The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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The Larger Question

Federal Health Minister Monteith has spoken with great promptness, clarity and definiteness in explaining what the Ottawa government need not do about the victims of the medical preparation "Thalidomide," which is blamed so far for the birth of at least 40 severely deformed babies in Canada.

So far as most Canadians are concerned, however, Mr. Monteith has answered the wrong question. The thing they want to know is not what Canada needn't do about the victims of this awful tragedy, but what society can do in their behalf.

The legalistic declaration that the federal government has no responsibility for financial aid to families to whom babies with deformed limbs are born is no answer at all to society's over-riding interest in this matter.

The obligations of humanity to those who suffer tragedy and unmeasurable anguish of the spirit do not end with what is written on the statute books. It would speak better for the government if it was seeking ways of helping to meet those obligations, in such small measure as that can be done, instead of attempting to wash its hands of the matter.

At the same time there is need for a fuller statement than has so far appeared as to government plans for preventing further tragedies of this character. In the face of Canada's reputation of having more rigid controls than even in the United States over the licensing of new drugs, it is disconcerting to know that "Thalidomide" gained acceptance here while it still was being banned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

It is evident that society's safeguards slipped, and science went terribly astray, since enough "Thalidomide" has gone into use as a tranquilizing agent to get the blame for 3,500 severe birth deformities in West Germany, 40 in Canada, and hundreds more in Britain and elsewhere in Western Europe.

The sensible response to this development is that being taken in the U.S., where authorities are revamping and tightening methods of controlling new drugs.

Is the same thing happening in Canada? If so, isn't that what Health Minister Montheith should be talking about, instead of issuing disclaimers of responsibility?

The Policeman's Lot

It is ont of the paradoxes of Latin American nations that while they have long and violently criticised the United States for its alleged support of rightist dictatorships, they have been markedly reluctant to follow Washington's recent lead in taking measures against dictators.

President Kennedy's unprecedented denunciation of the military coup in Peru poses a problem here, which has not yet been resolved. His move to impose what amount to diplomatic, economic and military sanctions on the Peruvian junta symbolized a new determination by the United States to have its Latin American partners live up to the basic principles of the Alliance for Progress or bear the consequences of ignoring them.

The situation, according to a New York Times correspondent, boils down to the question of whether Peru's neighbors are actively interested in defending their common democracy and encouraging the United States, the self-appointed policeman on the democratic beat, or whether they prefer to let matters go by default, hiding behind the old doctrines of non-intervenion. The question stands no matter what may be done now to legitimize the Peruvian position.

In Argentina, the military-backed regime which followed the ouster of President Frondizi by the army last March had been reluctantly accepted by Washington in a rationalization of the events there. But the establishment of the strong-arm government did nothing to solve the social and political problem posed by the existence of a powerful bloc of followers of the former dictator Juan D. Peron, whose victory in the congressional and gubernatorial elections led to the military coup.

In Brazil, the worsening political crisis over the experiment in the parliamentary form of government was compounded by runaway inflation, food shortages and violent social protest that resulted earlier this month in scores of deaths. Pending the October congressional elections, when the continuation of the parliamentary system may be submitted to a national plebiscite, the country is simply adrift with a makeshift government.

In Ecuador, President Arosemena is under the threat of a coup that could come from the military or political parties, or both. In the Dominican Republic the infant democracy, following 31 years of dictatorial rule, is caught between pro-Communist and Right-wing military conspiracies

As the United States begins to take a new and worried look at Latin America and the Alliance for Progress, there is hardly one bright spot the length and width of the hemisphere. Any such appraisal carries with it the question of whether Latin-American democracies can be policed or enforced by Washington, or persuaded to undertake the fundamental structural reforms without which American aid is bound to be largely meaningless.

Good Young Drivers

Insurance companies in the United States are now trying to separate the sheep from the goats among young car drivers. These young drivers (under 25) hold only 18 per cent of the driver licenses but as a group are involved in nearly 30 per cent of the fatal accidents. Many young drivers, however, are better and more reliable behind the wheel than their elders, but it has been difficult heretofore to identify the real troublemakers who are believed to constitute 10 per cent of the under-25 group.

