The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Electoral Reform

We have received a complaint from a correspondent that we have been soft-pedaling the issue of electoral reform in this provincial campaign; indeed, that we have joined in some kind of a "conspiracy" on the part of those having the property vote to deny full democracy to the people of this Province. The issue referred to, apparently, has to do with the report of the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform which was tabled in the Legislature on March 30 last, just before the end of the session.

This report advised, among other things, the abolition of multiple voting. A majority of the commissioners, however, recommended that the property vote be retained but exercised only once in every election by one voter, and then only with respect to property of a minimum value of $1,000, situated either in the electoral district in which the voter resides, or in a district immediately adjoining.

Reasons were given in the historical introduction to the report for recommending retention of the old system in modified form. These reasons had to do with making the electoral system work efficiently in so small a province, with the limitations on the Premier's selection of a Cabinet and the power of the Cabinet in relation to that of the House, with the lack of county administration and the limited amount of municipal administration, and the method by which some 50,000 Island voters in electing 30 members is affected in unusual ways by the functions which members were expected to perform.

Whether the reasons thus given justified the commission in its majority finding, or whether an out-and-out recommendation for abolition of the propery vote should have been made, is a matter which could only be resolved by full discussion of the issue on the floor of the Legislature. Unfortunately that opportunity did not present itself. The House prorogued, with the implied understanding that an opportunity for such debate would be given at the next session.

At that time, after reviewing the issue as presented in the commission report, we stated editorially: "Since the report will not come up for discussion until the next session of the Legislature, there will be ample time to study its implications. Meanwhile, public reaction in the way of constructive criticism is to be welcomed, and should be of service to those responsible for deciding, ultimately, on its merits."

One regrettable result of having an election at this time is that it leaves this issue up in the air. For the press to treat it otherwise would, we feel, be a waste of powder and shot.

Another Soviet Satellite

With the transfer of West New Guinea to Indonesia next May, Australia will acquire a common frontier with an Asian nation of ten times its own population. The minister of external affairs, Sir Garfield Barwick, in a recent statement to Parliament, pleaded with Australians to embark on this new phase of their history "with no sense of foreboding." But, whatever the merits of that ambition, there are sobering considerations in the prospect.

With long range Soviet bombers and fighters, heavy cruisers, a submarine fleet said to number 20, a guided missile flotilla, a marine corps of 10,000 equipped for amphibious operations and an army of 300 battalions, Indonesia is acquiring an ominous offensive capacity. The question for her neighbors is how she is going to use it.

Since the Second World War Australia has been the dominant naval power in the southwest Pacific. If her neighbors had only their own resources to draw upon, she could continue to hold her own. But if one of them can draw, seemingly without limit, on the vast resources of Russia, she may be confronted with a new strategic problem. The ten commissioned combat ships constituting the Australian fleet are superior in striking power and efficiency to any other in the region. But a 10-year-old Russian cruiser of 19,000 tons has just joined the Indonesian navy; and, though it may be some months before she is ready for action, there may be other ships to come.

President Sukarno declares that having acquired West New Guinea, Indonesia has no more territorial ambitions; but, to put it mildly, he has not always been true to his word. He has subordinated all else to the creation of a formidable military machine. He relies for political support on the third largest Communist party in the world, surpassed only by those of Russia and China, and as recently as last May he affirmed his conviction that Communism has a great role to play in "the struggle against colonialism?"

Australia has reason to be worried, though it is evidently determined to follow a policy of peaceful coexistence commensurate with the protection of its own vital interests.

Thant Gets Green Light

It is recalled that when U Thant was named to succeed the late Dag Hammarskjold as Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Russians insisted that he be appointed in an acting capacity because they were on record in favor of replacing the office eventually by a three-man "troika" board. The Western powers disliked the "acting" designation but went along with it to get the vacancy filled. There was doubt, at that time, whether Mr. Thant's efforts would not be stymied completely by Soviet intransigence. Now they have agreed to give him a full five-year term, but at Mr. Thant's insistence it will expire on Nov. 3, 1966, five years from the date on which he succeeded Mr. Hammarskjold.

