

Covers Prince Edward Island Also The Bow
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PAGE 4 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1966

Optimism In The Dark

We are still pretty much in the dark as to what went on at last week's closed conference on fiscal affairs at Ottawa, but we are assured that as a result "there is an air of optimism in finances."

It enables the Premier to give assurance, for example, that the Confederation Centre definitely will not be closed, notwithstanding that Ottawa's proffered assistance will fall far short of the total needed for annual operation and maintenance.

A spokesman for the management says "the Trust was well aware of the legal responsibility implied in this agreement, but it never was intended that Prince Edward Island should bear the full burden."

Perhaps, too, we could be told more about the mysterious transactions under way between the provincial government and the Georgetown Industries, Gulf Garden Foods and Bathurst Marine Limited. As a result of a five-hour meeting Saturday night, it is expected that "new financial arrangements will result in the near future which will resolve the existing problems of the company."

It is claimed that the companies owe the provincial government \$9,000,000. But according to Gulf vice-president William Bennett in an interview in the Toronto Star, this statement is misleading. Bathurst Marine was commissioned to build nine steel-stern fishing trawlers for Gulf at a cost of \$7,800,000; but half of this amount is in federal subsidies.

As a generator of public curiosity of excitement, notes the Financial Post, few government agencies rank lower than the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The image, however, is in woeful contrast to its present and growing importance in Ottawa's thinking and policy making.

Ottawa pilots only about \$16 million a year to operate DBS, yet the flow of statistical information produced is a prime determinant for most of the major economic decisions made for the nation. It is also fundamental in deciding how the \$9,000 million a year of federal spending is to be divided up. Business managers also use DBS figures as the jumping-off spot for their own forecasts and budget plans.

Both the Economic Council of Canada and the Royal Commission on Government Organization have in recent years recommended substantial expansion of the bureau, and to some extent the call has been heeded. But a still greater exploitation of many technical improvements in statistical analysis would be possible if DBS had more staff and the money.

Art, It's Wonderful!

The new sculptural adornment to the provincial administrative buildings plaza is intended, according to its Montreal creator, to "depict whatever the viewer may see." He calls it "Paulia," which is a Greek word meaning "birds." There will be some critics who will say that it is strictly for the birds, and that going so far for such a monstrosity was a reprehensible piece of extravagance.

But it's an "object of art," bless you, and all such comments are "de-

classes." What do the "phillistines" know about art, here or in Toronto either, where they raised such a rumpus over sculptor Henry Moore's \$100,000 "Three-Way Piece No. 2" whatever that means, which was unveiled last week in front of the city hall? The civic authorities regarded it with disfavor, and refused to pay for it; but it was purchased by anonymous donors as a gesture "toward an ideal higher than utility in our architecture."

In a way, our plaza piece has it over the Toronto masterpiece because it weighs four tons and theirs weighs only two and a half. Quality and quantity combined, so to speak! Ours is made of cast iron, too, and should present a harder surface than stone or marble. No miscreant will be able to sneak up, some dark night, and carve "Shaw Centre" or other such opprobrious words on its virgin surface.

The Toronto sculpture is all sensuous curves, with bony outcroppings; ours all flat surfaces and angles. But both achieve the modernistic aim of being completely incomprehensible to the "uncultured" multitude. As their admirers proudly explain, they are "abstract forms, reaching down into human experience for shapes of universal significance, and emerging as works of grandeur." Look on them, ye unsophisticated, and despair!

At the Toronto unveiling ceremony, the chairman of the civic art committee said in his speech that this was a moment of triumph. "The phillistines," he chortled, "have retired in disorder." But not all of them, it turned out. One young man was heard to remark that if this was Moore's view of man, "then he belonged in a mental hospital."

And just as the chairman was saying the creation would enable Toronto "to take her right and proper place with London and Paris and New York," some students, 15 yards away, raised an outlandish piece of junk above their heads. Photographers scurried in their direction; everyone turned and suddenly the white-hatted ceremonial mounted policemen—nine of them, by actual count—wheeled in perfect formation and advanced on what seemed to be an uprising. The junk sculpture vanished and the ceremony was resumed.

Later, when the Moore work was displayed, the students raised their sculpture again. It turned out to be a collection of bicycle tires, old shoes, a bedpost and a piece of chair. They announced that they were architectural students and their piece was a kind of anti-Moore, titled "Archer Tester." They held up a sign: "Six out of ten pigeons prefer Archer Tester."

