The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
W. J. Hancox, Publisher

Burton Lewis, Executive Editor — Frank Walker, Editor

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How We Were Wooed

"Some books," says Bacon, "are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention." It is in the latter of these categories, surely, that one would place the latest volume off the St. Dunstan's University Press, "Prince Edward Island and Confederation," by Rev. Francis W.P. Bolger. Ph.D., of the history department of SDU.

This is a book to be studied and treasured by anyone seriously interested in that most argumentative decade in our Island history, the years from 1863 to 1873, when we finally yielded to the blandishments of Confederation spokesmen and became an integral part of a continent-spanning Dominion.

VERY RELUCTANT—Our claim to being the Cradle of Confederation is fully substantiated by Father Bolger in his book, but he cautions that "while the provision of the cradle unquestionably merits for Prince Edward Island a share in the birth of the Canadian nation, nevertheless, her maternity should not be exaggerated." Rather, our attitude to Confederation at the time provides a unique picture of consistent opposition and political necessity finally forcing us to capitulate.

No doubt, as the author says, our aloofness resulted, in the first place, from a deep-seated provincialism and insularity. There was also our fear of loosing the political independence we had cherished since 1769 and, finally, there were economic reasons. The Island in the 1850's and 1860's enjoyed a high degree of economic self-sufficiency. The finances of the province were satisfactory since revenue usually exceeded expenditure and the public debt was little more than the revenue for a single year.

The products of our chief industries, agriculture and fishing, were readily sold in Europe and the West Indies, while with the United States the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 had opened a steady market, and Island products were receiving excellent prices there. Island spokesmen feared that union with Canada would shackle us with a Canadian tariff structure and result in the loss of these profitable markets. In perspective, we can see that they weren't too far wrong, at that, regardless of the advantages we derived in other ways from Confederation.

STORMY SESSIONS—Father Bolger's work is fully documented, and he has gone thoroughly, and one might say with gusto, into the stormy controversies of those formative years as they relate to this Province. His objectivity enables us to see the issues without distortion, and no doubt more clearly than most of the participants were able to do at the time. We note particularly that he has drawn extensively on newspaper comments of the day, as affording a pretty accurate gauge of public opinion. There are some shrewd assessments of the situation in these excerpts, and some gems of editorial prejudice and asininity as well.

We can afford, at this remove, to enjoy the lighter side of this prodigious controversy in which our forefathers engaged with such earnestness and vehemence, in which they exchangd so many verbal brickbats and soared, at times, to such magnificent heights of rhetoric in their own defense, or in castigating their opponents. Not that Father Bolger emphasizes this point unduly; but all the material is here, and needs only to be reassembled, on a Rabelaisian level, into a grand theme for high comedy.

Meanwhile, let's not forget that "Providence being their guide they builded better than they knew." That goes for all the Confederation Fathers, our own included. It is their achievement in nation building that we are celebrating in our centennial observances, and it is their achievement that this book records, amid all the distracting clamor, in full measure.

Trade Rumors Revived

An Ottawa commentator recalls that in 1948, Prime Minister Mackenzie King issued instructions that the whole question of establishing a Canadian-U.S. free trade arrangement be explored. The Truman administration was warmly receptive. Steps were taken to make sure that Congress would not upset the applecart. Then, almost at the eleventh hour, Mr. King, for reasons not yet explained, ordered the project to be dropped

Even yet, no official information has been released about this mysterious 1948 bid for a Canada-U.S. free trade area. But there are signs that the idea is being revived. Washington has let it be known that it considers such a development desirable and probably inevitable.

But cautious American spokesmen have emphasized that the initiative must come from Canada—that any open U.S. bid might well wreck the enterprise by persuading sensitive Canadian voters that aggressive American imperialism was threatening Canada's survival as an independent state.

And recently the influential Arden House study group on Canada-U.S. relations wound up its deliberations at Harriman, N.Y., with this paragraph tucked into its final report: "We do not see any opportunity now for an American initiative to establishing genuine free trade relationship between Canada and the United States. We urge that the United States be prepared to respond to any possible future interest and initiative of Canada in a free-trade arrangement as an extension of our world-wide freer-trade efforts."

What say our Maritime MPs to this proposal? It is one that would benefit the basic producers of this area, and we should be hearing from them.

Debate On Prayer

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Two years ago the Supreme Court ruled that recitation of a "non-denominational" prayer in New York public schools violated that amendment. A year later the Court broadened its ruling, formally barring "religious exercises required by the states"—prayers and Bible-reading—in all public schools.

