

THE GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1955

The Railway Application

June 21st has been set for the hearing before the Board of Transport Commissioners of the application by the Canadian National Railways to discontinue local passenger trains in the Province for eight months of the year. Premier Matheson has indicated that he will present a Government brief opposing the application, and other briefs may be submitted as well. The main burden, however, will fall upon the Premier and there is every reason to believe that he will make out the strongest case possible in the circumstances. Certainly, in his statements in the Legislature on this subject, he has shown a more realistic approach to the situation than any member on either side of the House. He has frankly conceded that the Railway has a big economic problem in maintaining local passenger trains, and that reduction in such services is common throughout Canada and the United States. He has noted also that some people opposing the move have personal axes to grind, and he has scrupulously avoided lending aid to such propaganda. On the other hand, he has shown that the Railway proposal is open to serious objections which the Transport Board will be bound in all fairness to consider.

In the first place, the Premier pointed out in the Legislature that during part of the time in which it is proposed to discontinue passenger service, the roads in the Province are not open to bus traffic and there is no substitute service available. He stressed also the importance of maintaining regular freight schedules, since the transportation of fish, livestock, meats, eggs, frozen fruits and vegetables cannot depend on an irregular or spasmodic service. The application should not be permitted to interfere with the terms of continuous service granted the Province at Confederation. The carriage of mails must also be protected in every way. At most, the proposed discontinuance of passenger trains should not be for a longer period than between mid-May to mid-November, and tickets should be interchangeable between the bus and railway companies. Also, the way should be left open for reconsideration after a trial period of one year.

Doubtless there will be other arguments advanced at the hearing, and the Railways also will have its case well prepared. We have no reason to feel that the Commissioners will be unfriendly to us, but they will certainly not be swayed by sentimental arguments or by the kind of abuse to which the Railway was subjected in the Legislature by some of our representatives. As noted above, this remark does not apply to Premier Matheson, whose practical approach to the subject is the best guarantee that our interests before the Commission will be well served.

Jamaica Celebrating

Like Charlottetown, the island of Jamaica—which next to Cuba is the largest in the Caribbean—is doing a bit of celebrating this year. The celebrations mark 300 years under British rule. Scheduled to continue through the summer and expected to draw a horde of tourists, they will include visits from an English soccer team and an Australian cricket team, golf and tennis tournaments and historical and cultural pageants, featuring art, music and drama.

Two years after his epochal discovery of America, Columbus himself came upon Jamaica, and a few years subsequently the Spaniards took formal possession. Their possession of the island lasted till, in May, 1655, the Spanish governor, Don Ramirez, penned a tragic missive to his royal master in Madrid:

"I would not like to give Your Majesty bad news, but I must advise Your Majesty that on the 10th of the present month, Robert Venables, Governor of Ireland and General of an English fleet, came in sight of this port and the same day he entered it, took possession of everything, and now capitulations are being drawn up for them to give us ships in which to leave this island. I do not know where this will end."

Just before the Spanish governor wrote his message, the island had a recorded population of only 1,510—696 Spaniards, 663 Africans, 74 aboriginal Indians and 75 "foreigners". Today it possesses approximately 1,500,000 inhabitants, representing a wide diversity of races—Africans, Europeans, East Indians, Chinese, Syrians and people of mixed descent. Yet, with one of the most mixed pop-

ulations in the world, the English influence still dominates. The island's three districts are Surrey, Cornwall and Middlesex, the capital is Kingston; the government and judicial services are modeled on those of Britain, even though almost entirely manned by natives. Jamaica's agricultural output is worth more than \$100 million a year. It includes cane sugar, bananas, citrus fruits, tobacco, coffee and spices.

Who Can Blame Them?

It seems certain that Yugoslavia is to lose money as a result of the rather nebulous transaction recently entered into with the Soviet Union. For some time the United States has been sending sizable amounts to bolster the country's military and economic structures; and, in the Foreign Aid bill which has already passed the Senate but not the House of Representatives, over \$40 million are earmarked for Yugoslavia to be spent on defence, power plants, roads, and related projects. This provision had been put in the bill before the Belgrade meeting took place. It is reported now that members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee are asking the administration to take a "second look" at Yugoslavia's share, and to make sure that Marshal Tito can be "fully trusted" before he is given the new allotment of American dollars. One member of the Committee, Representative Smith of Wisconsin, said flatly: "Personally, I've never trusted the guy."

