

Concurs Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 4 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1966.

Trailing Their Coats

The story goes about a one-time provincial treasurer who got through his budget speech in our local Legislature in a little over seven minutes flat. That was hailed as something of a record. But it had nothing on the achievement of Defense Minister Hellyer in his speech in introducing his contentious bill for unification of Canada's armed services. Here, in its entirety, is his address as recorded in Hansard:

"Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for the amalgamation of the navy, army and air force into a single service and will provide the flexibility to enable Canada to meet in the most effective manner the military requirements of the future. It will also establish Canada as the unquestionable leader in the field of military organization."

"It is not desirable, as the Ottawa Journal remarks on this point, for a minister to make a long speech on presentation of a bill. But he was expected to give some indication that he was anxious to explain it to Parliament, that he was aware that the country is deeply disturbed by elements of the bill. He might also have shown that he believed the Commons worthy of something less offensive and less sophomoric than his august conclusion that Canada will by this bill become 'the unquestionable leader in the field of military organization.'"

After first reading the Opposition asked whether before second reading "the minister would consider submitting it to the defense committee or to another appropriate committee for the purpose of a detailed examination being made of it." Mr. Hellyer refused, and that's what the debate has been about ever since. "Give your approval now," he keeps demanding in effect, "and I'll tell you later why we are doing it." Parliament resents this "father knows best" attitude, and it would be remiss in its duties if it didn't demand a fuller explanation.

Take for example this curious pledge written into the bill's provisions: "No officer or man serving at the time the new act is proclaimed will be required to serve in a combat environment different from that involved when he enlisted, except in case of emergency." As the Globe and Mail well says, to get to the bottom of this gobbledegook it will first be necessary to obtain from Mr. Hellyer some examples of combat situations which are not emergencies. If the intention is simply that members of the new force will be required to serve wherever and whenever they are needed, why try to pretend otherwise?

Those Bacon Prices

There are many angles to the problems the food prices committee has to grapple with at Ottawa; but one of the most confusing must be the question of why the wholesale price of bacon increased by 12 cents a pound during a three-month period this summer when the price of hogs on the livestock market fell by \$2.22 a hundredweight. Certainly it's confusing to our farmers, and Senator David Croll, co-chairman of the committee, plainly found it flabbergasting. The senator also had some dry comment to make on the fact that about the time the committee began its hearing on food costs, bacon prices plummeted.

He was assured by packing house officials that the committee hearing had nothing to do with the drop. It was just one of those things. As for the midsummer price boom, it was suggested that possibly the chain stores were taking a high markup to balance a low markup on another item.

Senator Croll said this did not satisfy him. The country was crying and shouting about food costs. "You've heard it too," he told the packers. "Aren't you concerned at what the merchants are doing with your product?" He was assured that everybody was very much concerned, but it was the public really that was to blame.

The president of one packing company told a woeful tale of how his bacon business was almost ruined when he resisted an industry move to the more expensive vacuum pack. He had been happy with the old wrapping, which was 1.4 cents cheaper per package than the vacuum treatment which produces an airtight package. He couldn't see why the company should spend that extra money on packages when they could sell cheaper the other way. But the provision people got very mad at him; they wouldn't speak to him for a long time! He finally had to give in. "The trouble was with the women," he mourned. That was what they wanted and that was what they had to get.

Senator Croll asked what automation and efficiency were doing for the food consumer. Production costs would be higher, said the witnesses, if it wasn't for those things. They helped to hold the line, in some cases even lowering prices.

The senator challenged this statement, pointing out that less-automated industries did not have price increases comparable to those in the food industry. That, replied a packers spokesman, was mainly due to "the increase in raw material." He admitted, however, that the farmer wasn't getting much more for his livestock.

Why not? Well, nobody was sure just why this was so. At least nobody within range of Senator Croll's queries. It was, as a leading witness explained in one of the understatement of the year, "a very complicated question."