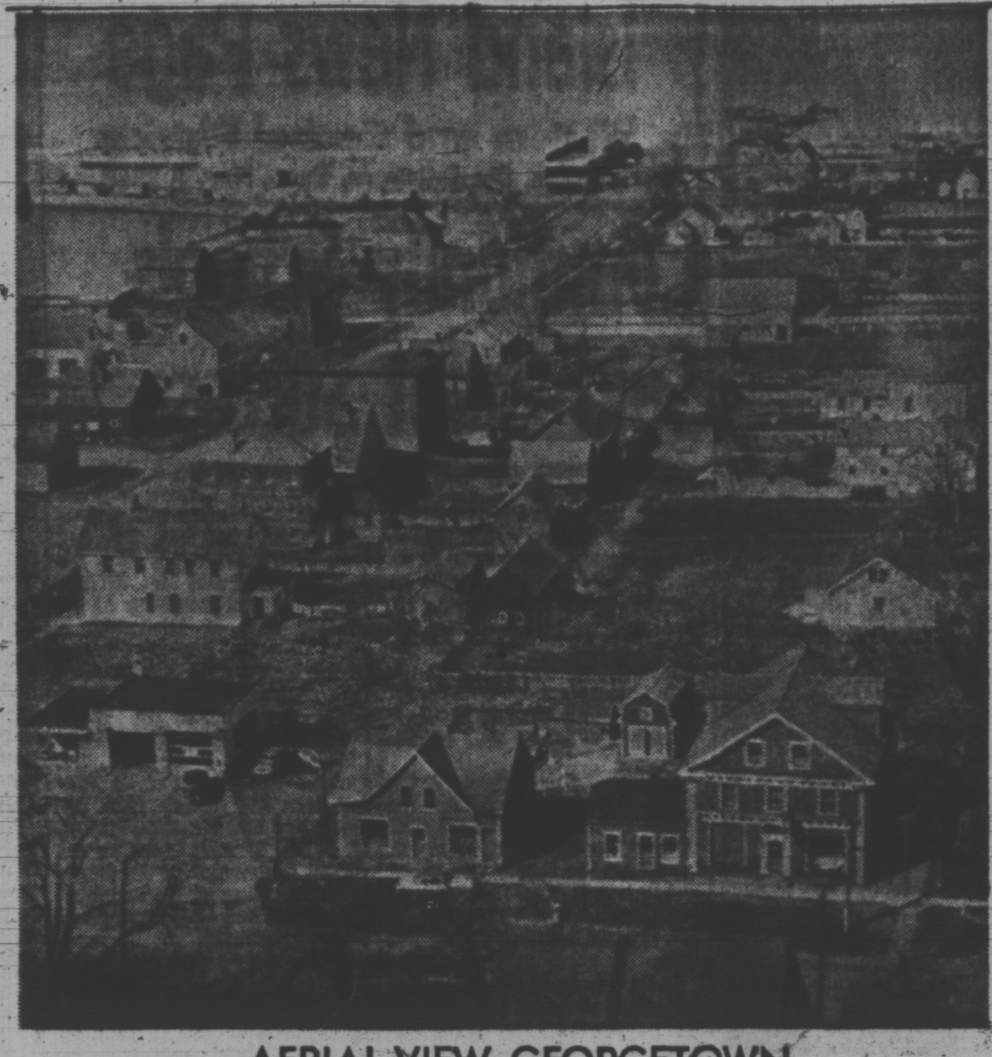
That's another thing, too, about our wonderful new plaza decoration! It provides ample accommodation for the pigeons, and its critics will be hard put to disparage it on this ground.

Billions At Stake

As a generator of public curiosity of excitement, notes the Financial Post, few government agencies rank lower than the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The image, however, is in woeful contrast to its present and growing importance in Ottawa's thinking and policy making.

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Both the Economic Council of Canada and the Royal Commission on Government Organization have in recent years recommended substantial expansion of the bureau, and to some extent the call has been heeded. But a still greater exploitation of many technical improvements in statistical analysis would be possible if DBS had more staff and the money. An increase of between \$3 million and \$5 million a year for the department could, it is claimed, produce benefits far in excess of their costs. This would seem reasonable enough, where so many billions of dollars are at stake. There seems no justification for penny-pinching there, by any standard of economy.



AERIAL VIEW, GEORGETOWN

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Drug Industry Under Committee Probe

MPs tell me that letters from their constituents are now predominantly complaints about rising prices. This topic is being studied by the joint Senate-House of Commons committee on the cost of living, while the House committee on drug costs is probing this more limited field and incidentally enquiring into drug safety.

Under the chairmanship of Oakville's Dr. Harry Harley, the drug committee is hearing many briefs, presented by pharmaceutical manufacturers, and by associations representing those druggists and consumers.

The picture which is emerging is reassuring to Canadians, yet it is one which is not found in other industries.

Drugs such as doctors commonly prescribed today are an innovation 80 per cent of them were not available as recently as when John Diefenbaker became prime minister.

Such drugs are based upon entirely new chemical products; these are synthesized in laboratories by scientists who modify the molecule, putting together atoms in a different way, to make entirely new structures which have never been seen before.