The chief cause of the new suspicion is found in the Bulganin-Tito endorsement of Red China's claim to Formosa and of a seat in the United Nations, both of which are contrary to United States official policy. The House Committee sees this as proof that "Tito is lining up against us and the United Nations." The United States ambassador to Yugoslavia, Mr. James W. Riddleberger, has already come to Washington to give his views on the matter to Secretary of State Dulles. Perhaps he can reassure the doubters, and perhaps not. On the surface it looks very much as if the wily Tito has made up his mind to "make the best of both worlds." How far he will get in the difficult political strategy is hard to say; but at the moment United States Congressmen are in no mood to accept his vacillating policies calmly and gracefully. And who can blame them?

An Appalling Tragedy

The appalling toll of seventy-nine killed and an unstated number injured at the auto-racing track at Le Mans, France, on Saturday should shock the conscience of the world. This kind of "sport" is more barbarous than the butcheries of the arena of pagan Rome, for the reason that it employs juggernauts of modern invention for the same morbid purpose, after two thousand years of boasted Christian culture. Ancient blood spectacles at least had their origin in a perverted form of religion; it is only in modern times that we have exalted deadly forms of sport for their own sake.

The race officials at Le Mans have announced that despite Saturday's tragedy the 24-hour test "will be continued next year and the ensuing years"; and 40,000 persons stayed up all night while the cars roared around the bloodied track. Nearly two hours were required to clear away the dead and injured, fourteen ambulances, dozens of farm trucks and police cars and private automobiles being utilized for this purpose. "Flags were at half mast and the whole throng stood in absolute silence for a full minute in respect for the dead." Then on with the race! Nothing in ancient literature, filled as it is with human tragedy, quite parallels this ghastly nightmare.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"I'm not going to pretend," Author Hugh MacLennan told the graduating class at Dalhousie University, "that the pleasure of learning is stronger than the pleasure of whisky or making love, but there is one advantage it has over every other pleasure in the world—it never lets you down so long as you keep it up."

"The advantages a government brings to people," remarks the Windsor Star, "are a matter of degree. In a democracy a government cannot move far in advance of public opinion or lag far behind it. To do either would be to court defeat in the next elections. That is why radical parties become more conservative when given the responsibility of office. And why conservative administrations, if they be smart, become more progressive."

Michigan has just become the 15th State of the Union to approve Fair Employment Practices legislation which prohibits employment discrimination against any person on account of race, colour, religion, national origin, or ancestry. It hardly seems possible that in a country like the United States non-discrimination in the matters mentioned is the exception rather than the rule. 33 States still dispute equality of opportunity.



Mens Sana, Corpore Sano

Cabot and Newfoundland

By Stewart MacLeod
Canadian Press Staff Writer

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Claims that John Cabot discovered Cape Breton and not Newfoundland—Newfoundland—the name by which it has ever since been known.

The House of Commons in latitude 48½; and Cabot reported the land discovered as Newfoundland—the name by which it has ever since been known.

Both islands generally claim discovery by Cabot and highways and other projects in both places have been given the explorer's name, but Mr. Jeffery who reviewed his facts in an interview said it was "scarcely conceivable" that Cabot was as far south as Cape Breton.

GIVES AVAILABLE FACTS From available information, Mr. Jeffery says Cabot landed on the northeast coast of Newfoundland, and he backs up his argument with reports of many subsequent navigators and historians.

A navigator who worked over available facts, he says, has estimated Cabot's landfall in the Trinity Bay area of the province, and this report was backed by Cabot's own report of the heavy fish schools which Mr. Jeffery says are peculiar to the Cape Bonavista area.

The Duke of Milan's envoy in London at that time reported back home that Cabot discovered land at a latitude of 48½ degrees north. Mr. Jeffery said the latitude of Cape Bonavista is 48 degrees, 50 minutes, or a 20-mile difference.

