

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
Wallace Ward
Managing Editor
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 4 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1965

And Now To Business

There will be some new blood in our civic administration as a result of yesterday's elections, and transfusions of this kind are to be welcomed. The candidates who have been re-elected are to be congratulated on the vote of confidence they have received, and the newcomers on having made the grade. There is good reason to expect that they and the other Council members whose term is unexpired will work together effectively under the new chief magistrate, Mayor-elect Walter Cox.

This doesn't mean that there should be no differences of opinion, or that discussion shouldn't be carried on with the same frankness at Council meetings as is the practice with other elective bodies. In our Legislature and federal Parliament, of course, there are divisions along party lines, and too often the debates get bogged down in partisan bickering. But the general idea is that there are two—perhaps more—sides to every question and that it is in the public interest that they get an airing.

In some Ontario centres there has been a move to bring party politics into civic affairs, on the ground that it would make for livelier elections and a more alert administration. We question whether this is a good idea. Certainly we shouldn't like to see it happen here. The current session at Ottawa is a glaring example of how the public interests can get hamstrung by partisan differences. We shudder to think of what would happen to our civic and municipal administrations under the same conditions.

Nevertheless, the argumentative side of public affairs is inherent in our democracy, and should by no means be discouraged on the civic level. There has been a tendency, at times, to do this by shunting "hot" issues from open Council meetings to caucus meetings, at which the public is excluded and can only guess at what goes on. Caucuses shouldn't be used as a cloak for concealment in this manner.

May we suggest, too, that taxpayers show their interest by attending the Council meetings in greater numbers than in the past. It is their business that is being transacted, and the law provides them with a standing invitation to be present.

Pesticide Control

It will be recalled that there was a controversy over the control of pesticides in the Legislature last session. The subject is still a matter of concern, in the United States as well as in Canada. The latest news on the subject comes from Massachusetts, which is now licensing the chief users of pesticides within the state. Farmers, it seems, will not be licensed because using pesticides is not their "primary" concern. But 3,000 users have been licensed by the state Pesticide Control Board, and there are more still to be examined.

Listed among the licensees are arborists, many foresters, tree wardens, persons in the public works and natural resources departments, and those engaged in mosquito-control programs. Those that are licensed must know certain basic things about pesticides: how to mix and spray them, when to use the different methods of application, how to store pesticides, when not to apply them, etc. The test is thorough. It does not ensure that the licensee will follow the rules, but if he doesn't, the control board can revoke his license.

The board has also set up within the University of Massachusetts a clearing house for all research being

done on pesticides in the country. It may also direct research for various state departments using pesticides.

These two moves by the board are considered as unique, at any rate in the United States where there has been very little state regulation among pesticide users to date. The possible dangers of improper use or overuse were not known widely until recently. And much is still unknown on the research level. New pesticides are being marketed faster than scientists can analyze their dangers to wildlife, humans, or plant life.

By coordinating what is known and what must be known about the hundreds of new pesticides on the market, it is felt that the new office at the University of Massachusetts will serve a nation-wide purpose. Its findings could be of much value to Canadian researchers as well.

He's Running Again

President Nasser is due to retire from office as "strong man" of Egypt and would-be boss of the Arab world. He has sent formal notice to the Egyptian National Assembly that, in terms of the constitution which he himself devised, his term is coming to an end and it is the duty of the members to nominate his successor.

The nomination already has been made—Gamal Abdel Nasser. And, of course, the dictator has accepted. All that remains is the formal voting on March 25 when Nasser will be returned as President on a sweeping vote of confidence. One Cairo commentator ironically predicts the vote will run 99.9 per cent in his favor.

But unless he alters the constitution—which he can do by simple order to the National Assembly—this may be his last term and the end of so-called Arab unity. For Egypt is bankrupt, and without massive Egyptian aid the rest of the Arab countries will not dance to Nasser's tune.