Summing It Up

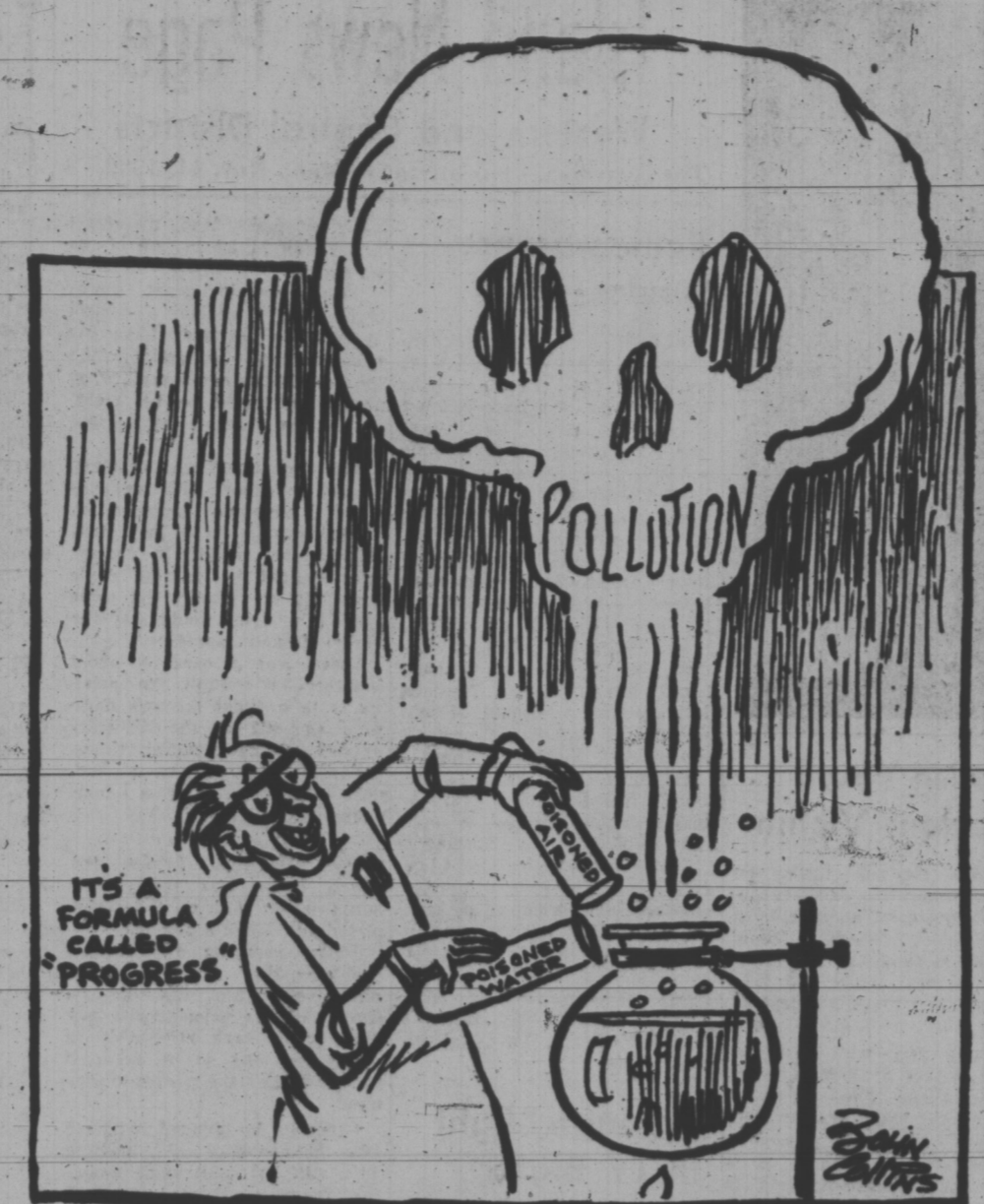
Apropos the Tory convention this week, an Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Post—no booster for John Diefenbaker—notes that working on the side of Dief is the old maxim, "You can't beat somebody with nobody." Though technically the split is over the right to review the leadership, actually it is narrowing down to a straight fight on Diefenbaker as leader, and no ready-made alternative to him is in sight.

