The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

W.J. Hancox, Publisher

Burton Lewis, Executive Editor — Frank Walker, Editor

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At The Year's End

Perhaps it is because we're incorrigible optimists, but we always have a strong feeling at this season that the New Year is going to be better than the Old. But there really does seem to be justification for optimism at the prospects for 1964, both at home and abroad. Certainly the big centennial events that are looming ahead for this Province should put us all in a state of expectancy. For Canada, the business improvement noted in 1963 shows promise of continuing, and for the world at large the prospects for peaceful co-existence are considerably brighter than we had reason to expect a few months ago.

If there were failures and disappointments during 1963, let us remember with gratitude that there were also concrete achievements. For the first time since 1945, a movement for disarmament and world peace has made headway through the signing of the pact for partial control of nuclear tests, leaving the way open for further negotiations during the coming months. There has been a movement on the part of the various Christian churches to draw closer together, and this, too, can be rated among the great events of our time.

One of the few spots in the world where trouble broke out during the Christmas season was Cyprus, where Turks and Greeks have lived together in uneasy balance since the island became independent of Britain and established a republic within the Commonwealth. But even here there are hopeful indications of settlement with the agreement, reached yesterday, to establish a neutral zone in the troubled area.

There are other areas of unrest, of course, in Asia, Africa and elsewhere. And, as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth reminded us in her Christmas Day broadcast, there is a great deal of hunger in the world, a great many under-fed and under-privileged people whose welfare will constitute perhaps the biggest problem world leaders will have to face up to in 1964. And there is Communist China, which poses many ominous probems for the future. But by and large, the 1963 picture shows that nations are making progress, and real progress, toward peace and stability.

In wishing our readers all the happiness and prosperity the New Year may have in store, we are reminded once again of the words of Robert Louis Stevenson, that in the race set before us in this life "to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labor." If we carry this inspiration with us into the months ahead, we are in no danger of being floored by disappointments.

Science And Stonehenge

When Canada's first contingent went overseas in the First World War it was encamped, during the winter months of 1914-15, on Salisbury Plain, England. Surviving members of the contingent will not have forgotten the gaunt and haunting circles of Stonehenge, built supposedly by the Druids, for which the plain is famous.

For generations scientists have been in controversy over the purpose of these ancient stones. Obviously they were planned with immense labor and skill, but whether as a burial place or for astronomical purposes (the Druids were sun-worshippers) was never determined.

Now the automated world has entered the picture and a computer has been put to work on the problem by Dr. Gerald R. Hawkins, of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Specifically it was employed to find whether there was any connection between the direction indicated by the lines joining Stonehenge's various stones and holes and the directions of the rising and setting of the sun and moon at midsummer and midwinter.

Dr. Hawkins took the year 1500 B.C. as the probable date for the completion of Stonehenge, and used a computer to test any correlations during that time. The results have been astonishing. The computer reports that the correlations between the stones and holes and the solar and lunar directions came within an accuracy of 1 to 1½ degrees.

Thus the theory of Stonehenge's astronomical purpose has been powerfully strengthened. Dr. Hawkins believes that this ancient monument could have formed a reliable calendar for predicting the seasons. It could also have signalled the danger periods for eclipses of the sun or moon.

Philosophizing on this incident, the Montreal Gazette says that when the Druids gathered under the shadow of Stonehenge they could little have imagined that one day a computer would be introduced in an attempt to prove to distant and puzzled generations what they had been doing among those massive stones on the lonely plain.

Neither, for that matter, could the Canadians of 1914 A.D. vintage, who did some speculating on their own account about Stonehenge and would have been just as surprised as the Druids to have had the magic findings of an electronic computer revealed to them. But perhaps they wouldn't have cared much, one way or the other. They had other things on their mind, it will be recalled, at that time.

Out Of Evil, Good

Even from one of the year's greatest tragedies, notes the Toronto Globe and Mail, there has grown a curious hope. When President John Kennedy was assassinated, shot by a left-wing extremist, the world feared that the United States would react in rage against the left, blame the Communists, grow more intransigent in its dealings with the Soviet Union, and perhaps destroy forever the little hope for peace that was taking root in mankind.

But the United States did not react that way. Instead its people have looked in their hearts and blamed the hate they found there, instead of the Communists. They have recognized that the hate that killed their President was the same kind of hate that shot down a Negro leader and bombed little girls in Sunday School, an evil thing with which a people cannot live in health, or a world in peace.

President Lyndon Johnson and thoughtful and humbled Americans everywhere have raised their voices to plead that this evil of hate be rooted out. President Johnson has made it plain that he will continue to try, as his predecessor tried, to find a way to live in peace with the Russians.