Because it has been the most consistently socialist country in the Middle East, Egypt has received huge foreign aid handouts from Russia and Red China. Much of the money has gone into the giant Aswan High Dam project on the River Nile, and much of it has been wasted.

Part of the waste has followed Nasser's political ambition to be the sole boss of the Arab world and his rash spending to support socialists in other Arab states—Syria, Lebanon and the Yemen, in particular. Some of the wastage, however, is because Egyptians are unable to operate factories built for them by the Russians.

In the precarious state of the economy, in the outflow of money which has resulted from it, and in the deliberate depression of shares, Nasser has been forced to shut the Stock Exchange to all dealings, save for two days a week. He has also tried to divert attention from the economic muddle by blustering against his two favorite whipping boys—Israel and Western Germany.

But the current state of affairs won't affect the vote of confidence for Nasser in next month's election. Dictators have it easy that way. The rumblings of discontent are discretely muted. There would be no one else to vote for anyway.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The dean of the U.S. House of Representatives, just starting his 22nd term at 76, comes up with this useful tip for newcomers in politics: "The good Lord gave you two ears and one mouth; listen twice as much as you speak—at least for a year or two."

The late J. Augustine MacDonald, QC, served two terms in the Legislature as Conservative member for Third Queens, and was known as an able and forthright speaker. He was particularly effective on the hustings, in the days when joint political meetings provided an acid test of a candidate's abilities. He was in the forefront, also, in many legal battles during his long career at the bar, and was highly esteemed by his associates and by the public generally.

It has been announced that an exhibition featuring the life of Sir Winston Churchill will be featured in the New York World's Fair when it reopens in April. To be housed in a 24,000-square-foot geodesic dome, the exhibition will be sponsored by "People to People," a non-profit-making friendship organization headed by ex-President Eisenhower. It will include an 800-seat theatre, where a film of the highlights of Churchill's career will be shown, a replica of his study at his country home at Chartwell, Kent, and a model of his birthplace, the massive Blenheim Palace.



SHOWER RECORD COMPETITION

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Imprudent Haste In Planning Revealed

The special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons has been working 10 or 15 days through much of the Christmas-New Year parliamentary recess, to study the proposed universal portable old age pension. The 36 members of the committee include 12 senators and 24 MPs, of whom 20 are Liberals and 12 Conservatives, with two New Democrats and one from each wing of the Social Credit party.

The committee was faced with a mammoth task to be completed in an impossible minimum of time. It had to study clause by clause the lengthy bill ever presented to our parliament, and also to hear witnesses from many insurance, welfare and actuarial bodies. Yet it was asked to complete its report before Parliament reassembles on February 16.

Further, the committee was bluntly told by Health Minister Judy LaMarsh that the government would not appreciate any recommendations which would substantially alter the draft bill. Nine provinces had tentatively agreed to it already, and any significant changes would involve reopening negotiations with them.

This was a slap at the supremacy of the federal parliament, which any legislator with a constitutional conscience would deplore; but it became evident that the docile Liberal majority on the committee was ready to steam-roller the enquiry.

Witness after witness came to point out shocking blunders in the draft plan. For instance, of an estimated 1,800,000 Canadians aged 65 and over in 1976, two-thirds would receive nothing from this loudly trumpeted wonder-plan, less than one-third would draw an average pension of only \$45, and only about 28,000 Canadians would draw the promised pension of \$119 a month. Yet while the average senior citizen would be treated so generously, civil servants earning \$5,000 a year would then be able to retire on total pension benefits of \$5,530 a year.

There are many similar anomalies and injustices which should be smoothed out before this hastily whipped-up batter is baked into its final form.

Fortunately Ontario's premier, Hon. John Robarts, stepped onto the scene and spoke with the authority and responsibility of our largest and wealthiest province. He asserted the traditional wish of Ontario and of his government to attain national unity and national standards of social services, implying that Ontario did not want to stand aloof from this national plan, as Quebec has done.