Premiers Robarts, Roblin and Stanfield, it is noted, give no sign of making themselves available under present conditions. Among aspirants in the House, George Hees is waiting for his Munsinger wounds to heal, hoping they are mere scratches. Davie Fulton has not yet emerged as the national, still less the inevitable successor.

The Post correspondent recalls Winston Churchill's famous crack, on refusing to give way to a younger leader, "I never leave until the pub closes." As Canada's most illustrious feetotaller, Mr. Diefenbaker would probably phrase it differently; but he seems to have the same thought in mind.

EDITORIAL NOTE

From Montreal comes word that the free mass rapid transit system designed for Expo will be automated. It will speed visitors around the 1,000-acre exposition site without a driver. But Expo officials have taken note of some people's feelings concerning a driverless train. So, they have appointed a driver to sit up front at the controls in a completely glass-enclosed motorman's car.



DO-IT-YOURSELF BOMB

OMINOUS SYMPTOMS

Nazi Ghosts Stir In West Germany

The ever-present fear of a revival of nazism in Germany has been stirred by the unexpected gains made by the National Democratic party in the recent election in the state of Hesse. It was by no means a landslide; the party won only 8 out of 96 seats in the regional parliament. But it is the best showing any extreme right-wing group has made for many years. Hesse, moreover, was not considered, particularly good campaigning ground for the party, if it can do so well in Hesse, it may do considerably better in states like Bavaria where the right-wing tradition is stronger.

In describing the National Democrats as Neo-Nazis, some qualifications are needed. The organization is by no means a carbon copy of the original. It has no swastika banners (now forbidden in Germany), and no uniformed Storm Troopers, nor has it anyone comparable to Adolf Hitler himself. ONCE HIGH NAZIS Nevertheless, many of its elders were once high officials of the National Socialist party, and its appeal is to old party members on the one hand and on the other to the spirit of militant German nationalism among the younger generation.

Its platform calls for a stronger German army, recovery of the "lost" German lands in the East, an end to war crimes trials and an amnesty for Nazi war criminals, and a clean up of alleged "immorality" in German press and television—which could be a cover for political censorship. What makes the National Democrats more dangerous than similar groups in the past is less their own effectiveness than the fact that they have emerged at a critical point in postwar German history.

The German economic "miracle" which has dazzled the world for the last 17 years is running out of steam. The country is still prosperous, with high employment, but the era of rapid growth seems to be over. THE REAL DANGER Also ended is the strong effective rule which Chancellor Adenauer gave the Federal Republic. The nation now seems headed for a period of weak, shifting coalition government. These changes are generating at atmosphere favorable to extremist parties. It would be as unwise to exaggerate the threat from the National Democrats as to minimize it. The world of the 1960s is very different from that of the 1930s. Many of the factors which enabled Hitler to seize power are absent in Germany today; there is, for example, neither the massive unemployment nor the rampant disorder which characterized the last years of the Weimar Republic. The real danger, it may be, is not so much that the National Democrats will take over as that its success will encourage a general resurgence of nationalist and militarist groups—spurring demands for reunification at all risks, and atomic weapons for Germany.

A Century Ago

But more than money came from United States sources. The skedaddlers provided an important source of labor for the newly-opened mining enterprises and despite the fact much of the supervisory personnel were direct or indirect employees of the U. S. government, there was little apparent effort to check up on the background of the hundreds of would-be workers turning up for employment. Questions asked concerned only their ability and willingness to work. A strong backlog was a more important factor in determining employment than political philosophies, if any. The fate of the skedaddlers when after the war mines closed after the war makes an interesting study. Some purchased farms in the district, others found employment in other branches of Canadian industry. But many of them returned to their native land when the lempers caused by the war cooled off and re-integrated them into the life of their country without undue interference from Washington.

Tough Times For Statues

These are tough times for statues everywhere, not only for the mysterious one involved in the Courthouse fountain. Toronto's new art form in front of the City Hall is the subject of wry comment. The Mary Poppins statue proposed for New York's Central Park is labelled by the New York Times as "atrociously bad art, as New York's esthetically sophisticated Parks Commissioner must know." Nearby are two other statues that New Yorkers are unable to enthuse over. One is of Alice in Wonderland, which has been called "not only a dangerous metallic plaything but an insensitive perversion of Jose de Creeft's talents in direct stone-cutting."