Here, surely, is a striking manifestation of the "winds of change" that are blowing across the world today. To future historians, it may loom as something much more important than technological advances in nuclear weapons or space capsules. It marks progress in the spiritual growth of a great nation, by which its ultimate contribution to civilization will be measured more truly than by all its achievements in the material sphere.

EDITORIAL NOTES

From the Somerset village of Freshford, England, comes news of a family that has had to cut a hole in the living room ceiling to give its rubber plant room to grow. The plant already is 12 feet eight inches tall and continues to grow.

* * *

The house in Kingston Mr. Diefenbaker suggests be bought by the Government as a memorial to Sir John A. Macdonald who lived there, says the Ottawa Journal, was built in 1839 by a retired grocer. When the future Prime Minister moved into it in 1848 he probably remembered the grocer and reflected that the squat miniature tower resembled a tea caddy. He called it Tea Caddy Castle.

HARD GIFT TO REFUSE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Canadian Taxpayer An Obedient Donkey ?

At year's end it is customary for commentators to nominate their choice as "Man of the Year." My nominee is a very obvious but overlooked candidate for this high honour. I award the palm to "The Canadian Taxpayer." And I honour him much as I would praise the donkey as an obedient uncomplaining beast of burden, while deploring his stupidity in not revolting against his pathetic fate.

The past six years have seen Parliament Hill improperly converted from the seat of our national legislature into a politicians' cockpit, with the hustings across Canada utilized as an auxiliary battleground on the average once every eighteen months. The chief warriors have applied all their ingenuity and partisan skills to this six year long "Politicians' War" which is still not ended. The party leaders and their chief lieutenants have seemingly given top priority to battling for their own ends, while neglecting the economic welfare of the averaged Canadian. Their prime weapon has been electoral bribes to specific groups which, while appearing to promise advantages have in fact proved to be mercetricious and exceedingly costly.

MUST CALL A HALT

The cold hard fact is that Canadians are now paying, and will long continue to pay, very dearly for this subordination of governing to politicking. So the one obvious prediction about 1964 is that Canada cannot afford another election this coming year.

I don't refer to the actual cost of preparing for and counting the popular vote. I criticize the unjustified, insulting and intolerable tax burden caused by the promises made by politicians in elections.

Our national budget has soared from $4.4 billion in the year before this Six Years War began, to an estimated $6.8 billion this year. In 1956 the federal spending was $1,112 per Canadian family; this year it has reached $1,452. The government has feared to try to meet all this soaring extravagance from current taxes, which have nevertheless been increased by an anti-incentive 30 per cent in yield over six years. This high level of taxation means that the average family now has to borrow to meet its needs.

Meanwhile the government has been incurring huge deficits, unprecedented in peace time. During the six Diefenbaker years, our budget deficits totalled more than the sum of all the deficits recorded in all the peace time years ever since Confederation, and added $620 per family to our national debt.

BRIBES AND THEIR COST

Where has the money gone? In higher costs of servicing our national debt, in financing the plundering of our unemployment insurance fund, in increased welfare payments, and especially in hand-outs to selected groups. The already prosperous western grain farmer, for instance, was last year given special acreage payments totalling over $40 million, while the taxpayer also had to assist almost everything produced on farms except beef cattle.

Every one of the multitudinous electoral promises has to be paid for by the taxpayer, whether it is higher old age pensions, or a new post office for Backward Creek, or a toll-free Welland canal or a "square deal" for the tobacco grower or subsidies for Quebec or "unemployment" payments to married women.

The Canadian taxpayer has lain down under this burden imposed by the political war-makers, instead of screaming his protest and rebelling in the polling booth against being thus milked in the pols' interest. But in dutifully paying the outrageous taxes levied upon him, he has earned the title of "The Man of the Year."

Shy Liberal Suitors

Ottawa Journal

The most boring courtship in the history of Canadian politics continues. Ever since the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation was formed more than 30 years ago, the Liberal Party has been a diffident suitor for the Socialist lady's hand.

Typically, it was never the Liberal way to put fortune to the chance and make an outright public offer of marriage. But during the Second World War Prime Minister Mackenzie King let an unimpressed CCF Leader Coldwell know that he would be welcome in a Liberal Federal Cabinet and that would have pulled an element of Socialist thought into sympathy with the ruling party.

Mr. St. Laurent was just as shy a swain as Mr. King and it was his way to speak of the CCF supporters as "Liberals in a hurry," a phrase which was good for one election and thereafter became a bore, particularly, we would think, to Socialists.

