his audience in the House and in the spectators' Galleries by introducing the humourous needle.

No slip in postal administration escaped him, no robbery of a post office nor bombing of a mail box — nor even the temporary failure to clear a mail collecting box — escaped his eagle eye; and there he always was, on his feet in the Chamber to chide with wit but with damage the hapless Tory Postmaster-General. This is a post to which he may himself succeed.

There is a third M.P. who was elected to Parliament on the same day as Messrs Martin and Denis: Hon. Lionel Chevrier. But, unlike them, he has not served continuously ever since; he resigned from Parliament in 1954, to serve for nearly three years as first president of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority. Lionel Chevrier for long represented his native Cornwall, Ontario, as M.P. Since 1957 he has sat for Montreal-Laurier. He, like Paul Martin, rose to enjoy charter-membership of Mackenzie King's group of young-Liberals-with-a-future, and shares with him the status at the House of Commons senior Privy Councillor, dating from April 1945 when they both first became Cabinet Ministers.

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. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Sir, — I have been requested by many farmers to write a public letter regarding marketing of livestock, under present conditions, some problems of which have been pointed out by Mr. Daniel Gass, president Beef Breeders Association.

However at this time I believe a few questions would rather be in order. Mr. Gass has pointed out that the farmers have lost approximately $413,157 during a six - months period, and that the piece - fixing formula has been discontinued.

It is common knowledge that former Farmers Abattoir lost $52,255.14 on Government's refusal to give them promised Order - In - Council loan, and that Premier Shaw on March 30, 1962, promised the House an investigation into price - fixing by meat - packers. Shortly the farmers may be asked to contribute some money to try their luck on a Stockyard.

Those of us who believe in democracy, strongly urge the Government to do something besides promise. Further should any group, however sincere their intentions, be allowed to ask for financial aid from farmers for marketing enterprises, unless the Government proves to the people that they don't believe in monopolies.

I am, Sir, etc.,
WOODROW WHEATLEY
Mt. Edward Road.

REGIMENT'S CENTENNIAL

Sir, — We are writing to seek your assistance in locating all ex-members of The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment of Kingston so that they may be invited to attend and be informed of the details of the Centennial Celebration of the Regiment to be held at Kingston, May 31st to June 2nd inclusive.

Many members of the Regiment served with other Canadian and Commonwealth units, and are known to have dispersed across Canada and to other countries following demobilization in 1945.

The Centennial is being highlighted by the presentation of new Colours to the Regiment by His Excellency Governor General Georges Vanier, as well as the granting of the Freedom of the City of Kingston. Other events include a re-union dinner and a memorial drumhead service.

All ex-members of The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment are requested to communicate with: General Chairman, Centennial Committee, The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, The Armouries, Kingston, Ont.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,
GEO. LILLEY, Capt.

A Crisis For Gourmets

National Geographical Society

French gourmets, who suffered through the recent "artichoke war," faced still another gastronomic conflict without blinking — or missing a meal.

A "lobster war" flared briefly when the Brazilian Government prevented three French fishing boats from taking spiny lobsters off the coast of Brazil. The matter in dispute was whether the French were operating in international waters.

Though diplomats were tense, epicures were calm. The devotees of the haute cuisine never despaired as they did on those dark days in 1962 when French farmers destroyed their succulent artichokes rather than accept low prices for them.

FRESH NOT FROZEN

Spiny lobsters, or langoustes, are a delicacy, especially when garnished with truffles and artichokes. But gourmets demand fresh langoustes, and those Brazilian lobsters arrive frozen or canned. French gastronomes weathered the lobster crisis simply by continuing to eat the European species of langouste.

In spite of the purists' attitude, spiny lobsters are increasingly important in world fisheries because they stand freezing well and can be shipped anywhere.

The United States' catch of 3,500,000 pounds in 1962 was not nearly enough to satisfy its own great demand. Another 33,000,000 pounds — mostly frozen tails — were imported.

Spiny, or rock, lobsters eaten in the United States come mainly from Florida, the Caribbean, Brazil, West Africa, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Waters around the lonely South Atlantic isle of Tristan da Cunha were an important source until a volcanic eruption in 1961 forced the islanders to abandon their homes and fisheries.