On The Threshold

Now that the eleventh month is here killing frosts have completed their work. Grass stems on the hillsides are drained of color goldenrod heads around the garden are gray ghosts of former beauty. Faded leaves are packed against walls and fences and down in the swales cattail heads are unravelling in the wind. There are many November days when the countryside is austere and brooding. Gray clouds hang low above the ridges and brittle leaves on the dried cornstalks rustle when a breeze passes by. This is the threshold of winter and there are times of snow squalls, pelting rain and icy sleet that rattle against farmhouse windows. This was the Drover's Month a century ago when in developed areas cattle buyers went into the country and gathered herds to drive over the roads to city market. Since pioneering days it has been the month when men buttoned up the farmstead for the months of cold ahead. Usually nature sends a few beautiful, mellow days, but one knows that time is sliding down. Leaf carpets in the woodland have started back to humus. On frosty mornings ice laces edges pasture brooks. Dusk comes suddenly now. But it is not a time for sadness. It was ordained in ancient eras that after the harvest should come the time of rest.

Faltering Heart

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Heart failure most often arises when the old ticker cannot pump enough blood into the circulation to supply the tissues with nourishment. The victim becomes short of breath and the skin assumes a dusky hue. A dry hacky cough may develop and dropsy ensues with swelling of the legs, congestion in the lungs, and enlargement of the liver.

There are many reasons why the heart fails, but the most common occurs when the organ is forced to pump harder than necessary. This happens when the arteries are narrowed and the organ must overcome increasing resistance to the flow of blood. This occurs in persons with hypertension. The heart enlarges to compensate for the new demands, but there is a limit as to how large it can get before the action of the heart fails.

In other instances, an internal defect such as "leakage" of the valve handicaps the function of the ventricles. Enlargement follows, but because it is a painless process, the individual may be lulled into a false sense of security. The narrowed heart valve is not causing any trouble and the victim sees no reason why he cannot exert himself.

The heart also fails when the muscle does not receive sufficient nourishment to supply its needs. This occurs to older people with extensive hardening of the coronary arteries.

The handicapped heart may function for many years and fails only when faced with an extra burden, such as a respiratory infection, overexertion, certain irregularities of the beat, a coronary attack, or thyroid overactivity.

Most victims of heart failure are helped with rest, oxygen, digitalis, and oral diuretics. Those with dropsy may lose 25 pounds of water in a few days. All the distress subsides—and, with reasonable precautions, there can be many healthy years.

CRACKED EGGS F. G. writes: Recently you wrote not to use cracked eggs. What if the egg cracks while it is being boiled.

REPLY An egg that cracks in the pot is not harmful. Eggs that are cracked when purchased may be contaminated with Salmonella organisms, a cause of food poisoning. These germs are destroyed by boiling. Cracked eggs are harmful when used raw or in a cake mix.

IDEAL CLIME G. P. writes: Is Florida a good place to live for a person with high blood pressure?

REPLY It's a good place for anyone to live, and the climate is ideal for victims of hypertension. On the other hand, there are excellent remedies for high blood pressure that work just as well in Chicago or New York as in Florida.

MUSCLE SPASM A reader writes: What causes spasms of the muscles in different parts of the body several times a day and night?

REPLY This condition usually is of chemical origin. Spasms develop as a result of lack of calcium or salt, or muscle fibres have been overstimulated by too much tobacco, coffee, or tea.

THYROID AND WEIGHT B. W. writes: Could a minus thyroid be responsible for my extreme thinness?

REPLY Most persons with low metabolism are on the hefty side. On the other hand, I have seen slim individuals with a low metabolic rate that I have considered part of their low vitality.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A man can face winter a little more confidently if he remembers where he put his galoshes last spring. — Ottawa Journal. The mathematics professor noticed that one of his pupils was day-dreaming, and not following his work on the blackboard. To recall his attention he said, sharply: "Brown, Brown board!" The boy, startled, looked up. "Yes, sir, very" came the reply. — Montreal Star.