The rulings aroused bitter criticism. 37 states had on their books laws requiring or permitting religious exercises in public schools, and there were demands for Congressional action "to put God back in the schools." A total of 147 resolutions were introduced in the House, all favoring some sort of amendment.

Last week the House Judiciary Committee heard public testimony on the proposed amendment issue. It was supported by clergymen of various faiths, and opposed by other religious spokesmen. According to the New York Times, it is doubtful whether Congress will take any action at this session. The committee chairman, Emanuel Celler of Brooklyn, is known to have "mixed feelings about an amendment, and to be in no hurry to act on one."

EDITORIAL NOTE

According to the Canadian Highway Safety Council mechanical failure is involved in a growing number of vehicle crashes. The Ontario Transport Department reported that more than 30 per cent of cars brought in for voluntary inspections failed the test and had to have troubles fixed before they returned for reinspection.

HOT LINE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Revealed As An Endearing Monarch

Many Canadians who labor in the parliamentary vineyard get a bad press; less deservedly, the man who laid the foundation stone of our Parliament Building was castigated by the press while alive, and ridiculed by biographers after his death. But at last King Edward VII has been made the subject of a biography which is fair, and reveals him as a rather endearing character, amazingly tolerant, perhaps childishly self-indulgent, and as a deservedly popular and successful monarch.

The first significant official mission by Edward was a visit to Canada just before his 19th birthday. As heir to the crown, he was at that time Prince of Wales, and he was charged by his mother, Queen Victoria, with the specific duties of opening the Victoria railway bridge over the St. Lawrence River at Montreal, and laying the foundation stone of the building planned for the federal parliament in Ottawa. His Canadian tour of nearly two months is described vividly by Sir Philip Magnus in this new biography ("King Edward the Seventh", published by Macmillans, $10.)

"The Prince disembarked in New Newfoundland on 24 July at St. John's, which was then a dull and remote fishing station." Six days later he reached Halifax "which was so wildly excited that offices and stores were closed for two days, and even newspapers failed to appear."

On 18 August, he arrived at Quebec City for a visit of five days. He toured the sights, attended balls given in his honor, made many speeches, and was granted an honorary degree at Laval University. Out of this latter episode came near disaster: "a powerful extremist body of militantly Protestant Orangemen were offended — and became bent upon insult and revenge."

MONTREAL GAIETY

At Montreal, the Prince received another tumultuous acclaim, and after various public engagements, he enjoyed himself by dancing every dance until 5 a.m. at a ball which "was long remembered as having marked an epoch in extravagance: fountains spurted champagne, and an artificial lake was fringed by specially transplanted trees."

At Ottawa, "then a village", the Prince laid the foundation stone of the Parliament Building. At Niagara he watched the French acrobat Blondin wheel a man in a barrow along a tight rope stretched across the Falls; "with boyish and fearless eagerness" he accepted Blondin's invitation to make the return trip in the barrow, but his Canadian Ministers prevented this. He later inaugurated the now famous monument to General Sir Isaac Brock, who captured Detroit but died at the battle of Queenstown Heights.

TUM-TUM AND THE BIRDS

Travelling widely in Europe, the Prince became an invaluable but unofficial ambassador-at-large among his numerous regal relatives. For relaxation, birds played a significant role in his life; he enjoyed the sport of shooting them, he ate gargantuan meals composed largely of birds, and he undoubtedly enjoyed the company of another sort of bird. He was especially fond of "pheasant stuffed with snipe, stuffed with truffles, the whole garnished with a rich sauce." Thus he grew to win the nickname "Tum-tum."

When he became King, he quickly proved himself a hard-working and courteous monarch, enjoying "immense popularity and performing his duty with charm, zest and panache." Not least of his endearing traits was his affection for all children and his wonderful relationship with his own. This readable book valuably provides many anecdotes showing the warm human characteristics of this very human king.

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 corrrespondence regarding letters submitted.

LONGEVITY

Sir,—The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness. That is a very true saying indeed; for it speaks of the reward of right living. Old age is both honourable and valuable. Old age calls for respect. But thoughtless people fail to recognize that. Old age is valuable in that the possesser of it has a store of history of the past to pass on to future generations, which otherwise might be lost. Old age is a great blessing if we retain our faculties of mind and body; otherwise it can be a terrific burden.

Is it possible that our Prince Edward climate contributes to the longevity of its inhabitants, or does it spring from the soil through its products which we consume? We have a number of centenarians in our Province, God bless them.