Now the CCF is the NDP in the federal field and the 14 per cent of the popular vote it gathered in the last general election would be most helpful to the Liberals; with it, they might have formed a majority government.

Today, as might be expected, there are reports of Liberal feelers going out to see if unions with the NDP can be arranged provincially and, from that, the Liberal strategists would move with their usual caution towards federal association. They may feel encouraged by the NDP decision to abstain from voting in a Commons division but cannot be sure whether this was due to esteem of the Liberal Government, eagerness of NDP members to stay in office or determination to prevent another election too quickly.

What must bother the Liberals is the Socialists' refusal to take them seriously "If I am not worth the wooing, I surely am not worth the winning," the NDP could jest at the hesitant Liberals. A party with people as spirited as Mr. Douglas, Mr. Colin Cameron and Mr. Brewin and as shrewd as Mr. Knowles and Mr. Fisher, is not likely to be impressed with the Pearson brand of courtship which promises to be as devious and timid as that of his predecessors.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(December 31, 1938)

Streets in Charlottetown which were paved during the year include Dorchester Street — one block between Rochford and Pownal; Cumberland Street, two blocks, Grafton to Fitzroy; Edward Street, one block, Pitt to Euston, and Water Street east a little beyond the CNR loading ground.

Contractors engaged in Charlottetown during the year for city work were H.J. Phillips and Son, Vail Bros., A.T. MacKinnon, Elmer Foster, Hartle Bowness, N.A. Darrach, W.J. Hennessey, A.A. Hennessey, W. B. Burke, A.H. MacDougall, Mac-Aulay and Boisner, and Albert E. Baker.

TEN YEARS AGO
(December 31, 1953)

VANCOUVER (CP)— A disabled RCAF North Star transport plane ripped off a wing and cartwheeled into wreckage while landing at Vancouver international airport Wednesday, but all 51 persons aboard escaped serious injury. Air force officials said it was a "miracle" no one was killed. Eight women and two small children were among the survivors.

A large number of interested spectators thoroughly enjoyed a revival of old-time Carnival festivities at the Forum last night, carried out with a view to providing fun and frolic to both young and old. Costume judging required considerable care and consideration owing to the close competition. The judges were W.E. Scantlebury, W.A. Gaudet and Mrs. Charles Willett.

University Financing

Winnipeg Free Press

In a brief presented to Mr. Walter Gordon, minister of finance, the Canadian Universities Foundation has again approached the federal government with a request for additional "interim assistance" of $300 million for what it says are necessary capital expenditures over the next three years.

The brief states that projected capital expenditures for higher education over the next three years will amount to $900 million, but that at the present rate of contributions from governments and other sources, only $500 million will be available. What is needed as a permanent cure for the financial ills of universities, it suggests, is an overhaul of the grant structure.

Pending such an overhaul, interim assistance must be provided. (At present grants are based on population rather than on actual operating costs; but, while the population increased at a rate of about two per cent a year, operating costs are mounting at a rate of 16 per cent annually.)

In an attempt to come to grips with the problem of escalating costs the foundation has set up a commission on the financing of universities in Canada. Its hope is that the commission's report when completed "will provide a much needed frame of reference for government, the universities and corporate and individual citizens for wise investment in higher education..." The request for an extra grant of $300 million now is simply to tide the universities over until this report can be completed and acted on.

In short, the additional funds now requested are not the end of the story. With university costs going up at a rate of 16 per cent annually, more, rather than less, funds will be required in the future, presumably on a still escalating scale.

But, more and more, government and the public—who are asked to meet these increasing costs— are inclined to ask questions. They want assurance that money spent on higher education is spent sensibly. Are there frills that can be eliminated without doing harm to essential education and to research. Is the best use being made of existing buildings and facilities?

No intelligent person wants the projects universities to be run by conventional standards of efficiency, but there is a tendency among the asking of such questions and to shy off at any suggestions that might lead to changes in the university calendar or procedures. Universities nonetheless must face the fact that the public, which pays a large part of the cost, has the right to ask that its money not be wasted—as it is, for example, when buildings lie empty for long periods of the year.

ANCIENT DOMAIN

Mount Athos, a self-governing theocracy under Greek suzerainty, celebrated its 1,000th anniversary in 1963.

Osteoporosis And Calcium

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

Osteoporosis is one of the main reasons for shrinkage or loss of height in older persons. This bone condition is common after age 65. There are an estimated 4 million victims in the United States, and the majority are women.