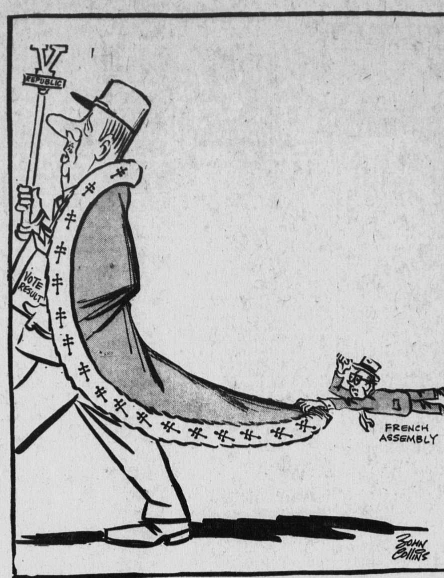
His unanimous election gives the Secretary General a more assured status than he had before, and can be taken as a personal tribute to this cultured Burmese gentleman, who has given the same devotion as his predecessor to the responsible duties of his office. He has spent much of the last year in tough negotiations on the problems of West New Guinea, The Congo and Cuba, and has shown a coolness and aptitude in emergencies that are the hallmark of an able administrator.

Reflecting the general opinion of his abilities was a tribute paid recently to him in the Norwegian Parliament by Foreign Minister Halvard Lange, who said that Mr. Thant's "outstanding skill and dignified manner" in fulfilling his functions made it easy for Norway to take a position in his election. "It is gratifying," he added, "that most countries which have participated in the general debate this year have expressed their full support for U Thant."

The Russians, of course, may have other reasons for indorsing his election. They profess now to be desirous of easing cold war tensions and are evidently reconciled to having their "troika" plan shelved indefinitely. Perhaps this was only a propaganda move in the first place. But it threatened, at one time, to make shipwreck of everything the United Nations stood for.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Remember "Cactus Jack"—John Nance Garner—who was U.S. Vice-President in two terms of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration? We thought that he had passed away, with most of the outstanding figures of his time. But he is still living, hale and hearty, in a place called Uvalde, in Texas, and last week celebrated his 94th birthday. Only one thing he has to complain of—he may have to quit smoking cigars.



LIKE CHARLMAGNE HIMSELF

BEHIND THE SCENES

Canada's Hard-working U.N. Delegation

Earl Berger In The Globe And Mail

New York — "When you come right down to it," the British journalist mused, "the Canadian delegation is the best at the United Nations. Can't understand why."

This evaluation, without the backhanded compliment, seems to reflect the consensus here. Canada's reputation abroad had declined somewhat over the past few years, largely because of the antics on Parliament Hill. But now people speak of "a Canadian renaissance" comparable to a few years ago when the London Observer wrote that Canada had the best foreign ministry in the Western world. At the United Nations the quality of the delegation is unmistakable.

Canada has come to the United Nations with important assets which have been ably and shrewdly exploited: Uniquely close ties with and understanding of the United States and the United Kingdom; former colonial status; economic under-development plus its attendant difficulties; a subsequent sympathy for the aspirations of the former colonies; and finally, no military bases, oil concessions abroad, etc., which would set us against the local population there.

A cynic might say that most of the work of protecting Canada's major interests, for example defense, is carried out by the United States and the United Kingdom. Nonetheless, whatever the reasons, Canada has considerable freedom of manoeuvre and is using it to good effect.

SELF EFFACING

Deliberately and conscientiously abstaining from propaganda or self-glorification the Canadian delegation has become the "honest broker", the mediator, the bridge - builder. It moves only when asked to and then quietly, behind the scenes. "A man will come to you," one Canadian said, "and ask you what you think about such-and-such, and whether or not you might ask so-and-so if he would agree on somethng-or-other. Secrecy is essential. This sort of negotiation is too fragile to stand publicity, and no one would ever trust you again."

