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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

Grand Slam In Public Works

The announcement that the Treasury Board has authorized expenditures totalling \$5,700,000 for public works projects in this Province, as part of the Federal Government's nation-wide policy of relieving unemployment, will be received with widespread appreciation. Other projects are being considered, chiefly for Prince County. The ones already listed include \$1,500,000 for construction of a new runway and other improvements at the Charlottetown airport; establishment of a new Marine Agency setup, including auxiliary buildings and wharf improvement, \$1,400,000; speedup of construction work on the ocean highway, Rustico-Cavendish-Brackley, \$1,745,000 over a two-year period; improvements to the ferry terminal at Wood Islands and reconstruction of the fishermen's landing there, \$125,000; completion of the railway wharf at Georgetown, wharf improvements at Montague and a new public building at Souris East, \$443,000; other miscellaneous works, \$500,000.

These huge expenditures outweigh any that have heretofore been made at one time for public works in Prince Edward Island. Coming in conjunction with the \$2,500,000 increase in Federal revenue to the Province, the Causeway survey and other undertakings, they so far surpass what has been given us by any administration at Ottawa that we are left marvelling at our own complacency in accepting the meagre handouts of other years. If this is the treatment we are entitled to receive under the Diefenbaker Government—and of course it is—why was it so long withheld by governments in the past? We have not been unvoiced in our grievances. Hundreds of columns have been devoted in this newspaper alone to the subject. Speeches have been made and resolutions passed ad nauseam. Our provincial governments, boards of trade and other organizations have sent delegations pleading vainly for only small portions of what we are now being served in one magnificent feast.

Perhaps it is the result of the accumulated pressure of all those lean years. Perhaps it is because we are under a more benign Pharaoh. In any case, it marks a new stage in our federal-provincial relations. More than that, it sets a precedent for what we have a right to expect as a Province of Canada.

But ah! it will be said: This windfall comes during an election campaign. The Conservatives are after our votes; that is what has moved them to such generosity at this time! We have no doubt but that the Government had this in mind, and that there was more than coincidence behind yesterday's gratifying announcement. But what of it? Every party is bidding for votes. Mr. Pearson, for example, is promising the sky in the way of Liberal tax reductions, and the C.C.F. and Social Credit campaigners are not far behind. The difference between them and the Diefenbaker Government is that the latter is actually doing things. It is not offering us promises but Treasury Board authorizations; which means that our Conservative cabinet minister and his Island colleagues in the last Parliament have been working steadily on these projects and have now finally cleared them.

This \$5,700,000 has been allocated and will be spent on public works in this Province, regardless of what government is returned on March 31st. That is a pretty important difference. We can vote the Diefenbaker men out, lock, stock and barrel, and still enjoy the fruits of their vigorous eight months of office. The only difficulty there is that we may be cutting off our nose to spite our face; for there is the future to be considered as well as the present, and if it is promises and not actions we want we may be a long time waiting for their fulfillment. If deeds done are not a guarantee of deeds to come, they are at least the best means we

have of determining political sincerity.

The airport runway project is of special interest to Charlottetown. It will revolutionize our fast transportation system, bring thousands of additional tourists to the Province, and place us definitely on the map as an air centre. While commending the efforts of Messrs. MacLean and Macquarrie in this connection, we feel that credit is also due our City Council, Board of Trade and other organizations which have been urging this work for many years. In particular we have in mind our former Mayor, Lieut. Col. J. D. Stewart, who spent a great deal of time in promoting the project.

Famous Men

Premier Joseph R. Smallwood of Newfoundland and Mr. Malcolm Hollet, Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, participated in a very interesting ceremony in St. John's a few days ago. It was the unveiling of busts of four men who were prominent in the former colony and who played important parts in obtaining for the people representative and, later, responsible government.

The statesmen were Sir Patrick Morris and Dr. William Carson, fathers of Representative Government (1832); Philip Francis Little, who became the first Prime Minister under Responsible Government (1855), and John Bingley Garland, the first Speaker of the House of Assembly.

Whether these gentlemen were all of Irish ancestry the report of the event as published in the St. John's Daily News does not say. It is interesting to note, however, that the sculptors who did the work were all Irish either by descent or adoption. The Morris bust was created by Lady Angela Antrim of Glenarm Castle, county of Antrim in Northern Ireland; the Carson bust by Leo Brow of Dublin; the Little bust by Professor Frederick Herkner, a native of Bohemia but now an Irish citizen; the Garland bust by Professor Donal Murphy of Dublin.

Of particular interest to the people of this Province is the fact that Mr. Little, Newfoundland's first Prime Minister, was a resident of our Island before going to the "ancient colony".