Cabot named his landfall Bacalagos, and an island on the northeast coast of Newfoundland still has that name.

All other navigators who followed Cabot's trail, including Cartier, landed at Cape Bonavista, says Mr. Jeffery, "and the explanation appears to be obvious. They had a course in which to sail—latitude 48½ degrees. They had a landmark, in the vicinity of which fish were in abundance—Cape Bonavista."

SOUTHERN ROUTE UNKNOWN Even as late as 1545, he says, Cartier was not aware of the southern entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

In order for Cabot to land at Cape Breton he would have had to be off his fixed course of 55 latitude by 540 miles, and then miss sighting Cape Ray. But, says Mr. Jeffery, "clearly no land was sighted before Cabot's destination was reached, for a navigator who had been so long at sea would have availed himself of the first opportunity to replenish his water and other supplies."

If Cabot followed his latitude course on which he left the northern coast of Ireland after sailing north from Bristol, he would have landed at Cape Harrison, Labrador. But Mr. Jeffery says the explorer was almost certain to run into ice off Greenland, forcing his ship, the Matthew, farther south but because Cabot was determined to maintain a westerly course, he says, it is unlikely he would be below latitude 48½. "It is scarcely conceivable that his leeway would have carried him to the line of latitude he would have had to follow in order to first sight Cape Breton."

As a result of all evidence, says Mr. Jeffery, two things are clear: "Cabot made his landfall."

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

WELFARE BUREAU APPEAL

Sir.—The more fortunate majority in our City should realize that even during this festive year there are many among us who lack some of the necessities of life. We who have been associated with the work of the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau are acutely aware that the poor are still with us. Actually, during the past eight months our Agency has exhausted (in direct relief) funds which normally should be sufficient for the whole year. Hence we must conduct our annual fund-raising appeal—which is our only source of income—this week rather than in the late Fall.

The thousands of dollars spent during the past four years on food, clothing, fuel and medicine have been, we believe, wisely invested. Our family welfare and child welfare services are, we believe, competently administered. Our home nursing and professional counselling services are, we believe, as efficient as in any similar Agency. Therefore, when we solicit the financial aid of the Catholic people of Charlottetown we know that they will respond with their customary generosity. We do not hesitate to assert that the same virtues of justice and charity which have helped to build our City will help to sustain it in the future.

I am, Sir, etc.
L. I. DUFFY
President Catholic Social Welfare Bureau

Not Surprising

(Ottawa Journal) If Mr. Diefenbaker is concerned about what he calls "a tendency in government circles to let the word 'Dominion' fall into disuse" it is not surprising at all.

The Prime Minister has assured him that "Dominion of Canada" and "Canada" are one and the same and neither improper, but only the other day the same Prime Minister was surprisingly calling God Save the Queen the "royal anthem!"

And there have been other indications of a trend which clearly worries Mr. Diefenbaker and many others. There was the decision by a department of government that the CPR should not use the word "royal" about a new train. There was the occasion a year ago when the Speaker of the House of Commons referred to July 1 as "Confederation Day." There was at an earlier date a plan to remove "royal" from the mail trucks.

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Medically Speaking

Nephritis May Follow Some Other Infection

Your kidneys are your body's filtering system. When something goes wrong with them, you're going to have trouble.

Water is a common source of trouble in nephritis or Bright's disease. In fact, nephritis is the sixth leading cause of death in my home state of Illinois. And only 15 years ago it ranked third with 91.6 deaths per 100,000 population.

Each kidney contains about 1,000,000 tiny filters, which strain waste products from the blood. The waste products, in turn, are eliminated from the body in urine. The kidneys are the only organs which can remove these waste products. If an illness puts the filtering units of the kidneys out of commission, the waste products pile up in the blood. And if the filtering system fails completely, death soon follows.

Nephritis strikes the delicate membranes of the filtering units. And acute nephritis does even more damage. Nephritis is retained in the tissues of the body. Although painless, this accumulation of water usually causes a slight swelling around ankles, eyes or other parts of the body. Blood cells and proteins leak into the urine with the result that the urine appears bloody, smoky, or with a color.

