The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

W.J. Hancox, Publisher

Burton Lewis, Executive Editor — Frank Walker, Editor

Published every week day morning (except Sundays and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspaper Ltd. Branch offices at Summerside, Montague, Alberton and Souris.

Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers Advertising Services Toronto, 425 University Ave. Empire 3-8894; Montreal, 640 Cathcart Street, University 6-5942; Western office, 1030 West Georgia Street, Vancouver (MA 7037).

Member Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association and The Canadian Press. The Canadian Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches in this paper credited to it or to the Associated Press or Reuters and also to the local news published herein. All rights or republication of special dispatches herein also reserved. Subscription rates.

Not over 35c per week by carrier.

$12.00 a year by mail or rural routes and areas not serviced by carrier.

$15.00 a year off Island and U.K. $20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.

Not over 7c per single copy.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

PAGE 4 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1963.

Pressure Politics

Are pressure groups as powerful in this country as they are in the United States? Probably not; but the latest example of politicians knuckling under to the pressure of a noisy lobby at Washington makes us wonder how far the practise has spread.

This was an issue over which American opinion was deeply aroused, following the assassination of President Kennedy at the hands of a gunman whose weapon had been purchased as easily as a Christmas toy from a mail order house. There was real hope that revulsion over this appalling event might finally produce a law to control the promiscuous interstate traffic in such weapons.

A workable if not perfect bill lay before the U.S. Senate commerce committee at the time. It first applied only to handguns (pistols) and had only the most feeble curbs. But following the Dallas tragedy, its promoter amended the bill to cover all firearms ordered by mail, including mail order rifles of the kind used in the assassination.

Each potential buyer was to fill out an affidavit swearing to his name, age, address and any criminal record. This affidavit had to be certified in advance by local police, giving them a chance to check the buyer's claims.

However, this advance police check was unsatisfactory to the National Rifle Association. According to the Milwaukee Journal, it was heavy pressure from this organization that forced a further amendment to the bill. Now, after he gets an order by mail, the gun dealer is supposed to send a copy of the affidavit to police in the buyer's community—just for their records. The buyer, who may have sworn to a false name and address, gets his gun. By deceit, the unstable and the immature may still continue to buy a pistol, a bazooka—or a rifle to assassinate someone.

The Milwaukee paper blames the bill's promoter in this instance, for yielding to organized pressure. But isn't the whole system to blame, and the electorate generally for tolerating it? Which brings us back to wondering if we're really any more alert than our American neighbors in safeguarding our interests against this kind of thing.

The Final Chapter

The British connection with Africa has lasted three and a half centuries. It has been a long and complicated story. And now, with the emergence of Kenya and Zanzibar into independence the final chapter has been reached. What this means is the subject of an article just received from British Information Services, which we found of much interest but of which we can give only a summary here.

Kenya, with its tribal and racial divisions, has proved a difficult problem; but a solution has been found. Zanzibar's politics was so inextricably tangled with race and religion, this time last year, that the degree of national loyalty needed to give a new country a chance of survival seemed impossible of realization. But Zanzibar, too, has gone forward into independence.

Gambia, which at present has internal self-government, presents a different kind of problem. The territory is so small (4,003 square miles) that one cannot but ponder on its prospects of standing on its own feet as a sovereign state. If the Gambians (310,000 in number) choose an association with the neighboring country of Senegal, Britain will certainly not oppose.

At present a United Nations team is visiting Gambia and Senegal, and will report in January on ways in which such an association can be achieved. But—and this is the important point—Britain wants the Gambians to decide for themselves.

When one looks further south, to the three High Commission territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland the picture is entirely different. Here are territories which are not only wholly or partly inside the body of South Africa—with its rigid apartheid policy—but are also heavily dependent on that country in the economic sense. Into the bargain, Britain has to bolster up their economies with financial assistance for day-to-day needs as well as for development purposes.

Nyasaland will be independent in July and Northern Rhodesia, on the same road with an African majority in parliament, will hold elections under a new self-governing constitution early in 1964.

Finally there is Southern Rhodesia, where the goal to be aimed at can be simply stated. Here is a country of great promise which needs to effect the political advance of the African majority of nearly three million, while at the same time retaining the invaluable contribution of the 240,000 Europeans, particularly in administration and in the economy. Britain has no authority to impose its will as far as the country's internal affairs are concerned; but if the fears and suspicions of the two races can be dispelled, Southern Rhodesia might still provide an example of racial co-operation which not only Africa but the world as a whole needs.