Tests are now under way in various parts of the country to see whether simple psychological questionnaires can make the 10 per cent of "bad young drivers" give themselves away by unintentionally revealing their disrespect for authority. If reliable tests can be developed, the bad risk drivers can be made to pay high insurance rates—or not drive. The other young drivers can then enjoy the average premiums to which they are entitled.

It seems like a good idea. But we don't envy the examiners in their task of checking these tests, reading between the lines and coming up with the right answers.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In view of the imbalance in trade between Canada and the U.S., which is sharply unfavorable to Canada, there are sound grounds for Canadian objections to President Kennedy's request that Canada voluntarily curb lumber sales in the U.S. It is likewise true, however, that Canada has secured similar voluntary curbs in her own behalf, from Japan and Hong Kong for example, in cases where the trade imbalance was in her own favor.

* * *

Correspondence continues to reach The Guardian from tourists who ask why National Park employees fail to tell visitors of the availability of camping sites at provincial parks. Yet Guardian reporters, in consulting scores of tourists, have failed to find even one who has experienced such neglect. On the contrary, there is general insistence that information about the provincial parks is supplied with thoroughness and courtesy on board the ferries, at the Tourist Office and at the National Park.

TWEEDLESOC AND TWEEDLECRED

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

'Arrogant, Irrelevant, Impertinent'

At the urging of U.S. lumbermen, Washington has suggested discussions with Ottawa, in the hope of having voluntary restraints imposed on Canadian lumber exports to the U.S.A. The extent of the cut-back sought by the vocal U.S. lumber industry is of the order of $140 million per year.

Any such demand would be a piece of arrogant and irrelevant impertinence. We cannot refuse a request for consultation by y country with which we are associated under the GATT trading treaty; but we would be crazy to heed any pleas from the country which already sells to us 20 per cent, or $755 million worth, more goods than it will buy from us.

Any measures tending to aggravate this already serious imbalance of Canadian — U.S.A. trade should and would provoke instant retaliation by Canada — in our own interests. And this Washington could not afford, since we are the largest customer of the U.S.

B.C. SALES TRIUMPH

The facts behind the dispute are these. Last year we purchased from the U. S. goods worth $3,864 million; but were able to sell to that country goods worth only $3,109 million. This trade deficit was the largest single item provoking our current balance of payments crisis.

The largest category of our exports to U.S.A. was forest products, valued at $1,776 million. Half of this consisted of newsprint paper; one-fifteenth consisted of spruce lumber; and a like amount consisted of Douglas fir lumber, grown in B.C.

This latter category — comparatively trivial in the overall picture — is the contentious nigger in the U.S. woodpile. Douglas fir is a prized and highly competitive building material which, thanks to an aggressive sales drive by B.C. lumbermen, has in recent years achieved great popularity on the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S.A. This success has raised howls of protest from U.S. lumbermen producing similar lumber in the states in Washington and Oregon, who have been taking a licking from their B.C. rivals in the rich eastern market.

The reason for this seems to be two-fold. First, Oregon and Washington cannot produce the quantities demanded, while B.C. can. Second, the U.S. have been hoist on their own petard — in this case called the Jones Act. This act, the product of an effective lobby of Washington by the U.S. merchant navy, stipulates that goods shipped from one U.S. port to another must be carried in U.S. ships. Thus lumber shipped from the Pacific northwest states, through the Panama Canal, to say New York or Boston, must be carried in U.S. ships at the high U.S. freight rates. But B.C. lumber, shipped to the same ports from Vancouver, may be carried in less costly Japanese or Panamanian ships.

There is a small U.S. tariff on imports of Canadian lumber. A more significant factor has been the gradual devaluation of our dollar for the past year. This has greatly assisted our competitive sales of lumber in U.S.A. just as it has aided our exports in every country. But B.C. had achieved considerable success in breaking into the U.S. lumber market before this additional aid.