In Montague and vicinity we have quite a number of aged folk of whom we are very proud indeed. To name a few of them, there is Mrs. David Hume who is in her 99th year, and is quite smart yet. She knits and sews and reads The Guardian every day right through. Then there is Mrs. Alex Kennedy, another grand old lady who is nearing the century mark. Last Sunday, I met that spry youngster, Daniel Reilly in church.

Yesterday, May 4th, I called on my aged friend, Joseph H. MacGregor, Joseph will be 96 the 12th day of July. He was hale and hearty yesterday, and we threshed a lot of old straw together. He still takes an interest in horse racing, curling and politics. Out at Commercial Cross there is Mrs. Jane (Aunt Jane) Daly. She too is nearing the century mark. There are others, but at the moment I cannot recall their names. We have a score or more who are between 85 and 90. Mrs. J. Mortimer MacLean is outstanding among them. She delights in painting, and she has painted many beautiful scenes.

In closing, I would say: cheer up my dear elderly companions: The best is yet to come, for which the first was made.

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

Unrest In Bhutan

National Geographic Society

Political storms are rumbling through remote Bhutan, "Land of the Thunder Dragon."

The assassination of Prime Minister Jigme Dorji has touched off a wave of arrests, and created unusual tension in the tiny Himalayan kingdom tucked between India and Tibet.

An energetic, forward-looking man, Jigme Dorji had worked to bring Bhutan into the modern world. He ended the kingdom's traditional isolation by encouraging India to build a road linking the two countries. An ambitious economic development program had been undertaken.

Following centuries of acrimonious dual rule by clergy and laity, a line of hereditary kings or maharajahs was established with the help of Britain in 1907. The present maharajah, Jigme Dorji Wingchuk, is a liberal and humanitarian who supported the slain prime minister's progressive plans.

DRAGON AND THUNDERBOLT

Harsh weather in the Himalayas gave Bhutan its descriptive name, and the dragon and thunderbolt are national symbols.

Until recent years, Bhutan was so primitive that there were no wheeled vehicles. The popular cure for rabies was a stew made of the hair of the dog that bit you, chicken fat, and leopard's feet.

Even though modern conveniences still are nonexistent, there is little real poverty. "Practically everybody in Bhutan has enough to eat and to wear," reported Burt Kerr Todd in a National Geographic article about the country.

The Bhutanese grow rice which they often puff and eat like popcorn, and barley, wheat, potatoes, and fruits. They herd yaks which supply meat, hides, and dairy products. The Government accepts payment of taxes in yak butter.

Bhutan's 680,000 people live in an area slightly more than half the size of Indiana. Ethnically related to Tibetan Mongolians, they follow lamaistic Buddhism. The Bhutanese have a keen sense of humor and a marked trait of honesty and straightforwardness.

A recent British visitor to Bhutan said he had a "feeling of moving about in a more robust age, of moving among people free of the uneasy neuroses of our times, people confident in the purpose of life, and in their destiny."

DOUBLE-DUTY CLOTHING

The men wear a loose, knee-length robe bound by a tight sash. Women go about in a bedspread-size cloth held in place by silver clasps and a waist band. Their voluminous clothing serves as a blanket at night.

Because of the Buddhist distaste for taking life, Bhutan abounds with wild life — elephant, boar, tiger, leopard, deer, bear, cheetah, and pheasant. However, the nonviolent Bhutanese travel about armed to the teeth with formidable knives and swords. The late prime minister once trekked all the way into India carrying a ceremonial broadsword.

Forts dot the countryside. They are filled with medieval weapons — leather-bound cannon, ponderous catapults, swords coats of mail, rhinoceros-hide shields, and bows and arrows, ing guns.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TEN YEARS AGO
May 8, 1954

Rev. E. J. Barrass, Pastor of the United Baptist Church at Tryon, P.E.I. is among those on whom Acadia University will confer the degree of Doctor of Divinity during the con vocation exercises in May.

Four Islanders will be among the graduates at Mount Allison University when the convocation takes place. Receiving Bachelor of Arts Degrees will be Eric Theo Crozier, Darnley and Roy Higgins, Hunter River. A Bachelor of Science degree will be conferred on Robert Forsythe Nelson and a Bachelor of Education degree on Arthur Dingwell Toombs, Bedeque.