Canadian delegates are most reluctant to talk about their work. Even now they will say nothing about their activities on the Congo Advisory Committee or in the disarmament talks. News of Canada's vital role in mediating between Britain and Egypt in 1957 came out only because of the wide-spread publicity surrounding the suicide of Herbert Norman, the Canadian Ambassador to Cairo.

One small example which can be mentioned concerns the present discussions over the proposed UN Trade Conference. The Canadians have just been asked, unofficially, to mediate a dispute which has been causing serious difficulties, and to try to work out an acceptable compromise. A few feelers were put out, some encouragement received, and the Canadians began talks in private.

PERSONAL RELATIONS

Diplomacy depends very much on person-to-person relations, and on the calibre and the amiability of the individual delegate. The Canadians give the impression of being typical of their country: Affable, plain-spoken and "provincial". But, however broad their accents, they lack neither subtlety nor sophistication. Some delegates are political appointments, politicians and businessmen, but their calibre is, frankly, surprisingly high.

Gone are the legendary days when an External Affairs officer spent all his time watch-dogging one particular Member of Parliament who was too fond of drink and women. All the political parties send observers to the United Nations. Once they arrive party differences seem to disappear.

The Canadian delegation is a large one — 41 people — considering Canada's population. But the kind of tasks it has accepted require a heavy outlay of men and labor: The "joe jobs", the mediation, the assistance to less experienced delegations, the bridge-building the work that makes the United Nations function.

Was He Really Serious

Montreal Gazette

It has always been difficult to know just how seriously to take the social reformism of the late George Bernard Shaw. In fact, it is difficult to know how seriously he took it himself. Was he deadly serious, or was there a mocking humor lurking in the background? Was there something of the angler waiting for the fish to rise to the bait?

When the great playwright died, he provided in his will for the universal adoption of a phonetic alphabet. He never designed the alphabet himself. But a contest has been held, and a winner selected. It is all being taken very seriously, although only after several years of legal controversy. The "Shavian alphabet" has now appeared in print. The master's play, "Androcles and the Lion," has been published in both the old and new type.

The new alphabet is "rational." There is no more nonsense about words ending in "ough" but sounding very different when pronounced. Words are now written the way they sound. Of course, this has brought a new difficulty that calls out for a "rational" solution. There are numerous words that used to sound the same, but were spelled differently and had different meanings. Now they all look the same. "Plain" and "plane" are now the same word.

PUBLIC FORUM

ELECTORAL REFORM

Sir, — The people of P.E.I. are missing a great opportunity of bringing about electoral reform during this election. Much of the blame for this situation can be given to our newspapers.

Parties cannot be blamed for not risking the censure of the privileged at election time. But to institute measures while in office which should be supported by those benefiting from them does not require much courage. What I suggest is that there has been a conspiracy on the part of those having the "property" vote to deny full democracy to the people of this Province.

Governments have allowed this class to paralyze any election on the matter, with the result that this Province does not have full democracy any more than certain Southern States in the United States have it. Editors of our two Charlottetown papers should have been agitating for the full reform of our antiquated election laws. Thus they would be following in the tradition of Joseph Howe and fulfilling the role of a newspaper editor. This conspiracy of silence is almost as reprehensible as the other conspiracy.

I am, Sir, etc.,
REG PENDERGAST
Charlottetown.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

Sir, — Pick up any newspaper in any city on almost any morning, and you will read either the details of a traffic accident caused by a drunken driver, which took the lives or crippled one or more innocent victims or you will read an account similar to this: man charged with driving while impaired. Radio, television, and the newspapers every holiday season plead with the public not to attempt to mix drinking and driving. They stress the fact that even one drink slows down the drinker's reactions to such a degree he is no longer a safe driver.

Whiskey is a good thing in its place. "There is nothing like it for preserving a man when he is dead. If you want to keep a dead man, put him in whiskey; if you want to kill a live man, put whiskey in him." We are told we shall be held responsible if we do anything that will cause our brother to stumble. Surely it cannot be denied that those who yield to drink are our weaker brothers. Let us help to strengthen them, by first of all removing temptation.