If there are any retired cat-rustlers left from the bad old days they must be eyeing the prices of beef and lambing having been born too soon. — Galt Reporter. There are those who complain about these recordings which answer some business telephones these days. But at least they have people beaten for patience and politeness. — Calgary Herald.

A Toronto clergyman is objecting to the proposed location of a licensed restaurant across the street from the church. On the other hand, would not the sinners be easier to reach? — Fort William Times-Journal. Traffic officer: "When I saw you come around the curve, I said to myself, '45 at least.'" Woman driver: "Well, you're wrong. This hat just makes me look older." — Financial Post.

Safety features on the new automobiles may include compulsory life preservers in the boat being towed behind them. — Guelph Mercury. There are those who say the impossible can't happen but it happens on some football field at least once every weekend. — Guelph Mercury.

"It is impossible for a woman to keep a secret." "I don't agree. My wife and I were engaged for several weeks before she said anything to me about it." — Vancouver Sun. "Say Jim," said the friend of the taxicab driver, standing in front of the vehicle, "there is a purse lying on the floor of your car." The driver looked carefully around and then whispered "Sometimes when business is bad I put it there and leave the door open. It's empty, but you have no idea how many people jump in for a short drive when they see it." — Montreal Star.

The Right To Speak

Hamilton Spectator In its well meaning attempts to cut down the spiralling costs of general elections the federal committee on election expenses has proposed a rule which would rob ordinary people of the right to participate. One of its recommendations states that: "No groups or bodies other than registered parties and nominated candidates be permitted to purchase radio and television time, or to use paid advertising in newspapers, periodicals or direct mailing... in support of, or in opposition to, any party or candidate from the date of the issuance of the election writ until the day after polling day."

The background for this lies in the committee's desire to limit the official expenses of political parties. It fears that ersatz front organizations would be established as a device to get around the spending limitations, but even so it goes too far. The practical effect would be to prevent any individual or group paying their own money to ensure the expression of their own feeling during a campaign. If citizen John Doe wants to buy an ad postulating his belief that candidate Richard Roe is a social menace, that should be his right, the laws of defamation and libel permitting. By the same token, if a group like the Canadian Medical Association wants to buy a billboard or send out "To the Householder a letter in opposition to medicare, for instance, surely in an open society it has the right to do just that.

This recommendation should be quietly forgotten. It is an excellent example of the futility of trying to overlimit election spending. Regulation must be piled on top of regulation until the result is curtailment of freedom. Big powers have motives of policy in supplying smaller nations with arms. But the motive of profit cannot be ignored. Why else do Britain and the U. S. compete so actively against each other? It is one way to share costs of production and at the same time get your equipment out of it. The hypocrisy of it, when great world capitals are continually crying for peace, is what troubles the plain citizen.

Wrong Kind Of Aid

Vancouver Province One way in which the flow of aid to the developing countries has been most successful, with both East and West pursuing it with enthusiasm, has been in the supplying of military hardware. A report issued by the Institute for Strategic Studies, London, discloses that since 1945 more than 4,500 jet aircraft, 5,000 tanks and 234 warships have been sold or given to the developing nations by the world's industrial powers—principally the United States, Russia, Britain and France.

This is not a matter of rivalry between Russia and the West. Russia actually did not get into the business in volume until 1955 when it started shipping arms in quantity to the United Arab Republic (Egypt, that is). The British and American have appointed arms salesmen and are in brisk competition with each other. The four nations mentioned sell close to \$1 billion worth of arms a year in this way. The next big market is in helicopters.

The report concludes that it would be unwise to try to draw up a universal set of rules to regulate the flow. It would be doomed to failure because of the competitiveness of the market. WEATHER HOLDS UP NEWS MOOSE FACTORY, Ont. (CP) — The 200 residents of Moose Factory Island, in the Moose River 250 miles north of Timmins, will have to wait until winter to read the news of the outside world. Paperboy James Tobin, 10, can't get across the river with his dog-sled from the mainland to deliver his papers until the freeze-up is complete, probably mid-December. He normally sells about 100 copies of the Timmins Press on the island.

CHOP TREE FOR CASH The Ivory Coast, a former French colony, is Africa's biggest exporter of timber.

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