Spiny lobsters belong to the family Palinuridae. The crustaceans hatch into larvae a fraction of an inch long with spidery legs, flat bodies, and large protruding eyes. The larvae are nearly transparent and, when submerged, only their pigmented eyes remain visible.

"It is a peculiar sight," said Dr. Hilary B. Moore, of the University of Miami Marine Laboratory, "to see an apparently unattached pair of eyes swimming around in a dish of water."

DRIFT WITH CURRENTS

Dr. Moore participated in a study of Gulf Stream life sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the University. Investigators found that ocean currents may carry young lobsters hundreds of miles from their spawning place. Fish eat so many of the myriad drifting larvae that only a few survive.

Mature spiny lobsters resemble a northern lobster, but lack its giant claws and stiff fantail. Long spines cover their bodies, legs, and even antennae.

Though their prickles provide some protection, spiny lobsters hide by day under rocks, sea grasses, large sponges and coral. They emerge at night when predators such as sharks and groupers are less active.

A spiny lobster walks about the bottom of the sea — sideways, forward, or backward. When alarmed, it springs backward by beating its tail.

Adult lobsters spend their lives close to home, but some have inexplicably crawled nearly 100 miles at the slow - but - sure rate of a mile a day.

BLESSES 20,000

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope John gave an Easter Monday blessing to 20,000 Italians and foreign tourists in St. Peter's Square. He appeared at his window at noon, recited the Angelus and gave his blessing. Easter Monday—called "Little Easter" in Italy—is a holiday in much of Europe.

Fever Blister Remedy Gives Sufferers Hope

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

SEVERAL REMEDIES for fever blisters have come and gone during the last two decades. Their going was not a calamity because the disorder, herpes simplex, is a benign infection unless complications occur and the eyes are affected. But those who find herpes a bothersome problem might be interested in a new remedy that worked exceptionally well in all but one of 18 patients.

The product is I.D.U., which is short for 5-iodo-2'-deoxyuridine, a liquid that blocks viral metabolism. It was prepared in the Smith, Kline and French laboratories and used by three staff members in two Brighton hospitals in England. They reported relief of pain and a marked change in the eruption within 24 to 72 hours. It is well known that fever blisters usually persist seven to 21 days, regardless of the remedy used.

I.D.U. was prepared originally to combat herpes of the eyes. This is a serious condition, especially when ulcer develops on the cornea and the residual scar blocks vision. I.D.U. proved to have a significant anti-viral effect and it was natural from these results to use the compound on herpetic infections of the skin.

According to a report in one British Medical Journal, the product was applied hourly in the form of a solution during the waking hours only. An ointment also was used four times a day. In all probability treatments will be simplified as more experience is gained with the product.

There have been no recurrences of the lesion. This is important and the British physicians have kept their fingers crossed until more time has elapsed. These lesions are a nuisance when they return with every cold, emotional upset, or menstrual period. Others develop them when overtired, following exposure to the sun, or foods.

Will I.D.U. prevent these recurrences? We hope so, because prevention will solve another medical toughie.

BALDING JAW

D.W. writes: A man has been losing hair on one side of the face for eight months. These bald spots make his jawline look like a woman's. He insists it is just nerves. What causes this type of patchy baldness on the face?

REPLY

Alopecia areata. This may be temporary but meanwhile the bald areas can be camouflaged with cosmetics. In addition, he can use medications to stimulate regrowth of hair.

BLOOD VESSEL WEAKNESS

H.B. writes: Is Bright's disease inherited? My grandfather died of it at age 42, my brother at age 34, and a cousin at 35. I'm 41 and have had one bout of this disorder.

REPLY

No. But certain causes are inherited, such as vascular disease that leads to high blood pressure and kidney involvement.

CURE NOT EASY

J.C. writes: Can a person who has been on dope for four years ever get cured?

REPLY

Yes, but drug addiction is difficult to cure. The chances are better for those who have been addicted for a short duration such as four years, than for individuals who have been using narcotics 10 or 15 years.

PRESCRIBED WALKING

Hippocrates prescribed walks to prevent emotional disturbances, hallucinations and expansion of the waistline.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Of the many predictions never realized the one most frequently made is that there will soon be a cure for the common cold. — Hamilton Spectator.