As Christian wives, mothers, and citizens we must take this attitude toward the liquor problem. If we are not against it wholeheartedly and completely, then we are endorsing it. There can be no compromise. There can be no halfway decision. "I dare not drink for my own sake; I ought not to drink for my neighbour's sake."

"I cannot agree with our Christian friend who signed his name "Fill-er-up." I suggest he read the Scriptures more thoroughly.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JOSEPH NEALE
Charlottetown.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO

(December 1, 1937)

An interesting feature of a talk given by Miss Agnes Ramsay at the IODE meeting of the Abegweit Chapter, in Summerside recently, was the subject of rice growing, a most arduous task undertaken by India's millions. The rice growers have to stand for hours at a time in the water beds, which causes them to suffer terribly with rheumatism.

Condition of the five-year- old son of Willard Collins, of the Magdalen Islands, rushed by a Canadian Airways plane yesterday to the Charlottetown Hospital, was reported good, after an operation for appendicits was performed. Pilot Jones was accompanied by Garnet Godfrey, engineer, and the child' parents.

TEN YEARS AGO
(December 1, 1952)

Building plans for the extension to the Salvation Army "Sunset Lodge" have been approved. Mr. J.E. Harris is the architect of the building, which is being undertaken as a result of several substantial legacies and a Province-wide drive for funds during the past summer.

Mrs. Carl J. Embree of Halifax, president of the National Liberal Women's Federation, was guest speaker at a dinner meeting of the P.E.I. Women's Liberal Association held at the Charlottetown Hotel last evening, over which the president, Mrs. G.S. Inman presided.

SALMON INCREASE

Northern Norway has greatly increased the stock of salmon in its rivers by building fish ladders around various obstackles.

Battered Babies Are On Increase

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

ARTICLES are appearing in medical journals on parents who inflict physical abuse on their children. It is a sad commentary on the behavior of fathers and mothers but such brutality does occur. In some instances, the baby is injured permanently or killed.

A baby covered with bruises was admitted to one of our children's hospitals. The tyke was poorly nourished, obviously neglected, and cried when moved. The mother explained that the infant had fallen from the bed. When they physician inquired about the multiple areas of discoloration, he was told that the boy bruised easily and was always covered with black and blue marks.

On the surface, the explanation sounded satisfactory but actually this was another battered baby. X-rays revealed a few broken bones in various stages of healing. In addition, the bruises disappeared while the tot was hospitalized and no new black and blue spots developed. But the family stood pat on their story.

There was presumptive evidence that the child had been neglected and mistreated. The little victim was too young to talk and the adults would not admit guilt. The situation was difficult for the physician so far as making accusations and bringing the case to the attention of the proper authorities.

On the other hand, the problem is known to most hospitals and district attorneys. The increasing nunmber of reports by physicians indicates something is to be done about it. The solution calls for teamwork by the medical profession, public protective agencies, and the police department.

What kind of men and women are responsible for the battered child syndrome? The mother or father may be a mental case. Others are highly neurotic, and it is surprising how often the story comes out the attacking parent was subjected to similar abuse in childhood. Alcoholism, unstable marriages, and minor criminal activities are factors. But some of the parents are well educated with a stable financial and social background; they are immature, impulsive, quick tempered, and self-centered. Their personality makes them react quickly and irrationally to stress.

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

SMOKING AND HEART DISEASE

A.W. writes: Is there any evidence that smoking aggravates cardiac insufficiency?

REPLY

Yes, provided the insufficiency stems from a disturbance of the circulation to the coronary arteries.

JUVENILE DIABETES

L.B. writes: At what age is childhood diabetes most likely to appear?

REPLY

This disease is rare in youngsters under age 1 but its incidence starts to increase after age 2. It is more common between the ages of 8 to 16.

SCALP SHINGLES

K.H. writes: Can shingles affect the scalp?

REPLY

Yes. Involvement of the outer layers of the eyeball also occurs. It is the most painful and serious of all types of shingles. The residual scars often lead to blindness in that eye.