The exact nature of the disease is not fully understood except that there is a gradual reduction in the total bone mass. Loss of calcium from the body causes this hard tissue to become porous, thin, and weak. Diminution of the vertebral bodies, as they compress one another while bearing the weight of the upper part of the body, may cause severe backache at the level of the diaphragm. Involvement of other bones, such as the hips, often leads to fracture.

Bony tissue is alive and active; new bone cells form as old cells melt away and calcium is reabsorbed by the blood. Osteoporosis ensues when bone resorption outstrips the laying down of new bone.

A deficiency of sex hormones was blamed at one time, because the process usually developed years after the menopause. Modern views are that calcium is lost from the bone because the circulation is affected or too little calcium is consumed in the daily diet.

Osteoporosis develops from disuse as in the bedridden or when an extremity is paralyzed or put in a cast. In these instances, nonfunctioning of the muscles curtails circulation to the bones. The high incidence of the disease among the elderly may be explained by lifetime sedentary occupations, the use of labor saving devices, and riding instead of walking.

On the other hand, many afflicted persons respond to additional calcium in the diet. Backache disappears, and X-rays show improvement in bone structure. Here, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The calcium deficiency usually is of long duration, and bone changes appear in time.

AVOIDING COLDS

L. S. writes: How can the throat be made strong so I won't catch cold?

REPLY

By increasing over - all resistance through getting ample sleep and exercise, eating balanced meals, practicing cleanliness, and avoiding excesses and other persons with colds. If your tonsils and adenoids are infected, have this condition treated.

GETS TRAIN SICK

Mrs. A. M. writes: My husband hates to take me with him on his trips by train because the ride always makes me sick. Do you think it would help not to eat beforehand?

REPLY

Yes, but why not ask your physician for a prescription for motion sickness pills?

HEART AND KIDNEYS

J. T. writes: Does kidney function influence the heart in any way, or vice versa?

REPLY

Yes. Kidneys that do not function properly will raise the blood pressure which in turn causes enlargement of the heart. A failing heart also influences the excretion of salt from the kidneys, leading to dropsy.

Today's Health Hint—

A hard day's work brings a good night's sleep.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In a traffic snarl one of the inevitable horn-tooters began blasting his horn. A woman in a car alongside politely enquired: "What else did you get for Christmas?"—Financial Post.

Supermarket managers say that self-service encourages "impulse buying" but is a temptation to shop-lifting too. That's the trouble with appealing to people's impulses; they're apt to do something impulsive.—Ottawa Journal.

There would be more good students if they were as anxious to pass their exams as they are the other car.— Aztec, N.M., Independent-Review.

A nutritionist advises that if one waltzes for 18 minutes he will lose 100 calories, but if he has a highball after, he will gain more than twice that amount. If you dance, don't drink.—Edmonton Journal.

China Takes Initiative

Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Communist China is struggling energetically to break the bonds of non-recognition in which the nation has been entangled for the past 15 years. The complexities of international politics are such that Red China has been in quarantine throughout most of the world, a position which it has done very little to alleviate by its conduct towards other nations.

Now a combination of events appears to be necessitating a new approach to the subject on the part of China and of others with whom she has not been on official speaking terms.

A cautiously worded story from Washington, for example, suggests that the possibility of talks with Communist China does exist. Ottawa has been hinting, somewhat obliquely but unmistakably, that Canadian recognition of Peking might come about soon.

Trade has something to do with the Canadian position, of course, since we have been selling large amounts of grain to China.

The Chinese, embroiled in an ideological fight with the Soviet Union for leadership of the Communist world, are being forced to look outside the party orbit for new friends. This week Premier Chou En-lai is visiting North Africa. His itinerary takes him to Egypt, Algeria and Morocco.

Recently France sent former premier Edgar Faure to Peking for talks, raising the possibility of France recognizing Red China. It has been hinted that France, as a counter to rebuffs received in the European Common Market, may attempt to assume leadership of an Afro-Asian bloc.

This may be a rather optimistic idea considering France's narrow attitude in her postwar colonial dealings. But politics makes strange bedfellows and the impossibilities of today are all too often the certainties of tomorrow.

How all these pieces fit into a pattern will be engaging the attention of foreign office experts in all the chancelleries of the western world.

About the only certainty at the moment is that there are indications the deep freeze in which China has been suspended may be lifting. There will be many in West who will regard this as a hopeful sign.

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Premier W. R. and Mrs. Shaw will Receive In the Lounge of The Charlottetown Hotel on Wednesday, January 1st, 1964 From 3 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Both Ladies and Gentlemen will be received

Visiting cards would be appreciated