What is clear is that Britain's intention in Africa is to pursue the policy which has had such marked success in past years—that of guiding her dependencies to a point where they can take their place in the community of nations as independent states in a climate of stability and goodwill. She will not desert them in mid-stream, nor will she abandon them to chaos in an effort to disentangle herself from seemingly dangerous situations.

Let's Keep Slogging

The Fredericton Gleaner thus describes conditions in the Atlantic area: "No huge grain orders from behind the Iron or Bamboo Curtains are available to give our economy even a temporary lift. For us there is only the slow slogging away at the basic problem of the region, the development of a network of processing industries, using our own raw materials and keeping our own people busy doing it, and the attracting of the necessary capital, public and private, to get these industries started."

That's the way it goes. But looking back over the past year we can see that we have made progress in this direction, and that the "slow slogging away" is paying off, even though by comparison with other more industrialized areas our gains may not be noticeable. There is reason to believe that the coming months will see more processing plants established here, and more of our people employed. If that involves the exercise of more initiative on our part, probably it is just as well. Certainly the results of the last federal-provincial conference should teach us that self-help is about the only dependable form of aid that we can look forward to.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Consider, says the Ottawa Journal philosophically, how angry the House of Commons might have become if it hadn't prorogued in the Christmas season!

* * *

Using a 107-year-old recipe, the Canadian National Railways has concocted 30,000 plum puddings for serving on its trains during the current holiday season. Some of the ingredients in this mammoth production of gustatory good cheer included 107 gallons of rum, 2,000 pints of stout, 3,575 pounds of raisins, 1,716 eggs and 429 tins of orange and lemon juice.

TILTING WITH WINDMILLS

DICKENS RE-EXAMINED

Was Scrooge Really A Curmudgeon?

Montreal Gazzette

Could it be that Ebenezer Scrooge was not really such a bitter misanthrope after all, even in his grim and unconverted years? Something of picturesque good humor may have lurked and lingered, even when Scrooge was pronouncing himself the least jovial of men.

The Dickensian scholar, Prof. Edgar Johnson, believes he has detected clues to the mingled nature of Ebenezer Scrooge. There is in his speech something of an almost buoyant raillery. It appears even when he denounces Christmas and all who celebrate it.

"If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

Prof. Johnson believes (and he may well be right) that this kind of bubbling tangy rage makes the ferociousness of Scrooge seem more like the masquerade of a man who could be quite genial, if he would only allow himself. As Prof. Johnson asks: "Is that the accent of a genuine curmudgeon of a man trying to sound more violent than he feels?"

FAR MORE HUMAN

If Ebenezer Scrooge is recognized as only a man trying to sound more violent than he feels then he becomes far more human; and his explosion of goodwill on Christmas morning becomes far more credible. For it is probably true that in most people the elements are strangely mixed, and it is never safe to say that anybody is quite what he seems.

It is strange how even a word of unexpected kindness from a harsh uerson may come to mean more than many kind words from those whose motives may not seem clear.

Leigh Hunt always had a word of tribute to pay to Boyer, one of the hard masters in the school—London's "Blue Coat" school—he attended in the 1790's. Boyer was "a severe, nay, a cruel master." Once he struck Leigh Hunt in the mouth with a copy of Homer. The blow knocked out a tooth. This was not so bad as it seemed, for the tooth was loose, and likely to drop out at any time. But the blood rushed out. Leigh Hunt asked if he might "go out and wash the mouth."

In a moment Boyer— the severe, cruel Boyer— became quite another person. "Go, child," he said, in a tone full of an almost paternal compassion. And Leigh Hunt remarks: "Now 'Go, child' from Boyer, was worth a dozen tender speeches from any one else."

STRANGE MINGLING

This strange mingling of the elements—the hardness of those who should be benevolent, the benevolence of those who seem so hard— is in Henry Fielding's description of the adventure on the road in "Joseph Andrews."

Joseph Andrews is waylaid by robbers, who strip him even of his clothes and leave him, bleeding and naked by the roadside. A stage coach comes by, the groans are heard. The coach stops. The respectable passengers might have been expected to respond, with the dutifulness of worthy citizens, to the need of a victim of violence.

