The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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We Were Gypped

The shabby treatment accorded to this Province at the federal-provincial conference last November, at which we received an amount of some half-million dollars out of a total $87,000,000 allocated to the provinces to meet their growing fiscal requirements, was dealt with in strong terms by Premier Shaw in the Legislature on Tuesday. We do not think he spoke too strongly, for it was a disappointing climax to our hopes of getting some substantial aid in meeting our disabilities.

Certainly it wasn't a case of our having failed in presenting a convincing brief on the subject. Our claims on the basis of urgent fiscal need were simply ignored. A major share of the allocation went to meet the clamorous demands of the Liberal government in Quebec. And of the Atlantic Provinces, it is significant that the two which fared best under the deal were both in line, politically, with the administration at Ottawa.

That shouldn't have made any difference. Perhaps it didn't. But the fact remains that no rational explanation has been given for the formula which was cooked up by the federal authorities on this occasion. It was a compromise arrangement that took very little stock of our existence at all.

Here we are, in our Charlottetown Conference Centennial year, with this glaring mistreatment to remind us how poor relations fare in the Confederation family. It was only a few days ago that we had the Commissioners on Bilingualism and Biculturalism here, to find out what our views were on this great matter. Of course we regard it as important. But, as Premier Shaw well said, a more urgent need is for the levelling out of the various economic inequalities between the provinces, and giving each the opportunities and services which were in the minds of the statesmen who met here in 1864.

The treatment we received last November has definitely widened these inequalities so far as we are concerned, and it is indeed time that our people united in bringing the matter to the attention of the country. If we don't, we can rest assured that nobody else will.

Loans To Students

As indicated in the Speech from the Throne at Ottawa, it is the intention—provided the provinces agree—to make federal loans available to university students to help them finance their studies. The proposed legislation will enable students to secure loans without payment of interest during their years of study.

This is a move to be commended. While there were no details in the Speech beyond the qualification that the provincial governments would be consulted before Parliament deals with the measure, it is expected that the plan will be in operation in time for the next academic year.

As noted in a Canadian Press despatch, the student loan program was among six points on education in the 1962 and 1963 Liberal election platforms. The five other points were provision for 10,000 university scholarships of $1,000 each annually; extension of family allowances to students beyond the age of 16; more aid to universities; more aid to technical and vocational schools, and permitting provinces to receive more tax revenue instead of the education assistance.

These remaining points were not mentioned in the Throne Speech. But it is to be hoped that the Government will get round to that family allowance extension pledge as soon as it can, for it is the one that created most public interst, at least in this Province. Judging by the comments in our Public Forum columns, it's still a matter of live concern. If all the people voted Liberal on the basis of this pledge who say they did, and if it's no' redeemed pretty soon, two of our representatives in the Commons are going to have a lot of explaining to do.

Pension Plan Announced

While it is highly desirable that the Government succeed in getting its contributory pension plan through the present session of Parliament, it is difficult to see how this can be done without the full concurrence of Ontario. Quebec has already indicated that it will not participate, and Premier Robarts has complained that the plan, as now proposed, is "little in accord with the representations we (the Ontario government) have made."

The key point in dispute is the use to be made of the pension funds. Ottawa wants at least half of the money to be invested in federal government securities; Premier Robarts wants 90 per cent available for investment in provincial securities.

As originally introduced last July by Health Minister Judy LaMarsh, the plan envisaged benefits ranging from $51 to $118 a month at age 65, according to earnings. Some provinces, including Ontario, expressed fear that this scale, when added to existing old age pensions, might encourage people to withdraw from private pension plans. Ottawa then proposed a formula to mesh with existing plans by limiting the earnings-related pension under the government scheme.

The Robarts government would seem to be in a key position here. Its support is essential, and a compromise must be worked out that will meet its requirements. But we shall hear more about this when the eight-day debate on the Speech opens today, with the Prime Minister and Opposition party leaders speaking.

Noted In Manitoba

"Prince Edward Island is not usually thought of as one of the more progressive provinces in Canada," says the Winnipeg Free Press, "but in one respect at least it is ahead of Manitoba; its government has decided to set up a royal commission on higher education dealing with the thorny problems of university organization and finance. This is a matter on which this province might well follow the Maritimers' example. Present and future problems in higher education in Manitoba promise to be much more pressing and complex than in Prince Edward Island, and if they are to be dealt with in an intelligent and orderly way the time to start is now."