Acute nephritis virtually always follows another infection in the body. In about 80 per cent of the case, it comes on the heels of a streptococcal infection of the tonsils or other part of the upper respiratory tract.

For many years, scarlet fever was the primary cause, but because this disease has been so well curbed in recent years, it now accounts for only a small portion of the cases of acute nephritis. Pneumonia, influenza and infected wounds are also occasional causes of acute nephritis. Exposure and chill, especially if you are wet by rain, are believed to help nephritis get a start.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

I. K.: For the past three years, I have had a swelling on my chest about the size of an egg and swollen ankles. Am also interested in knowing what is meant by "strained heart muscle."

Answer: The swelling on your chest might be due to a fatty tumor, cyst or tumor of some other variety. Swollen ankles may come from chronic kidney disease, heart disease or some circulatory disturbance. A careful examination by your physician is needed to determine the cause of these conditions. The term "strained heart muscle" usually applies to a heart which has become dilated or enlarged.

There have been amendments to statutes to take out the designation of this country as the Dominion of Canada. There is the fact that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on radio and television never uses for example the name "Dominion Bureau of Statistics," which happens to be correct, but always simply Bureau of Statistics. There was the change in style when "Government of Canada" was substituted for "Dominion Government" as the response of the telephone operators to a call.

None of these things means much in itself, perhaps, but taken together they do seem to acquire a significance which hardly can be smothered by the soothing words of Mr. St. Laurent.

GRANTS AID RESEARCH OTTAWA (CP)—Federal grants totalling \$12,690,698 have been made to the provinces since 1948 in aid of cancer treatment, research and education, the health department reported in a return tabled Monday in the Commons.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A cabinet minister can serve only one master—the public. If the public ever suspects, justifiably or not, that a minister is trying to serve two masters his political goose is cooked.—Van-couver Province.

Historical research sometimes has its lighter moments. In the log of HMS Pearl some of whose men fought gallantly on land in the Indian Sepoys' mutiny, there is the following entry under the date of Jan. 8, 1858: "5 p.m. Dressed ship in honor of the arrival of ladies from Lucknow. 7. Undressed do."—London Time and Tide.

NOTE BY THREE WAY Talking before a lawyer's gathering in Chicago former President Truman told his hearers that "unless the citizens have rights against the Government, no one can be safe and secure." As all men do, Harry Truman will some day leave us and there will be discussion of what kind of memorial ought to be raised. Our suggestion would be that those words uttered in Chicago be carved on the cornerstone of every town hall, county courthouse and federal building in the land.—Detroit Free Press.

As soon as it became clear that what the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen was really demanding was a premium for membership of a particular trade union it became equally apparent that this was a demand that could not possibly be met. Whether engine drivers deserve more pay than they get for the responsibility they undertake is a case that can be argued; and it is a case that certainly commands much public sympathy. But to say that because engine drivers or some engine drivers—merit higher pay, then every member of the ASLEF deserves higher pay, is nonsense and to try to enforce this demand by calling a national railway strike is to reduce trade unionism to the most unscrupulous form of private profiteering.—Manchester Guardian.

There are lots of decent, responsible teenagers whose lives are made unhappy by the pip-squeak antics of a few no-goods; let the no-goods learn, probably for the first time in their aimless lives, what discipline and authority means. If society must do it through the law then let society do it, with no half-measures.—Calgary Herald.

In this year's running of the 26-mile Boston Marathon, with well over 100 competitors in the field, three Japanese and two Finns placed in the first eight. The winner was a Japanese weighing 128 pounds and he established a new record; he did it through being able to run fast or uphill than anyone else. There may be material here for a thesis on the staying power of smallish men and on the virtue of fish—supposing they do train on fish.—Ottawa Citizen.

If we seek to preserve our system of free enterprise, and with it our standard of living, it would be futile to deny the role of profits. The system depends on investors; but without profit there would be no investors. Lacking one or the other, or both, our system and our living standard would collapse. It is as well to remember, too, that those who seek to nibble even farther into the profit margin are ignoring the old aphorism that you can't have your cake and eat it, too.—Edmonton Journal.

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