He outlined how some safeguards requested by him had already been included, such as that any future modification must be ratified by two-thirds of the provinces representing two-thirds of the potential beneficiaries. Second, that any province may, at any future time, opt out of the plan and operate its own similar program.

He made it clear that this is to ensure that Ontarians would not be victimized if any future federal government raids the pension fund, as the Unemployment Insurance Fund was not long ago opened up to new beneficiaries on an unsound actuarial basis, and consequently bankrupted.

A Man Of Peace

Hamilton Spectator

In an interview the other day, Professor Arnold J. Toynbee, the eminent historian, said that Mahatma Gandhi was far and away the greatest man of this century so far, a choice that will curdle some blood streams. He also said the integration movement in the United States would succeed in its purpose, but he held out little hope for a similar movement in South Africa.

One of the reasons for the American Negro's success in achieving rapport with his white brother is his willingness to fol-

Human Hair No Protection

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
Man is classified as a hairy animal, and although most of the body is covered, the hair is poorly developed and inconspicuous. In this respect, it fails to have the same protective value as fur on animals and makes a poor substitute for clothes on a chilly day.

Human hair is concentrated mainly on the scalp, around the eyes (brows and lashes), pubis, armpits, and, in men, on the jaws, chest, and extremities. Some individuals are hairier than others—and we can blame our great-great-grandparents for this. Women notice unwanted hair on the chin and upper lip after the menopause. With age, many men sprout hairs from the ears. Excessive hair growth is associated with certain tumors of the adrenal gland.

No circus sideshow is complete without a bearded lady. These ladies are not too difficult to find and many reports have appeared throughout history of women with heavy mustaches and thick beards—often down to the waistline.

According to Gould and Pyle, Rosine Marguerite Muller was the most celebrated bearded woman; she died in Dresden in 1732. Another curious case was that of a 23-year-old woman who had facial hair by age three. Eventually it became a full beard. She married at 17, had two normal children, and nursed each for a month.

The exaggerated development of hair is a different condition. Jo Jo, the dog-faced boy, is a typical example. He looked like a Scotch terrier. Many victims of this condition have a hairy coat like animals. Darwin's Missing Link was an example of this. Entire families of this type have been exhibited.

A hairy mole is a common sight but an extensively hairy mole is a rarity. These birthmarks are the source of trouble in many persons with exaggerated or bizarre localized growths of hair. This also is true of circus people with a mane or large tufts of hair growing out of the shoulders or back. An extensively hairy mole on the lower back could produce a real pony tail.

DRY NASAL MEMBRANES

C. S. writes: You listed petroleum products among the cancer-causing agents. I have dryness of the nose which is relieved by using white petrolatum jelly daily. Do you consider this a harmful practice?

REPLY: No, and since a dry nose often bleeds at night, your physician will appreciate anything you can do to assure eight hours of sleep.

DEPRESSION AFTER ILLNESS

R. S. writes: Is it common for a person to feel depressed and disinterested for six months after an attack of mononucleosis? Blood tests are normal.

REPLY: No. Some people develop an emotional backlash after an illness and psychiatric care may be needed when it does not correct itself.

SMOKING AND PULSE RATE

R. K. writes: Most of my adult life, my pulse was 82 to 88. Since I quit smoking, it is in the 60 to 70 range. Could absence from smoking be responsible?

REPLY: Yes. Nicotine may increase the heart rate and occasionally causes irregularities of the beat.

MELTING AWAY FAT

E. S. writes: Have medical researchers been successful in developing a pill to melt away fat?

REPLY: Yes, but such a product also would dissolve muscles, bones, skin, and everything else.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Dress appropriately for cold or rainy weather. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(February 11, 1940) Lord Tweedsmuir died plunging Canada into mourning for the first Governor-General to die in office and for a man known to Canadians everywhere.