Kitchen Scientists

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

The average homemaker may not consider herself a scientist but she employs sound principles of chemistry, physics, and psychology in preparing meals. Digestibility is improved by heating, primarily because of changes in protein or starch components. This renders them more susceptible to being broken down by the enzymes in the digestive juices.

Cooking also affects flavor and appearance, as every cook knows. Discoloration and shrinkage are kept to a minimum by choosing the correct combination of time and temperature of cooking.

When a carrot is heated, the cell walls are broken down, making it easier for the digestive enzymes to get at the molecules. Cooking may destroy certain vitamins but it makes the carrot more digestible.

Cheap meat cuts contain more connective (fibrous) tissue than do choice steaks. To make tough meats palatable, the cook must hydrolyze (break down by reaction with water) much of the tissue proteins, to turn collagen into gelatine. A fibrous substance can be softened in this way. The house - wife thinks of the process as cooking the roast until tender.

When raw potatoes are exposed to the air they turn brown because the phenols "are oxidized by enzymes to form quinones which then polymerise to dark pigments." But the housewife places peeled potatoes under water, plus a squeeze of lemon juice. She scarcely realizes that water cuts off the oxygen and the acid from the lemon juice slows down the enzyme activity.

Physics? A scum often forms on soups and sauces because proteins lose water through evaporations. This undesirable reaction is prevented by putting a layer of butter on the surface.

Psychology? Adding brandy to a dessert and lighting it looks spectacular but adds nothing to the taste. The alcohol is consumed by fire and not by mouth.

DRIVING AFTER OPERATION

Mrs. G. C. writes: If a cataract operation is successful, will the person be able to drive a car and do bookkeeping afterward?

REPLY

Yes. Glasses or contact lenses must be used. The operation may not be successfuul if other causes or poor vision exist.

BLOOD STUDIES

E. K. writes: How is leukemia diagnosed?

REPLY

By a thorough examination of the blood and bone marrow. These tests are done whenever a person develops enlarged glands in the neck, armpit, or groin, and more so if there is fever, weakness, weight loss, and pallor.

SPORTS AND THE HEART

F. M. writes- Please rate the following sports in the order of degree of stress on the heart of the participant: basketball, football, and tennis.

REPLY

Basketball the most and tennis the least.

Flow Of World Credit

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Saff Writer

Within the next few years the International Monetary Fund likely will undertake some sweeping innovations to offset complaints of Britain and other countries built-in fund rigidities tend to restrict the flow of world credit, hampering the growth of national economies.

Just what changes may finally be accepted is a matter of conjecture at this stage, thought it is understood some of the fund's proposals will be disclosed at the annual meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors at Tokyo next September.

However, Pierre - Paul Schweitzer, the fund's managing director, who often in the past opposed suggestions for establishment of a new world deposit bank and other elaborate financial machinery, now appears to have come around to the view that some changes are necessary.

What he suggests seems to indicate he would like the changes to be handled within the fund's present structure.

HUGE ASSETS HELD

Established under the Bretton Woods Agreement as an instrument for stabilizing national currencies, the 102-country fund now has resources of about $15,-600,000,000, including about $3,-000,000,000 in gold.

It also can fall back on a $6,-000,000,000 borrowing authority, sponsored by 10 industrial countries including Canada, if at any time it finds its front-line of resources insufficient to cope with a major exchange crisis.

Schweitzer has often maintained these resources are sufficient to meet the present and foreseeable needs of member countries for international liquidity—the credit and other finances required to underwrite expanding world trade.

But the fund and the 21-country Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, of which Canada also is a member, agreed to undertake separate studies on the whole liquidity issue to decide what may be necessary in a world where the present population of 3,000,000,-000 may double in just 35 years.

Schweitzer suggests the fund possibly may accept deposits of surplus currencies from member countries, which would seem to come close to what Britain originally envisaged but which, for political purposes, is unlikely to be widely accepted by other industrial countries.

HIGHER QUOTAS WANTED

He suggested also in a New York speech last Tuesday the fund may require higher quotas from member countries, a suggestion which appears to be more in line with practical reality. The last quota increase, of 50 per cent, was in 1959. While it appears that the fund's consultants have some new figure in mind, this did not appear in the speech.

However, it is understood another increase, within a range of up to 50 per cent, is being discussed. This would bring the fund's front - line resources to about $23,000,000,000.

Of the last quota increase, 25 per cent had to be in gold. With a tightening world demand for gold—and the U.S. difficulty of preventing drainage of its present declining stockpile — it is evident that any further quota increase may not be accompanied by 25 per cent in gold.

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