A professor of law was lecturing to his students: "If you have the facts on your side when fighting a case, hammer them into the jury. If you have the law on your side hammer it into the judge. But if you have neither the facts nor the law on your side, hammer the table as hard as you can." — Financial Post.

Cars with snow tires may not get stuck in the snow but they do get stuck behind cars without snow tires. — Ottawa Journal.

It's a good thing that women rarely know what they want. Just look how much they get as it is! —Galt Reporter.

Woman driver: "Can you fix this fender so my husband will never know I bent it?" Garage mechanic: "No, but I can fix it so that you can ask him in a few days how he bent it." — Montreal Star.

U.S. Inflation Problem

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

As more U.S. Steel companies join the parade towards higher prices on selected products, the problem confronting the U.S. government is how to prevent creeping inflation from spreading throughout the economy and into export markets where it can affect the economies of other countries.

Industrial prices have been fairly steady in the United States for the last six years and a few scattered price increases in the steel industry might not cause any major change.

But steel is basic to the economy—a trend-maker in prices—and it is unlikely that the success or failure of the steel industry's new price pattern will go unnoticed by other industry —and labor as well.

President Kennedy used all the weapons at his command last year to prevent a general steel industry price boost and the announced $6-a-ton increase was rescinded. The biggest Kennedy advisers maintain it would be difficult to prove collusion in the current price increases, since they are selective, gradual and unilateral.

In all likelihood, the steel industry's price increases will stick. Kennedy appears to be trying to avoid a new battle, perhaps because of the heated political repercussions of his fight last year and perhaps because of an earnest desire to remain popular as he seeks a second term in 1964.

The big political outcry against Kennedy is that he has not made good his promise to move the U.S. economy out of threatened stagnation. He has proposed income tax cuts as one way of stimulating the economy. But Congress is showing no enthusiasm for quick action on his proposals.

A mild dose of inflation possibly could also stir the economy as manufacturers buy up more supplies of basic materials as a hedge against still higher prices in the future. Steelmakers and others are likely to increase their profits. And organized labor is unlikely to restrain higher wage demands in the face of higher earnings by management.

Kennedy's own economic advisers recognized the problem earlier this year when they stated that if the 1962 price increase had not been rescinded "it would have caused and invited other price increases throughout the economy; it would have led organized labor to adopt a new militancy in its wage demands; and it would have seriously weakened the forces working toward the restoration of our international competitive position."

The problem for Canada in facing U.S. inflationary and deflationary trends is that they are not contained. Because it is the world's most powerful economy and the greatest international trader, the U.S. is able to export inflation just as it is ablet o export unemployment.

If U.S. markets sag, Canadians feel the drag on their exports. If prices on key U.S. commodities rise, Canadian importers also feel the burden on their wallets.

Canada has a growing steel industry of its own but still depends on the United States for part of its steel needs, including heavy machinery and other products not made in Canada. If prices of these commodities rise in the United States, it is difficult to keep them from rising in Canada.

Any general increase in U.S. domestic prices—reducing U.S. competitiveness with suppliers in other countries — may also give way to increased U.S. demands for protection against imports.

It is not likely that Kennedy would yield easily on such demands. His publicized drive is towards lower transatlantic tariffs and increased trade. But it is a question of whether he would risk antagonizing any major block of voters at home if it came to a major test before a presidential election in 1964.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
April 17, 1938

Montreal April 14 - Rev. J. S. Bonnell, B.A., B.D., Canadian born minister of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, will give the address at the annual convocation of the United Theological College. Dr. Bonnell occupies the pulpit of what is sometimes called the Cathedral Church Of Presbyterianism in the United States.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police report that Canada geese in this province show a most encouraging increase over last spring. The outlook for a bumper crop of black ducks is also bright.

TEN YEARS AGO
April 17, 1953

Gerald Steele has been selected to represent St. Dunstan's at the International Student's Seminar to be held in India from June 7 to July 10. The selection is made on the basis of physical health, emotional maturity, scholarship, leadership, discipline and extra - curricular activties.

Louis Stewart of the Charlottetown Fire Department inaugurated a series of instructions to Boy Scouts at Trinity scout hall last evening, dealing with fire prevention and fire control. The course will take four weeks and include lectures and demonstrations.

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