From this situation has developed the picture where, as committee member Dr. Gaston Isabelle MP said, we have two Canada. "We have the big reliable companies with costly research departments, and we have the racketeers. Or, to put it another way, we have the innovators and the copiers; the innovators who stake up to \$5 million to create a new drug, and the copiers who—because our patent protection is so weak

—need nothing but a telephone to go into business manufacturing and selling a replica of the new drug. It is significant that these copiers even in many cases make their product look like the high-quality brand name drug they are copying, matching it in shape, size and colour.

Thus the copiers, having had no research costs, can afford to market their product at a price lower than that of the original; they can then ride to profitability on the coat-tails of the big companies who have ventured millions to develop new drugs.

This is legalized commercial robbery, one committee member asserted. But what the committee has also been hearing is that these copiers, who do not have the pharmaceutical knowledge to research a new drug, also do not have the skill to manufacture an exact copy. Their

product may have the exact chemical composition, yet have the wrong pharmacodynamics. For instance, many examples of these cheap copy drugs have been found on analysis not to have the potency claimed for them; others lack the required solubility, perhaps passing through the patient without dissolving.

The committee has thus discovered the existence of a danger to sick Canadians—a slightly cheaper copy or look-alike of a brand name drug often lacks the efficacy of its branded prototype.

An official of the Department of Health has warned the committee in this respect that it is always advisable to buy a brand name product made by a reputable manufacturer. Why then does the government—permit these dangerous copies—which are costly at any price?

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not accept editorial control of the column. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into correspondence regarding letters submitted.

WAS IT AN EAGLE?

Sir—We are writing to express our concern arising from the short item entitled "Large Hawk Shot Down" in The Guardian, Oct. 22. This item describes the destruction of a "hawk" in Kings County recently, and suggests that this action might have the lives of many wild and tame animals in the area.

From the description published (wing span of over seven feet), this animal was certainly not a hawk, but an eagle. These magnificent birds are uncommon in this province, and are in some danger of becoming extinct unless indiscriminate destruction is stopped. Eagles feed mainly on carrion, fish and small mammals; they are in no way a significant danger to other wildlife or to domestic animals. The shooting of these birds should thus be condemned, not praised.

Draft Dodger As Hero

Eight Vancouver professors have formed a committee to help U.S. draft dodgers find sanctuary in Canada.

Now there's a cause for you! Why don't the professors go the whole way and put up a Canadian Statute of Liberty on some island in Vancouver harbor? Take the famous words too: "Give me your tired, your poor... the wretched refuse of your teeming shores" and the rest of Emma Lazarus' poem. Let's not do this sanctuary business by half—that would be discriminatory, not liberal. Get the Americans to open their jails. Why just draft dodgers?

What a kooky crew of professors (or are they junior instructors, not holding the official rank of professor at all?) to make heroes or martyrs out of men trying to escape from a democratically imposed law in their own countries. President Eisenhower once spoke of super-

patriots; these professors are super-liberals.

American law provides for the conscientious objector. The Quaker or anyone else whose conscience opposes war is not compelled to fight. There are other ways to serve.

Welcoming these fugitives is much more than a rebuke to President Johnson or any of the present architects of U.S. policy. It is an insult to American law and democracy. A not far-fetched comparison would be if some American group had formed a committee to aid Canadian draft dodgers during the years before the United States came into the last war.

The U.S. draft dodgers are no heroes in Canada, except perhaps to a few fuzzy liberals, who seem ready to take dissent for wisdom and who find anti-Americanism—the anti-Semitism of Canadian intellectuals—so sustaining.

Sleeping Sickness

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen. Encephalitis (sleeping sickness or brain fever), is an inflammatory disease of the brain and spinal cord. This summer, it was most prevalent in the Rocky mountain and southern areas. The mosquito, principal conveyor of the disease, transmits the infection mainly to birds. Some smaller animals and horses, and men are accidentally infected. The causative virus cannot be transmitted from man to man or from horse to horse.

The disorder is most common in warm weather and affects people of all ages. The initial manifestations are headache, lethargy, chilliness, muscle pain, and fever. The headache becomes more severe within a few days, and the victim becomes drowsy, disoriented, and delirious. The neck becomes stiff, and the face is flushed and swollen. In severe cases, convulsions and coma ensue. Tremors of the tongue, lips, and hands develop occasionally; the extremities may become paralyzed. The temperature averages from 102 to 103 degree F. and returns to normal by the 10th day. The onset of the disease is more abrupt in infants. High fever, generalized rigidity of the muscles, and convulsions ensue. The temperature may reach 106 degrees F. but usually subsides within a week.

In 1965, a total of 2,703 cases of encephalitis, including 173 deaths, were reported to the public health service. The cause was not known in one-half of the cases, and 36 per cent followed other viral infections such as mumps, measles, and chicken pox. This is mentioned because the mosquito-borne type is not the only form of the disease, but it is the most baffling variety and, more so, because there is no specific remedy. This year the rate will be higher.