If Washington attempts to apply any new screw to curb B.C.s exports of luumber to the U.S. market, Ottawa will have some verbal nuclear bombs to detonate during the argument. For example, Ottawa could slash an even larger item from our import bill in the form of American-owned oil. Ottawa could curb the imbalance in mutual trade in textiles and fibres; or the huge imbalance in our mutual trade in farm products or steel products. All of these exceed the $140 million in lumber now questioned. There are also our unbalanced trades in magazines, in television and cinema films, and in chemicals.

In short, until the U.S. buys from Canada as much as we buy from them, they have no grounds for complaining about our mutual trade.

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.

TWO BOOKLETS?

Sir,—Perhaps it would be wise for the Prince Edward Island Tourist Bureau next year to issue two booklets, one for accommodations. The second booklet could contain all the camping sites.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HELEN MERRILL
Crapaud.

INVITATION TO KINGS

Sir,—May I have a little space in your widely circulated paper, regarding camping sites for tourists coming to visit Prince Edward Island. I had the pleasure of conversing with a number of people from beyond our shores recently. These people expressed their admiration of this beautiful Island. They informed me that they had visited the other provinces of Canada, but Prince Edward Island was the most beautiful.

Now, that is something to be real proud of.

I have read a letter in the Guardian of recent date, in which the writer complained about the lack of camping grounds in our National Park. I am deeply interested in our beautiful province, and I like to see strangers come to visit it. We have very fine camping grounds here in Kings County. They are to be found all the way from the county line to East Point.

I want to make special mention of Brudenell Park, because I have known that locality since the days of my youth.

It is located beside the Brudenell River. It is a beautiful location with a historic interest. The Brudenell Island rests, as it were, on the bosom of the river.

This little island is the custodian of mortal remains of the pioneer settlers of 1803. It is almost within a stones throw of the camping site.

You will find all the needed facilities for your convenience right on the grounds. Lots of good cold drinking water. There is ample space for hundreds of tents. This park is on the main highway to the town of Georgetown, which can rightfully boast of one of the most beautiful and spacious harbours in Canada.

Brudenell Park is only a short drive from the beautiful town of Montague, which is noted for its hospitality and good meals. There are paved roads, direct ically from one end of the Island to the other. The weather has been unusually cool and wet for the month of July. But this is a beautiful sunny day, July 27th, and we will have many days like this in August and September, and well on in October. So, we welcome you to Kings County, Prince Edward Island.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W.D. JOHNSTON
Montague, P.E.I.

Mowers Are Dangerous

Sarnia Observer

Power lawnmowers have become commonplace in recent years. They are a handy, although noisy addition to the household garden equipment. However, they are also dangerous — particularly to fingers and toes.

An American medical magazine has been enquiring into 70,000 accidents caused while operating power mowers and came up with the discovery that 18,000 of these mishaps resulted in lost fingers, the St. Thomas Times-Journal reports. Most of these occurred when the man pushing the mower stopped to remove sticks and other things lodged against the blades, or in the reel.

It is not the fault of mower manufacturers that so many people lose fingers in this way. The chief reason is that mower operators belong to a generation that has been insulated from hot engines by the self-starter. A hot engine is very liable to fire even with the ignition turned off. If it is turned over ever so little, it may give a vicious kick and then keep on running.

Hot internal combustion engines are treacherous things. If you want to fiddle about with a mowers' blades, it is not enough to turn off the ignition; wait until the engine is cool.

Hit Parade—1862

Ottawa Journal

Today a hit parade song has a life expectancy comparable to that of the butterfly. One that lives for six months comes to be known among the disk-jockey as a "classic." After a year it is old enough to be played by an orchestra with no many strings and called "semi-classical" music.

Songs were better a hundred years ago. Writing in The Times of London, Mr. B. C. Hilliam has compiled the top 10 songs of 1862. They were Home Sweet Home; When Other Lips; The Moon Has Raised Her Lamp Above; Alice, Where Art Thou; Killarney; Come Into the Garden; Maud; Sing, Birdie, Sing; Simon the Cellarer; To Anthea and Oh, That We Two Were Maying.

Home Sweet Home was 12 years old then. Jenny Lind's singing of it was a warm memory and Madame Albani had yet to make it hers by singing it more times than any other singer.