It is encouraging to note that we can make any impression on our Winnipeg contemporary as a progressive province, and it is to be hoped that the results of the royal commission on education will not prove disappointing to its expectatins in this regard—and, of course, to ours as well. It is too early yet to say how successful the proposed commission will be in grappling with the problem placed before it, but this nod of approval from a leading Western newspaper should make it feel good, at least.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Fish, comments the Milwaukee Journal, offer a disturbing indicator of man's headlong assault on his resources. A group of researchers found that 12 species of North American fresh water fish now are either extinct or on the verge of being wiped out.

* * *

Hon. Walton Butterworth, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, told this story in an address prepared for a seminar on International Affairs: A Burmese pastor said in cautioning his flock to listen carefully to a visiting American missionary: " 'His skin may be white but his heart is just as black as yours.' "

BEEN SITTING THERE ALL THE TIME

MR. GARLAND'S CHEERY NEWS

Taxes, They Say, Are Good For Us

Maurice Weston in The Winnipeg Free Press

Hon. Jack Garland, the ever-so-affable minister of national revenue, summoned a press conference recently to break the glad news that your friendly tax collector is waiting for you.

This intelligence, amplified in a sheaf of ever-so-tactful departmental releases which rained down on the heads of correspondents, should have a tonic effect on apprehensive citizens. What with mounting expenditures and the budget deficit, the government can obviously do little if anything about our taxes. By way of compensation, however, Mr. Garand has been busy devising ways and means of making tax extraction an exhilarating, if not enriching, experience for the extractee.

In contrast to former years the citizen, on handing in his T1 Short Personal, will be able to count on a cheery smile, a word of encouragement and a hearty back-slap from the co-operative collector. The knowledge that one is wanted should make all the difference. Some, of course, have had that feeling for a long time but only because they tended to regard the collector as Kentucky moonshiners regard the revenue men.

The "new attitude toward the Canadian taxpayer" is apparent in forms now being mailed out. One comes emblazoned with gay blue capitals: "Preparation of Your Income Tax Return. Here's How!" Or, as they say outside the revenue offices, Here's Mud in Your Eye.

NEW ATTITUDE

It is interesting to discover that the "new attitude" is one of the happier results of automation. With the mechanical ferrets now available it is possible to process all the forms in a data centre in Ottawa. This means that departmental specialists in the 29 regions are free and eager to process the taxpayer. There they sit, brimming with goodwill, in the provincial offices.

It is apparent from various passages in Mr. Garland's statement that they can scarcely wait to greet the nervous citizen as he comes, timorously cluching his "unusual problem," through the front door.

Practically everyone has an unusual problem so it should be a great season. As the taxmen sing while sharpening their scalpels, the more we get together, the happier we'll be. Mr. Garland, indeed, has thought of everybody. Nonsociable, non-supermarket types may confide by telephone in a genial "counsellor", sell off the furniture and make their returns.

The new, friendly, reassuring, bedside manner of the department of national revenue is also evident in a bulletin entitled "fringe benefits in taxation." This is ever so much better than the old rack-and-thumbscrew style because it conveys a faint impression that the careless taxpayer may have been passing up subtractible items. It is a two-part production. While the citizen may find little of significance in Part A, Amounts Not to be Included in Income, he can be reasonably sure that his personal problem has not been overlooked in Part B, Amounts to be Included in Income.

This is also the part best calculated to awaken a gleam of amiable interest in the eye of your hospitable tax-collector.

MELANCHOLY YEAR

The last year was in some respects a melancholy one for the department because one of every six citizens flunked the little problems of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division set forth so attractively in the T-forms. In the view of the experts, this is the sort of thing that gives the taxpayer an inferioriy complex. What has been missing in many homes is a sense of achievement.

Nothing, one gathers, is more humiliating than the feeling that through some regrettable inaccuracy, one may have deprived the tax machine of some meagre portion of its rightful due. With the aid of the new forms, the counsellors, the specialists, radio programs and TV extravaganzas, everyone will be able now to share the joys of "accuracy and completeness" as he files now to pay later, but not later than April 30.

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.

NEWSBOYS COMMENDED

Sir,— I would like to take a couple of lines to express my appreciation to the paper delivery boys who faithfully make their rounds in the early morning with the morning edition of The Guardian.

I have noted that this winter, even during the four bad storms when traffic in the city was at a standstill, these young people have never failed to make their delivery and usually even in the worst weather right early in the day.

I think a word of appreciation to these excellent young business people is quite in order, as all too often, we the subscribers, take their delivery far granted.

In closing I feel I speak not only for myself but most all paper subscribers.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J.S. MURRAY
Charlottetown.

IN APPRECIATION

Sir,— I have read at different times letters of appreciation in your paper, and wish to add my contribution in this column.

Although two years have passed since my late husband was a patient at Riverside Hospital, my heart is filled with gratitude as I think of the loving care and attention that was given him by Dr. O'Brien, the nurses, and other members of the staff.