But the lady in the coach refuses to drive with a naked man. An old gentleman urges, "let us make all haste imaginable, or we shall be robbed too." The coachman refuses to take the man in unless somebody pays for him. No one was even ready to lend him a coat.

In the end it is the poor postilion, a mere lad with few advantages, who speaks with the voice of conscience and concern, and puts them all to shame. He voluntarily strips off his great coat, at the same time swearing a great oath (for which he was rebuked by the passengers) 'That he would rather ride in a shirt all his life, than to suffer a fellow-creature to lie in so miserable a condition."

And Henry Fielding, the most realistic of novelists, adds that this same lad, who alone had acted that day as the good citizen, was later sentenced and transported to a penal colony "for robbing a hen-roost."

As Charlotte Bronte had said in dealing with this same problem of the mingled elements of human nature: "Once and again I have found that the most cross-grained are by no means the worst of mankind."

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO

(December 28, 1938)

Members of the staff of the Prince Edward and Capitol Theatres were entertained last night by the manager, A. R. Cooper and Mrs. Cooper at an enjoyable dinner in the Queen Hotel. A telegram, extending best wishes, from F.G. Spencer, Saint John, was read by Mr. Cooper.

Many New Englanders are expected to come to the maritimes for New Years, a coach excursion is being operated out of Boston with return date Jan. 4. The last excursions from Boston attracted large numbers, and it is expected the patronage of this one will also be heavy.

TEN YEARS AGO

(December 28, 1953)

VATICAN CITY, (Reuters) — The pope gave audience Sunday to nearly 10,000 Christmas pilgrims. The 77 - year - old pontiff was carried on his portable throne in through the cheering crowds, massed in the halls of the Vatican Palace. From a golden throne in the Hall of Benedictions he later spoke to the pilgrims.

WAITANGI, New Zealand.— (Reuters)— The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Auckland by air today for the Maori treaty grounds here, the first step in a 2,200 mile air train and car tour of New Zealand.

From Rubber Lion

Ottawa Journal

Those who seem surprised that the second leader of Germany since Hitler, Dr. Ludwig Erhard is standing up to President de Gaulle may have listened too much to the new Chancellor's old critics.

The man who became the symbol of Germany's regained prosperity— what an apt symbol his cheerful figure is—did not accomplish his "economic miracle" by being the "foam rubber lion" that Dr. Erhard's enemies have dubbed him. He did it by taking hard, sometimes unpopular decisions.

The record shows that the new Chancellor can be as tough as Dr. Adenauer if the need arises.

Dr. Erhard's self-effacing desire not to wreck his party (and perhaps democratic government in Germany) in the face of Dr. Adenauer's public humiliation should never be mistaken for lack of backbone.

No rubber lion would have abolished price controls in Germany against the advice of the Allied occupation powers and his own economic advisers. Dr. Erhard stuck to his position though prices soared and didn't level off for months.

It took more than some jovial Santa Claus to revalue the German mark against the strongest of opposition.

Even Dr. Erhard's challenge to Gen. de Gaulle on the Common Market should not be surprising. The chancellor of Germany accepts the German-French treaty. But nothing he has said since becoming leader suggests he accepts Gen. de Gaulle's concept of a tittle Europe with Paris at the centre and Bonn off to one side. He has already insisted that Germanvy's defence policies were with NATO, not with Gen. de Gaulle's more independent approach. And it has long been said in Germany that Dr. Erhard would seek to increase his country's trade with Eastern Europe.

Chancellor Erhard wears the public mask of a genial, round man—a rare, as one unfriendly critic called him. But his political opponents, such as Mayor Willy Bandt of Berlin, the Socialist leader, do not see any weakness around the jowls nor confuse girth for intellectual or moral softness. Neither should his allies.

Caribou On New Trail

Galt Reporter

A few days ago, seventeen shaggy caribou from Newfoundland nosed their way around a new and strange home on mile-high Mount Katahdin in Maine.

They represented the beginning of an experiment designed to enable the once - abundant caribou to again become a part of the Maine fauna.

Also known as American reindeer, caribou roamed the Maine wilderness in large numbers until the turn of the century when they became extinct as a result of over-hunting, disease, and extensive timber operations that sharply reduced their supply of tree moss.