Another song of the time was Woodman, Spare That Tree! Its English composer, Henry Russell, sold it to an American publisher for $2.

When Other Lips, from Balfe's operetta, The Bohemian Girl, had the unprecedented sale of 80,000 copies in its first year. Records that sell a million copies are common today. But, as Mr Hilliam concludes:

"Whereas the survival of just one of the current 10 for, say 100 days would bring joy and profit to all the Anglo-American cans concerned, every single ballad in the 1862 list has survived for over 100 years! Far be it for a septuagenarian 'square' to wonder why!"

Old Wives' Tales Abound Around Gall Bladders

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

GALL bladder disease is surrounded by folklore, fallacies, and old wives' tales. We have a letter on file from a woman who was totally confused by the hack fence information she received from her neighbors. Her gall bladder was infected and X-rays showed the structure filled with stones.

"One of my friends told me I might develop cancer if the gall bladder is not removed," she writes. "Another says cancer is more common after this operation. What would you do?"

We advised this reader to stop listening to would-be authorities Cancer of the gall bladder is an uncommon malignancy. It presents only 3 per cent of all cancers and is more prevalent in women and in persons with gallstones. Taking out the gall bladder will eliminate this possibility but it should not be done on the outside chance that cancer might develop five or 10 years hence. The organ should be removed when it is diseased, not functioning properly, and is causing distress.

The idea presented by the second neighbor is tommyrot. There is no reason why gall bladder surgery should make anyone more susceptible to cancer. If anything, it decreases the possibility by eradicating a source of irritation and infection.

Disturbances of the gall bladder begin in early adult life and statistics reveal that after age 40, almost half the population shows some evidence of trouble along this line. Gallstones are present in one-fifth of these men and women. But only a small portion are bothered and the majority go through life without knowing they harbor stones or a battered old gall bladder.

The most common symptom of gall bladder disease is indigestion — belching, flatulence, and vague upper abdominal distress especially after eating fried or greasy foods. Acute inflamation of the organ resembles appendicitis except that pain and tenderness are located high in the abdomen near the rib margin. The passage of a small stone leads to severe colic which is extremely painful. But regardless of the nature of the disorder, remedies are available.

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

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT —

Prevent fires by eliminating greasy rags and trash from basement and attic.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO
(July 31, 1937)

Several Tryon boys had an exciting experience on Thursday of this week when they launched a large black fish in the Canoe Cove. The 20 foot fish was landed after a brief struggle. Several Tryon girls assisted, and took pictures of the fish as monster which was estimated to weigh 1500 pounds.

A well attended meeting of Kings County blacksmiths was held at Cardigan Thursday evening. R.J. MacLaren, Cardigan, was chairman. The purpose of the meeting, called by the Prince Edward Island Blacksmiths Protective Association, was explained by P.J. Proude, Charlottetown.

TEN YEARS AGO
(July 31, 1952)

An Island boy living enthusiast, who, over the past several winters, has gained national fame through a series of life saving mercy flights, today reaches the climax of his ambitions. Today Elton C. Woodside of Clinton, known more familiarly on the Island as "The Flying Farmer" has taken over the license and operation of Paul's Flying Service, which is now in its seventh year of operation.

His many friends in this province will be pleased to learn that Dr. Malcolm Birt Doherty, chief pathologist of the Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minn., at St. Mary's Hospital has been appointed professor of pathology by the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

NOTES BY THE WAY

One safe way to keep your friends is just to be good for nothing when they ask for a loan. — Chatham News.

According to a conservative estimate, the average person is 767 times more interested in food than in philosophy. — Timmins Press.

Three British mothers have gone to camp to see how the Army treats their recruit sons and the RSM has met his match at last. — Ottawa Journal.

Another thing that greatly retards the progress of man is that his anatomical design so aptly fits him for sitting down.— Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

A steady young man used to be a chap who had a job and worked hard at it; now it merely means he is practically motionless. — Brandon Sun.

People don't like to be reminded of their sins. Most people think they don't have any.— Welland Tribune.