TEN YEARS AGO

(February 11, 1955) Mr. Joseph MacGregor, a mature gentleman of 87, came out of retirement at the Montague Curling Club, acting as skip for his team. He slid the 40th pound stones along the ice with sureness and accuracy. His mate on the same team was Mr. William MacLean, also of Montague, and a mere youngster of 71.

Sgt. F.S. (Ted) Farrar of the RCMP, said to be the first man to circumnavigate the North American continent died of a heart attack in Ottawa.

INDUCES SLEEP

Three Soviet engineers have been granted a U.S. patent for an electronic sleep machine said to be in hospital use in the U.S.S.R.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Customer — "So you've got rid of that pretty clerk you had?" Druggist — "Yes, all my gentlemen customers kept saying that a smile from her was as good as a tonic!" — Toronto Star.

The U.S. clothing industry is anxious to squelch exaggerated claims about a "permanent press" in clothing and to emphasize that nothing in textiles is permanent. Least surprised will be mothers of growing children. — Ottawa Journal.

An English lawyer being sick, made his last will, and gave all his estate to fools and madmen: being asked the reason for so doing, "From such," said he, "I had it, and to such I give it again!" — Vancouver Sun.

China Plays Shrewd Game

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer

The impression is growing in informed British quarters that China, with the help of North Viet Nam, may have outwitted the untried leaders of both the Soviet Union and the United States in the spreading Vietnamese war.

The prospects may be exactly what Peking ordered: A shattering of hope for any friendly East-West conference that may have been in the making and a break-up in any budding friendship that could have developed between the two strangers—Alexei Kosygin of the Soviet Union and Lyndon Johnson of the United States.

For weeks there had been talk of a possible exchange of visits and television appearances by the two leaders. Both are relatively new and untried in the field of world strategy and diplomacy. Both have had jobs in stepping out of the shadows of their predecessors, especially Kosygin, who replaces the formidable Nikita Khrushchev.

Now, suddenly, the Vietnamese war has enshrouded both leaders in images perhaps not of their own choosing. Each must show his people at home he is fearless. They cannot withdraw from the increasing rigidity of their predicaments without loss of face.

It now is widely accepted in Western diplomatic quarters the timing of the Viet Cong attack against an American air base at Pleiku in South Viet Nam was deliberate. It coincided with the first visit of Kosygin in Hanoi, a city which his predecessor had tended to ignore.

Western diplomats suggest Kosygin was no more aware of plans for that attack than were the American airmen who were pinned by gun-fire at Pleiku. And it is considered unlikely Ho Chi Minh, the North Vietnamese leader, would have the audacity of involving Kosygin without full consultations and urgings from Peking.

NO RECOURSE LEFT

With his own world image at stake, Johnson apparently felt he had no other recourse but to batter a North Vietnamese base. He was fighting a losing war: A war which he had inherited and one which he could not resolve without first reaching a firm and intimate negotiation with the other side.

Now those prospects of detached and cool-headed negotiations have dimmed. Kosygin, finding himself involved, immediately pledged firm support to Hanoi. The demonstrations that followed in the Communist capitals were anticipated. But they seemed more fervent and prolonged in Peking than in Moscow.

Johnson cannot let the matter rest. He has made his own position clear. It appears to suggest further military responses against North Vietnamese bases as the South Vietnamese situation continues to deteriorate. And Communist China appears to be waiting for just the right moment to join the holocaust in full array.

A Touchy Problem

London Free Press

Nationalism and language are all mixed-up as Canadians know only too well. But while the language question here has caused some heat, Canadians are not literally burned up over it as at least 150 Indians were. In that country the adoption of Hindi as the national language led to riots and demonstrations. During the course of these some protesters burned themselves to death.

When India became a republic some Indians felt that it was necessary to get rid of all vestiges of British rule. Carrying away statues of Queen Victoria and similar monuments was comparatively simple. But displacing English as the language of Parliament and the courts was another matter. For there was no other language spoken by Indians generally.

This is an instance where a move that was intended to unify is actually intensified divisions. It shows how touchy language problems can be.

Week-End Specials

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