The Katahdin area was selected as a home for the Newfoundland animals because of its now abundant supply of caribou moss, a lichen on which the gray and beige animals feed.

Two U.S. Navy jet helicopters provided transportation, but with 18 caribour ferried in pairs to a plateau on the mountain, a snow storm temporarily interrupted the flights. Even under the best conditions, caribou are excitable creatures, and these were shot with tranquilizing darts and bundled up in tarpaulins to protect them from the chill blasts of the chopper's jets during the ride aloft in cargo slings.

The caribou were not exactly a gift. Newfoundland traded them at the rate of one animal for 16 Maine ruffed grouse from which Joey Smallwood's province hopes to build up sufficient numbers for bird hunting.

Newfoundland takes pride in the caribou, which appeared prominently on its postage stamps before it became a Canadian province especially the "Trail of the Caribou" series issued in World War One to honor the exploits of Newfoundland servicemen overseas.

STALL FREIGHT INCREASE

OTTAWA (CP)—The Board of Transport Commissioners has extended its suspension of proposed freight rate increases on bulk grain shipments from Georgian Bay elevators to East Coast and St. Lawrence River export terminals until June 30, 1964. The suspension, ordered on cabinet direction, was first put into effect in early 1961 and has been extended every six months since then.

Several Cures For Psoriasis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

In psoriasis, a chronic skin disease, the lesions are covered with adherent, dry, silvery scales. The eruption comes and goes and tends to get worse with emotional stress, obesity, or alcoholism. Injury is another factor; new patches often appear over areas subjected to repeated trauma, such as elbows, knees, buttocks, and scalp.

Most victims are healthy, and no one ever dies of psoriasis. Sunlight has a beneficial effect and, in addition, many good remedies are available. Small lesions are treated by removing the scales and applying a lubricating ointment like petrolatum. Salves containing salicylic acid help soften the scales, and sulphur is said to have a healing effect. Small lesions that refuse to improve under simpler methods may respond to the injection of one of the steroids under the scales.

Salicylic acid and sulphur also are recommended for scalp lesions. These chemicals are less messy when incorporated into a washable ointment base that can be washed out easily with a shampoo.

Widespread involvement is more difficult to eradicate. A good treatment is to apply a synthetic corticosteroid in a cream or lotion and cover the area at night with a plastic substance like Saran Wrap. Remove it in the morning. In some instances, the entire body is wrapped in this fashion, but this is best done when the individual is hospitalized. Occasonally, dramatic improvement is noted.

The safest remedy is the old reliable — tar and ultra violet light. Prolonged exposure is necessary and the patient must be taught how to use the lamp safely and effectively. The tar is applied at night and removed with mineral oil in the morning. After a tub bath, the areas are exposed to ultraviolet. This daily routine should be followed until the skin has healed.

Aminopterin is the latest internal remedy. This antic a n c e r drug is tricky to use and is potentially dangerous when employed over a long period.

INTURNED EYELIDS

J F writes: Is surgery the only cure for spastic entropion?

REPLY

The eye specialist often suggests the use of adhesive tape to keep the lid from turning in. If this does not work, he may cauterize the openings of the lashes or inject alcohol into them. Surgery may be needed if no relief is obtained with these simpler procedures.

VEIN PROBLEMS

J. H. writes: Is thrombophlebitis different from phlebitis?

REPLY

Phlebitis is inflammation of a vein. Thrombophlebitis is the same except that blood sticks to the inflamed wall and a clot (thrombus) develops. It usually is difficult to have one without the other.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The trouble with contradicting one's wife is that it's your word against a thousand of hers.—Ottawa Journal.

Knowedge is what you learn from others; wisdom is what you teach yourself.—Sudbury Star.

What sort of gift do you make to a man who has everything? Give him a calendar. It will remind him when payments are due.—Sarnia Observer.

Should the confrontation between people and pigeons escalate into a hot war, New Yorkers will have the dubious consolation of knowing that they outnumber their feathered foes—there are 7.5 million cliff dwellers in the city compared with 5 million pigeons roosting there. —London Economist.