WATERY BLOOD

J.W. writes: I had a blood test and was told my blood is half water. What does this mean?

REPLY

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NOTES BY THE WAY

President Kekkonen of Finland and Soviet Ambassador to France Vinogradov exchanged toasts calling for world peace. The drinks accompanying the toast: American whiskey. — Paris Presse.

Wife: "Dear, what is meant by the expression, 'the average man'?" Husband: "An average man, hon, is one who isn't so good as his wife thinks he is before she married him, and not so bad as she thinks he is afterwards." — Montreal Star.

The word is that beehive hairdos are out. The only thing wrong with that encouraging news is the prospect of what might be next. — Ottawa Journal.

A small girl who could print the letters of the alphabet but could not put them together into words wrote a "letter" to her friend next door. Then she set out to deliver the letter, announcing that she would stay to hear her friend's mother read the letter because "I can't read and I want to know what I said." No doubt this is the way a politician feels when he has made a speech and is waiting to hear the pundits tell him what it meant. — Ottawa Journal.

A Los Angeles lady is asking $3,623 in damages from an air line because one of its pilot refused to let her black cat ride as a passenger as he prepared to take off in a snowstorm. The pilot and plane weathered the storm but the cat, left stranded with its mistress in the storm at the airport, died from pneumonia. We have had high court decisions based on everything else from Gestalt psychology to errors in punctuations. We might as well have one resting on an open-and - shut case of superstition. — Dallas News.

Nobody got elected to city office in Gillett, Ark., because nobody could be found to run. "Probably nobody wants the worries the jobs bring," explained Mayor Joe Cloud. He politely declined to run for re-election. Gillett, with its 690 people, should provide an interesting test of the old theory that that community is best governed that is least governed. Apparently the town will not be governed at all, which would appear to be the ideal for that school of thought. — Louisville Courier-Journal.

On The Brussels Front

By Doug Marshall
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Psychological warfare is turning the Brussels Common Market talks into a test of nerves as well as bargaining skill.

Since the opening stages of the discussions the British Government has been fighting the war on two fronts.

Initially Prime Minister Macmillan hoped for a quick victory, the outline of a deal that could be mulled over during the current session of parliament.

Unfortunately the big push in the July ministerial meeting failed to reach its objective. The European Six, particularly France, proved adamant.

So instead of some hard details to anchor themselves with, the British people still are being tossed to and fro on waves of generalities, predictions and propaganda.

LABOR WARY

Recent by-elections indicate that an anti-market feeling in Britain is mounting. The Labor Party grows steadily more wary of the prospective terms and some sections of the press previously in favor of entry are beginning to have twinges of doubt.

Growing doubt in Britain may help the British negotiators in Brussels. At the moment they are busily driving home the point that Britain will not pay any price to enroll in the European club.

The position is paradoxical. During the first part of the year Britain had a tough time convincing the Six she was really serious about entry.

Then Macmillan's speeches and the warm support for the market at the Conservative Party's annual conference last October apparently left the Europeans with the impression that Britain would join whatever the terms.

FRENCH HOLD OUT

In London the official view has always been that the outcome depends on how far the other members of the six can soften France's inflexibility.

Gen. DeGaulle's political success means that the French have less reason than before to weaken. To counteract this Britain will be forced to take a stiff stand, make it plain that she means business about her pledges to the Commonwealth, and run the overall risk of losing the whole game.

Britain's negotiators are good poker players. They are going to need all their skill in the series of meetings ahead — many likely to prove disappointing.

The only question is whether the spectators—Britain's allies in the Six and the people at home— will be able to stand the strain.

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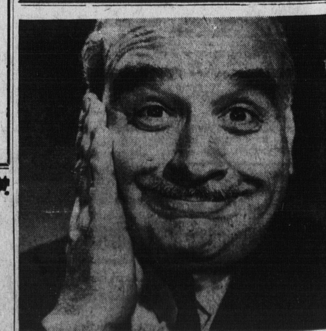

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