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Greek coin was sold in London the other day for \$9000, thus establishing what is believed to be a world record. It was a very rare piece of metal, however, dating back to 424 B.C. and bearing the image of Apollo.

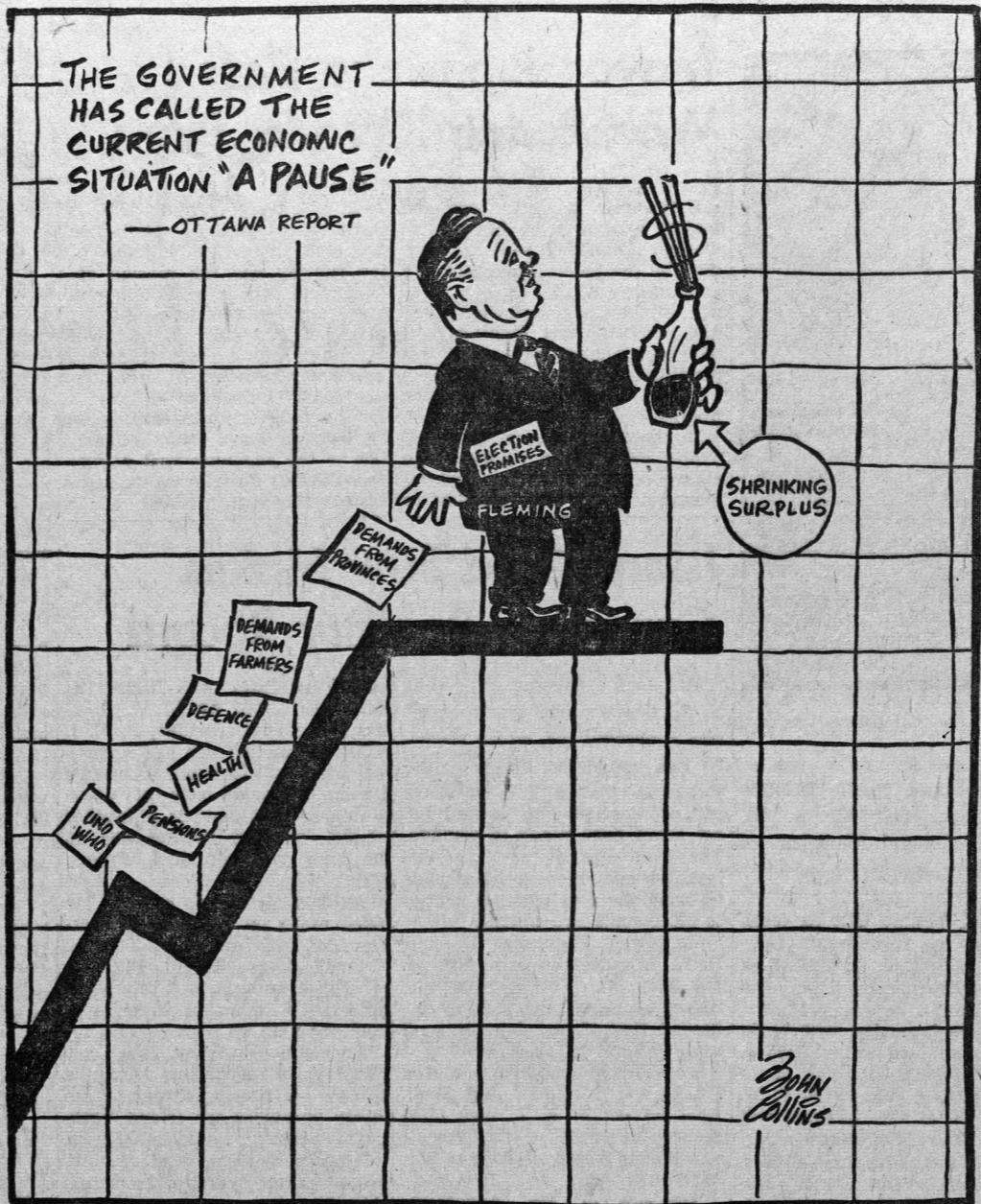
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., head of the United States' delegation to the United Nations, has made several trips abroad in recent months on business for the President. It is possible that Mr. Lodge is being coached for the State Secretaryship, in the event of Mr. Dulles' resignation.

Not only the residents of his former constituency but many persons in all parts of Canada will regret to learn that, for reasons of health, the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent has decided not to seek nomination for this Spring's election. Canada is the poorer for his departure from active political life.

It has been announced that the much talked about Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference will be held in Montreal in September. Let us hope that by then Canada will have a stable government, able and willing to take the lead in expanding and developing Commonwealth trade.