Too often we take such kindness for granted, but I think an extra word of appreciation from my family and myself is very much deserved.

I am, Sir, etc.,
MRS. JOHN DIXON
DeSable, P.E.I.

PROTESTS WITHDRAWAL

Sir,— I feel compelled to write to your newspaper in defence of one of the finest showmen on TV today.— Ed Sullivan. This show is always in inpeccable taste. I always watch it with my large family and never have to worry about the low cut necklines, the barely covered posterior or distasteful dialogue.

How the children love the circuses (we don't have many of them in Charlottetown any more) the Italian mouse, the high wire acts, the ice shows, the magic acts and the trained dogs!

Rated as one of the top entertainers on TV, he is able to bring to us the most popular entertainers of various countries. This is educational because we are given a taste of the culture of those countries— something we will certainly miss in future.

I for one view with sadness the fact that the Ed Sullivan show is being taken off the CBC network.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A PARENT
Parkdale.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(February 20, 1939)

At the regular weekly meeting of the Gyro Club held this evening in the Canadian National Hotel, reports and recommendations of the various committees were discussed and the necessary action taken. A baby mug was presented to president Walter Hyndman by the last recipient, Mr. Earl Reardon. Dr. J.S. Ledwell was the chairman of the meeting.

Premier Thane A. Campbell, while in Ottawa today, discussed Dominion- Provincial relations with Prime Minister King and Minister C.A. Dunning of Finance and conferred with Minister Norman Rogers of labor, regarding unemployment relief.

TEN YEARS AGO
(February 20, 1954)

Georgina Thompson, 12-year-old Frenchfort, P.E.I., girl was the top girl in the All- Canadian Junior Judging Competition held in connection with the selection of the All Canadian Holstein, with a score of 144 points out of a possible 150. She is vice- president of the Mill cove 4-H Club.

Potato movement in the province which assumed record proportions ever since last October has substantially declined during the past week, stated Donald A. MacDonald, manager of the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board today.

New Alibi For Golfers

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Is your golf game affected by poor vision? Yes, if we can believe Dr. William W. Vallotton, an ophthalmologist from South Carolina. Reducing the golf score is one of his pet hobbies. The highlights of his talk, "The Ocular Aspects of Golf", were published in a recent issue of the Medical Tribune.

Dr. Vallotton says poor shots from the tee and fairways are due to physical rather than optical causes. There are two exceptions. One is when the air is hazy and foggy and the golfer overshoots his target. The other occurs in golfers wearing bifocals, who tend to hold the head lower to peer over the near segment of the lens. If the head is too low, the swing is off. On the other hand, some players find bifocals help keep down the head so they hit the ball properly.

The short shots, as in putting, require more eye coordination. Some persons with distorted vision view all greens as overslanted and they undershoot or overshoot every putt. Others aim the ball to the left or right of the cup.

A good player usually compensates or adjusts to his eye condition and may not realize anything is wrong. Dr. Vallotton tells of a top amateur who was doing this. He did not know he was nearsighted and after glasses were prescribed he could not play as well as before. The ball appeared too small and distances were distorted. Some blind golfers do better than those with good vision. One professional teaches the grooved swing by having the students close their eyes after addressing the ball so they won't look up or move the head.

Some of Dr. Vallotton's theories may prove helpful to duffers as well as to professionals. When putting, for example, the head is tilted slightly to see the cup. When this causes a mild eye muscle imbalance, depth perception may be affected.

Distortions also may be increased in those with a prominent bridge of the nose, especially when it obstructs vision from either side. Golfers with problems along this line do better by standing upright and utilizing the croquet player's between-the-legs stance. It's not so bad —try it.

EXAMINATION NEEDED

M. P. writes: My sister has pain in the abdomen most of the time. But several times a day it gets so bad, tears roll down her cheeks. Do you think this is due to a pinched nerve?

REPLY

Possibly but there are more common causes. Consider spasm of the bowel or stomach valve, intestinal kinks, gas, ulcer, and gallstones.

FAILING HEART

M. L. writes: Is congestive heart disease a condition of old age?

REPLY

This term is synonymous with dropsy and many victims are older. But the condition can develop at any age, including the first day of life, depending upon the type of heart disease present.

TWITCHING FINGERS

Mrs. C. writes: My 33- year-old son, a clerk in a supermarket, has twitching of the four fingers on his right hand. He won't see a doctor. Can we do anything at home for relief?

REPLY

You can help by hammering away at him to see a physician. In time, he will be persuaded.