The first thing a man does when he drives a new car home is wonder if all the neighbors are looking. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A music shop on the Champs Elysees now gives a gift to each purchaser of a twist recording. The gift: a small bottle of liniment. — Figaro, Paris.

If you have ever bent over a drinking fountain with the ends of your tie dangling, you know how a springer spaniel feels about his ears. — Welland Tribune.

The bridegroom, who was in a nervous condition, appealed to the clergyman in a loud whisper, at the close of the ceremony, "Is it kisstomary to cuss the bride?" The clergyman replied, "Not yet, but soon."—Montreal Star.

The efficient secretary, without whom many big organizations would grind to a standstill, is often described in various and glowing terms as 'a pearl', 'a gem', 'a right hand', 'a tower of strength', and so on. An alternative description of this invaluable creature, proffered by a BBC secretary on what must certainly have been an 'off' day, was "someone who must look like a girl, think like a man, act like a lady, show horse sense, and work like a dog." —London Letter.

Gradual Growth

Cape Breton Post

Jazz music is something Nikita Khrushchev cannot understand, the Soviet Premier told American jazz artist Benny Goodman in Moscow.

"It takes a little while," Goodman replied.

"It does not take any time at all to understand good music," Khrushchev retorted.

Well, Khrushchev was mistaken. It does take time for many a person to learn to appreciate the best music, and often the person whose appreciation develops slowly finally becomes the most devoted of listeners to the music of Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, Bach, Handel, Wagner and the other classical greats.

Learning to love great symphonic music is similar to growing up, similar to the physical and mental development from childhood to maturity.

A child listens with bewilderment to the complex involvement of harmonies, but if he has an innate receptivity to music, if he hears great music often enough, to him finally will dawn the sense of a grand design. He will be deeply moved by Beethoven's Erocia Symphony when his attentive mind finally is ready to absorb it. The realization of this may seem to burst upon him suddenly in the midst of a superlatively good performance, but all the while he has been learning gradually to like it.

A Case Of Limits

Guelph Mercury

The Chambers of Commerce in five Yorkshire, England, fishing towns have a real battle on their hands. They have taken the lead in calling up to that 12-mile limit. The trawlermen claim this is doing incalculable damage to their fishing in their own inshore waters.

The Chambers of Commerce are demanding a six-mile fishing limit around the British coasts to stop piracy and wrist-time vandalism on the part of foriegn fishing vessels.

The coasts of Yorkshire and Northumberland are being fished by fleets of foreign trawlers. Instead of taking their catches back to their home ports they land the fish at Grimsby, thereby depressing prices on the British market.

alone still adheres to the old three-mile fishing limit around its coasts. Foreign vessels of any nationality may fish with the legal limit up to that three-mile limit. The trawlermen claim this is doing incalculable damage to their fishing in their own inshore waters.

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Experimental Venture

Cape Breton Post

It not predicted here that whale steaks will figure in Canadian menus in the immediate future, but we can be reminded of a not distant time when few Canadians ate tuna and swordfish which now are popular. Whale steak reportedly is tasty and nourishing.

Worthy of note now is the fact that fishing for whales has started on an experimental basis off the Nova Scotia Coast, with the view of the possible establishment of an enduring whaling industry. The Fisheries Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Trade and Industry is keeping an attentive eye on the venture.

A company located near Blanford in Lunenburg County, which has specialized in catches of seals, fish and scallops, is the first in many decades to make a serious attempt to catch whales off Nova Scotia. The effort follows a disclosure some months ago by Trade and Industry Minister E.A. Manson that the Province was studying the possibility of the establishment of a whale and edible shark industry in Nova Scotia.

A schooner-type vessel generally used for scalloping and sealing, made the first whaling voyages for the Nova Scotia firm, returning with two small catches and a larger catch of 16 whales, in the first three trips. The schooner was mounted with two guns having a 50M M cartridge which shoots a harpoon with a line attached.

The initial shooting of whales was by two Norwegians, skilled in sighting and shooting the mammals. They will teach other crew members their art. For the time being, this venture is strictly experimental.

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