Secretary of State Dulles says that he "doubts very much if the people of Indonesia will ever want a Communist-type or a Communist-dominated government". As far as that goes, it isn't likely that the Russians or the Chinese are too happy about their regimes. Unfortunately, they have to put up with them, whether they like them or not. So will the Indonesians if the Communists get the upper hand.

It will soon be time for another letter from Premier Bulganin to reach Western capitals. Prime Minister Diefenbaker, however, will probably be overlooked until after March 31. The Soviet leaders are adept in matters of diplomacy—when it suits them—and they are not likely to bother about Ottawa while the election campaign is on, for fear of being suspected of taking sides.



THE PAUSE THAT DEPRESSES

OTTAWA REPORT

France's Political Example

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: The constant change of government in France gives the rest of the world a good political joke, but brings tragedy to that country.

A democratic nation needs a stable government if it is to enjoy maximum progress and prosperity. Only a stable government can formulate and implement the long-term programme necessary to give all citizens job security and high living standards.

The shifting sands of France's many and changing political parties have proved to be a disastrous foundation on which to try to base a democratic government. It is thirteen years since that sunny and jubilant August day when the German military government was driven out of Paris, and authority over France handed back to French politicians. But in those thirteen years, France has had no less than twenty-four different governments, each enduring for an average life of twenty-nine weeks only.

Can a new government set a country on the right path in twenty-nine weeks? Not Pygmalion likely, as George Bernard Shaw might have said.

STUDY PERIOD

It takes a Cabinet of new ministers at least three months to study the general principles of their respective departments of government, and to fit their programme into the general national policy. The Treasury Board largely a committee of Cabinet Ministers, then need about two months to comb through and approve the spending estimates of each department, assuming that the civil service staff have meanwhile been able to rough-hew the estimates. It then takes Parliament at least three months to study the estimates and approve the Budget. And finally it is another twelve months before the full effect of the new national policy underlying the new government's budget can reach down to benefit fully the average man at the bench or the average housewife in a grocery store.

Some benefits, such as cuts in

non-conformist and non-compromising; those are the voters who under a two party system, elected to vote for third and fourth parties.

No miracle could bring either the C.C.F. or the Social Crediters into power at next month's election. The latter proved to be rather a disappointing and lacustrine group in this past Parliament, and they really seem to have no place in the federal field. The C.C.F. are in a different position, representing a definite and recognizable political philosophy. But still, while on balance voters would be justified in voting C.C.F., it is very hard to see what purpose would be served by any Social Credit vote on 31st March next.

Florida's Primeval Swamp

National Geographic Society

A naturalist's paradise, until recently as inaccessible to the average traveler as a mountaintop in the Himalayas, lies 25 miles southeast of Fort Myers, Florida.

It is primeval Corkscrew Swamp. Its unusual birds and animals, living in one of the country's few remaining stands of virgin cypress, have been preserved for the American people by the National Audubon Society.

Several years ago, loggers began to hack at the edges of Corkscrew's small but magnificent forest. Conservationists protested, lumbermen cooperated, and the Audubon Society was able to acquire nearly 10 square miles of the area for a wildlife refuge.

BOARDWALK TRIP

Today, a 3,658-foot boardwalk extends over the swamp's muck and mire, permitting visitors to move in comfort and safety through a region that formerly presented very rough going.

Dr. Melville Bell Grosvenor, president and editor of the National Geographic Society, explored the subtropical water forest both before and after the walkway was built.

Writing in the National Geographic Magazine, Dr. Grosvenor says that a tour of the swamp now is, quite literally, child's play. He predicts that thousands of visitors will wander through the green maze this winter.

Amid cypress giants, which test borings have proved to be 700 years old, Dr. Grosvenor's party came upon a pile of small shells atop a fallen log. They were the remains of a dinner eaten by a limpkin, the shy "crying bird" often heard but seldom seen in Florida swamps.

Reaching Corkscrew's inner-most recess, the group gazed at

cross grassland at perhaps 3,000 nesting ibises and egrets, frosting the cypress crowns.

Such communal groups estimated at more than 100,000 are not uncommon in the sanctuary, but low water during nesting season has driven many of them elsewhere in recent years. Water is plentiful for the coming season, and the exodus may be reversed.

ALLIGATORS

To date Audubon Society experts have listed 131 species of birds as full or part-time residents of the refuge, and the roster continues to grow. Sixteen mammal species have been recorded, including Florida black bears, panthers, and bobcats. The bears and big cats, however, considering they avoid the boardwalk during daylight hours.

From the walkway the visitor may see a venomous water moccasin sunning itself. Alligators are commonplace, and quite blase about people. But they flash into action if food moves within range—fish, turtles, birds, even pigs that come into the swamp to root around.