The mosquito infects the bird, and the infection is then passed from the bird to another mosquito. The infected mosquito is a troublemaker for as long as it lives. What happens to the virus during the winter? It is now believed that the "masks" (and its offspring) harbors the causative agent, and in the spring the mosquito bites the snake and acquires the infection which is passed on to the birds.

ANGINAL PAIN

M. R. writes: Does angina pectoris show on an electrocardiogram?

REPLY: Angina pectoris occurs with and without electrocardiographic changes. In other words, this test is not necessary to make the diagnosis. Much more suggestive is the familiar story of developing chest pain on exertion which disappears after a few moments of rest. In persons with angina, temporary changes in the pattern occur after doing certain exercises even though pain does not develop at this time.

ALPHABETITIS

C. P. writes: I have been told by a doctor (M.D., F.A.C.P.) that I have a GI neurosis. Why is he giving me sedatives?

REPLY: Because he realizes that you and your gastrointestinal tract must be calmed down.

HEART AND PRESSURE

B. B. G. writes: Could a person with heart trouble have a normal blood pressure?

REPLY: Yes, because the two are not necessarily related unless heart disease stems from high blood pressure.

SHOT REACTION

P. D. writes: I would like to know why some people get white in the face when they get an injection from the doctor. I presume it is a fear reaction.

REPLY: Right you are.

NOTES BY THE WAY

He—"I suppose it would be improper for me to kiss you on such short acquaintance?" She—"Yes; but it is still quite early."—Montreal Star.

A student of semantics says two of the most frequently told lies are, "It's my pleasure," and "I'm glad you asked that question."—Ottawa Journal.

Husband to wife trying on a new hat: "Of course you can buy it, dear, I like that middle-aged look it gives you."—Toronto Globe and Mail.

Electronic marvels, it is hoped, will put an end to abusive telephone calls. However, we hope it will still be permissible to dial a friend and greet him as an old boss thief. —Calgary Herald.

Those who believe a world government would assure peace and amity among nations forget that, like all other governments, it, too, would be run by politicians. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

An experienced husband does not listen for the first five minutes after he gets home. In this way he misses all the domestic disaster bulletins. —Galt Reporter.

Codfish still lure people to the Grand Banks, but now old is a competing attraction. One way or another they get hooked. — Windsor Star.

The new super-speed jets will fly you to Paris in a couple of hours. Getting to the nearest town will take a little longer. —Calgary Herald.

Suffer—"Permit me to say, Miss Flash, that in suing for your hand, I am respecting the wish of my late father." Miss Flash—"Beg pardon, sir; but in this instance you have inherited your father's lateness; I accepted Mr. Foreman last evening. —Montreal Star.

Some men never take stock of themselves until they're put on the shelf. —St. Thomas Times Journal.

"Outer space is a place," said Old Forehead, "that I plan to stay out of." —Vancouver Sun.

Tribal Antagonisms

A year ago, Nigeria stood out among the new African nations as the richest, most opulent and most promising. Since January, however, it has been torn by dissensions. Instead of marching ahead to power and progress, as had been confidently predicted, two military coups in nine months and tribal fighting costing thousands of lives have brought Nigerian progress to a political stalemate.

It would have been easy for emotional and racial rivalries to tear the nation asunder. But there is still hope. Economic and political factors are helping to soften tribal pride and temper. A certain basic element of sane thinking and practicality may even bring Nigeria out of the current crisis as a single and united nation.

After numerous assassinations of important leaders and much slaughter, Nigeria still lacks an effective central government. The conference called to work out a new and more satisfactory constitution stands adjourned with practically nothing achieved.

Our Yesterdays

From The Guardian Files. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (November 1, 1941) Soviet dispatches reported that Hitler's supreme offensive on Moscow had fallen off—the 30th day of the grand campaign which he said was to bring a great decision at the Russian centre—to mere local attacks in all sectors save one.

The Milk Board met to consider a petition of the Milk and Cream Producers and Vendors for an increase in prices. The new price would put the city milk price up to 12 cents per quart.

TEN YEARS AGO (November 1, 1956) The United Nations Security Council overrode British and French objections and called the UN General Assembly into extraordinary session to halt the fighting in Egypt.

The United States is looking to Canada for support in its diplomatic clash with Britain and France over the decision to intervene in the Middle-East fighting.

TOO COLD FOR COURT

HULL, Que. (CP)—Cases to be heard in Hull Superior Court Monday were adjourned because there was no heat in the 65-year-old courthouse. Mr. Justice Paul St. Marie said, "It seems that every year when winter comes it is the same thing. They forget in Quebec to give out the contract for the supply of oil."

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