What our lagging economy needs is not to spread available jobs but to increase the jobs available. If the work week were to go from 40 hours to 35, there would be a decrease in man-hours of employed labor of over 12 per cent; there would likewise be a sharp drop in output, and the decline in the growth potential of the U.S. in the coming decade.— New Republic.

The ill - effects of excessive cigarette smoking should be set in their proper place in the daily routine. If the subject is treated as an isolated "wickedness", then the government's campaign is almost certain to fail. There have been far too many examples of attempts to stamp out the drinking of alcohol to leave any doubt that mere stamping on a habit is enough to put it out of existence.— Hamilton Spectator.

Roof-Thatching Craft

National Geographic Society

Be it ever so humble, a thatched cottage is becoming a luxury in England.

Consequently, a postwar decline in the art of thatching has been reversed. The country's 750 craftsmen are hard pressed to meet the demand for their highly skilled services.

The price of xenophatic rusticity now comes high. A roof of Norfolk reeds, the most durable covering, costs up to 400 pounds ($1,120), but it will last 60 to 80 years if maintained properly. Devon reed remains infact for 25 to 40 years, wheat straw 10 to 20.

Whatever the material, a topping of snug, thick, tawny, well-laid thatch will keep a cottage cooler in summer and warmer in winter, admirers say, than factory-made roofing.

FOUR MILLION REEDS

A master thatcher needs deft fingers, perhaps two months of time and some four million reeds or straw cut in five- foot lengths to cover a cottage of average size. His tools are tried and true—a mallet, trimming knife, sheep shears, and a leggett which looks something like a lacrosse stick and is used to beat the bundles of thatch into place.

One present difficulty is getting enough thatch. English farmers are abandoning long-stemmed wheat in favor of a high- yield, short variety. There are plenty of reeds; but as the London Sunday Times has observed, Norfolk people find it an "uncongenial occupation" to cut reeds while standing knee-deep in icy water with northeasters blowing in their faces.

Though a thatched cottage is possibly the most charmingly bucolic residence ever created by man, thatching in early England was merely a matter of making do with materials at hand. A small landowner built his home of local stone or brick, timbered with wood from his forests, and topped with reeds or straw grown in the same county.

The British scholar Palsgrave, tutor of Henry VIII's daughter Mary, wrote peevishly in 1530, "I am but a poore man, sythe I can not tyle my house. I must be fayne to thacke it."

Colonists brought thatching, essentially an English art, to the New World. They laid thatched roofs over log cabins and split-board huts. But America's weather was harsh, and thatching never really caught on.

BROUGHT DECLINE

In England, the proud craft was handed from father to son century after century. It went into a decline and seemed doomed— except for replacement of thatches on historical landmarks such as Anne Hathaway's cottage—when England entered a period of threadbare austerity after World War II. Thatched roofs became rare in places where they had been a feast for the eyes. It was not uncommon to see fine old thatches shamelessly patched with sheets of corrugated iron.

The British Government did much to save thatching with an apprenticeship program which attracted young recruits to the trade. The British Rural Industries Bureau estimates the present number of thatched cottages at 50,000 to 60,000. Craftsmen have waiting lists of customers.

Many thatchers live peacefully nomadic lives, moving from job to job in comfortable house trailers. One thatching family has become so prosperous that the father drives a Rolls-Royce, the son a Jaguar.

The thatching trade urges householders to give their expensive new rooftops loving care. One prominent firm, in a brochure for customers, says, "If you possess a good thatch, do be fair to it. It is up to you!"

Sail to Europe at bargain prices!

It's Thrift Season now aboard Holland-America's "Happy Ships"

Travel to Europe now, during Thrift Season and enjoy generous savings. Ask about our extra bonuses for round trip... 25% off for organized groups; 25% off if you take our 30-day excursion; 10% off for other round trip travel.

RYNDAM *Thrift Season Sailings*
To Southampton, Le Havre, Rotterdam
From HALIFAX: Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 18
From NEW YORK: 2 days earlier.

See your Travel Agent or

Holland-America Line

71-73 Upper Water St., Halifax, N.S.

His Worship Mayor

A. Walthen Gaudet and Mrs. Gaudet

Will Hold Their

NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

For Gentlemen
At The City Hall
On Wednesday, Jan. 1st, 1964
From 3:30 P.M. To 5:30 P.M.

Callers are requested to provide themselves with a visiting card

John J. Butler,
Comptroller.