Corkscrew's early history is as shadowy as the moss-fringed forest itself. Seminole Indians in swamps farther south battled United States troops before the Civil War. But there is no indication the present sanctuary was invaded.

Even today, getting in and out of Corkscrew takes a bit of doing. Approaches from the nearest highway are often a quagmire that only jeeps or swamp buggies can negotiate.

MAXIMS

Every revolution was first a thought in one man's mind.

Worrying Makes Eczema Worse

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

The more you worry about eczema, the worse it is likely to become. When you worry about the condition you are apt to tear and rub your skin.

One of the best pieces of advice I can give anyone with eczema is to keep the hands away from the affected area, whether it is the face, arms, legs—anywhere.

What if the condition itches?

NERVOUS INSTABILITY

Well, itching, as I have explained in previous columns, is about halfway between pain and the pleasurable tickle. Most doctors agree that nervous instability and certain other factors lower the degree of irritation necessary to cause itching.

Since eczema patients in general are emotionally unstable, it often is difficult to prevent a low itch threshold. Yet there are a number of things which you can do to help prevent unnecessary itching.

Heavy drinking of coffee and heavy smoking often lower the itch threshold. Two packs of cigarettes a day is too much for anybody, particularly for anyone suffering from eczema.

FEWER CIGARETTES

Cutting down on cigarettes may do a great deal to help clear up the condition, especially since it will probably ease the irritation caused by itching and the undesirable urge to scratch.

Likewise, coffee, also a stimulant, is probably something a person with eczema may, will do without. Switching to a coffee substitute may help as much as cutting down on smoking.

AVOID SOAP

It is generally advisable for any eczema patient to avoid soaping and rubbing the affected area. Olive oil, mineral oil, linseed oil or a cleansing cream may be dabbed on the area with cotton to clean it.

If the eczema is on your body, take only infrequent baths. The water should be tepid and you should dry yourself by patting gently with a soft towel.

Adding such items as one cup of sodium bicarbonate, or two spoonfuls of gelatin, or one pound of starch to the bath water may be soothing. Check with your doctor and see if he recommends that you use any of these mixtures.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

J.T.: I have been operated on for appendicitis. However, my white blood count was not elevated before operation. Is this possible?

In many cases, even though the condition may be severe, the blood count is not elevated at the onset.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A psychiatrist says it is perfectly normal to talk to yourself. But the trouble is that most of us find ourselves so boring. —Winnipeg Tribune

New England's oystermen complain their crop is being ruined by rapacious starfish. Starfish eat the oysters. Something which looks upon starfish as a delicacy is needed to restore the balance of Nature.—Ottawa Journal

A firm in Vancouver has a building that encroaches on city property by four inches. For ten years the company has been renting the four inches for \$5 a year. But when a new ten-year rental agreement came up, the city raised the rent to \$15 a year. That seems like inflation with a vengeance.—Fort William Times-Journal

The premiere of the Charlottetown Male Chorus which will take place last night in the Prince of Wales College Hall proved to be in every way a most delightful function. The entertainment was prefaced by a short introductory speech by Mr. J. W. Boulter, president of the Rotary Club, whose whose auspices the concert was given.

TEN YEARS AGO (Feb. 20, 1948)

Important recommendations concerning the potato industry of the province, including the suggestion to establish a central marketing board, were released yesterday by the Potato Commission appointed at a recent joint meeting of Dominion and Provincial Agricultural Officials.

Prince Edward Island's production for export has gone a steady and substantial increase in the post-war years. It was learned yesterday from a report tabled in the House of Commons. It was noted that freight car, truck and passenger traffic between Borden and Montserrat had increased steadily over the past three years.



THE DOUGHNUT

Oh, what has become of the old fashioned doughnuts. The plain, honest doughnuts we once used to dunk. The genuine sinkers, the crullers that no nuts. Inoculated with jelly and junk? Today they have "raised" them and plastered their surface with chocolate frosting and maple as well.

The old-fashioned cook — there'd be horror on her face. An viewing these fancified doughnuts they sell. The prettified doughnuts, The cuffed doughnuts, The wholly undunkable doughnuts they sell!

The heck with these doughnuts infest with colors And flavored like cinnamon buns and eclairs, I yearn for the old indigestible crullers Which didn't get snooty or give themselves airs. It's true they were just a bit greasy and heavy, But still we are sad that the sinkers are sunk, And wish we could munch on a bunch or a bevy Of old-fashioned doughnuts we once used to dunk — The deeply-mourned doughnuts, The unadorned doughnuts, The olden-time doughnuts we once used to dunk.

—BERTON BRALEY
 In Today's Living.

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