MEAT AND GOUT

A. T. writes: How long must a victim of an acute attack of gout stay off meat?

REPLY

There is no need to avoid meat completely when gout is treated with modern medications.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Miss Bride (loftily); "Oh, I didn't accept Arthur the first time he proposed." Miss Rival: "No, dear; you weren't there." —Sarnia Observer.

Everybody is on record as being against hate, although some people seem to reserve the right to feel that their brand of hate is somehow nicer than other people's.— Calgary Herald.

Reincarnation: This may be observed in many offices at 5 p.m. when all the dead people come alive.— Wall Street Journal.

Made drunk by eating fermented berries from the maroela trees in South Africa, elephants have been terrorizing railroad workers. Could be they are seeing pink men.— Fort William Times-Journal.

Britain's Economy

By Alan Harvey
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home goes on television and says proudly that Britain's economy has seldom if ever been in better shape.

Next day, the British treasury reports the most lamentable trade figures for any month on record.

Strange as it may seem to a layman, the two statements are compatible. It is precisely because Britain's economy is booming that her balance of payments runs into trouble.

As a major trading nation heavily dependent on imports to stoke the home fires, Britain finds that an advance on the domestic front almost inevitably leads to crisis on external account.

In a period of industrial expansion, such as the country is experiencing now, imports soar.

The index of industrial production for November, 1963, stood at 123, an increase of seven points over the November, 1962, figure of 116.

TRADE GAP WIDENS

The result, disclosed in the latest treasury figures issued Tuesday, is that the excess of imports over exports leaped by £50,000,000 ($150,000,000) in January, bringing the total trade gap to £120,000,000 ($360,000,000).

The adverse figures, casting shadows before them, were probably responsible for the welter of weekend reports about a looming financial crisis.

This alarmist mood does not seem to be shared by the treasury, which is determined to avoid the old stop-go pattern that has seen crisis, or threats or crisis, follow in the wake of nearly every expansionist move since 1945.

The hope is for sustained economic growth, without upheaval. On the external front, the broad strategy is made easier by moves over the last few years to increase international monetary co-operation. Buttressed by guarantees of currency support in event of emergeny, Britain can engage in balance-of-payments brinkmanship with greater confidence.

MAY RAISE TAXES

At home, Chancellor of the Exchequer Reginald Maudling seeks to maintain equilibrium by increased economic planning, through such organizations as the National Economic Development Council, and by restraining industrial costs, especially incomes.

The strain on the balance of payments comes at a delicate time. It means that the chancellor's April 14 budget may well be restrictionist rather than neutral, possibly with some increase in taxes to restrain demand.

With the election timetable getting steadily tighter, the prime minister will find it hard to agree to a really unpopular budget.

Sweetening The Sea

Toronto Telegram

Back in the days when the Russians astounded the world with the space exploits of cosmonaut Gagarin, the late President Kennedy was asked by newspapermen how the U.S. could recoup its diminished prestige. They expected him to say: Send an American spaceman to the moon. He surprised them by saying: Find a cheap method for sweetening the sea.

President Johnson's offer to Israel for co-operative research in desalting water has, therefore, far more significance than that of a helping hand to an arid country. This is the first time the U.S., as the leader in the field, has proposed an international venture for mastering the water problem.

The invitation is not limited to Israel. This may well be the start of an intensified program on a world-wide scale to relieve the shortage of water that dooms more than half the earth's people to hunger, disease and early death.

For Canadians, blessed with immense water resources, this may seem like something for others to cheer about. But we have our drought areas, too. Our city population drinks water which contains noxious substances like detergents and insecticides, slowly rising to dangerous levels. The discovery of an inexpensive way to separate salt from water would also mean that other chemicals could be eliminated.

INCALCULABLE

The benefits would be incalculable for the dry regions of Asia and Africa, where multitudes haul water in buckets from precious wells and are restricted in agricultural and industrial development. Most of these areas rest on reservoirs of water too brackish for irrigation and sprawl on the edge of the sea.

A breakthrough in the search for an economical process for using these water stores would revolutionize the world's economy. President Kennedy was right. It is a far more exciting prospect than landing on the moon.

The breakthrough could come next year if scientific communities around the world would take up President Johnson's invitation. Canada, for example, does nothing in this field. We rely on the efforts of our neighbor to the south, primarily because of an illusion that our vast wealth in water will last forever.

IN ISRAEL

But a miniature country like Israel, with a population that can expand only into desert areas, is driven to find its water treasures in the laboratory and in a diversion project on the Sea of Galilee where politics are confused with need.

In a couple of months Israel will launch the first stage of this project and the political temperature will rise in an already volatile Middle East. The Johnson offer will not deter her from proceeding with the pipeline from Galilee. Things have gone too far for that and immediate water needs are too pressing.