

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

MONDAY, OCT. 3, 1955

Newspaper Conventions

This has been a big convention year for Charlottetown, our Centennial proving a powerful factor in bringing these welcome visitors to the City and Province. Newspaper men feel the gravitational pull as well as others, and it is not surprising that through their leading organizations, the Canadian Press and the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association, they should be desirous of participating in our celebrations. This week the semi-annual meetings of the boards of directors of these organizations are being held at The Charlottetown. The agenda provides for entertainment of the visiting ladies, as well as for a civic reception and Travel Bureau dinner on Wednesday afternoon and evening. The business sessions open this morning with a Canadian Press executive committee meeting, and will conclude with a CDNPA directors' meeting on Friday. In between there will be a busy round of activities, and the conventions promise to be both profitable and enjoyable for all concerned.

Perhaps it is unnecessary to remind our visitors that no Province in Canada has a finer newspaper tradition than Prince Edward Island. It goes back to the regime of our first Lieutenant Governor, In 1787, when a Halifax printer, James Robertson, came to Charlottetown and began publication of The Royal Commercial Gazette and Intelligencer. This semi-official journal, quarto size, contained in one of its early issues the Governor's proclamation offering free lands to the Empire Loyalists, which resulted in a valuable influx of settlers.

Prince Edward Islanders have been newspaper-minded ever since. It was largely through the press that our fight for Responsible Government was waged and won in 1851, the elective franchise extended in 1853, and the century-old struggle against absentee landlordism settled under successive Land Purchase Acts. Several of our Confederation Fathers were directly connected with the newspapers of the day, and practically all of them were contributors to the heated controversies in their columns. In later times, Island newspapers have consistently fought for better fiscal terms with Ottawa, for faster transportation facilities, improvements in the condition of our basic farm and fishery industries, and the welfare of the Province generally.

During our hundred years as an incorporated City we have had many newspaper men as visitors. They have said kind and sometimes unkind things about us, but we have always welcomed them with open arms. Leading members of the profession from coast to coast will be here for this week's conventions, and they will find us more hospitable than ever. Speaking as colleagues, we trust that they will also find much to interest them—and perhaps even to inspire and enlighten them—in what the late Lord Tweedsmuir used often to call "this delectable Island."

Sea Safety

It is sometimes said that ocean-going skippers are getting less rugged and less exact in matters of discipline all the time. Be that as it may, the record shows that they are running into less trouble in the form of shipwrecks, collisions, burnings, and the like. In fact, ever since the war there has been a noticeable trend in the direction of sea safety. Lloyds Register of Shipping, which keeps a wary eye on such matters, reports that 1954 was one of the best years in seafaring history and considerably better than 1953. In that year vessels measuring 303,000 gross tons were afflicted by misadventures ranging all the way from "total loss" to "missing, presumed lost". Last year the lost ton-

nage dropped to 244,000; this, in spite of the fact that in the interim the world fleet expanded very considerably. In 1953 the tonnage of ships afloat amounted to 93,351,800; the 1954 figure was 97,421,526.

On the other hand, scrapping of ships went forward in 1954—460 vessels totaling 1,335,605 gross tons, as against 413, totaling 1,132,853 tons in 1953. This increase was due mainly to better prices for scrap and to less demand for the services of older ships, there being more new ones than in other years to take their places.

Retired mariners, who saw service 20 or 30 years ago, will say that whatever improvement has taken place in sea safety is due entirely to scientific gadgets—radar, for example—developed in recent years. And they are probably right. Certainly, "going down to the sea in ships and occupying business in great waters" is not the hazardous undertaking it once was, although "the stormy winds continue to lift up their voices, thereof, up to the heavens and down again to the depths."

Strange Friendships

Are cats and mice always and necessarily in a state of war? No, says the National Geographic Society and goes on to quote instances where the traditional enemies get along very well together, even to the extent of sharing each other's rations. It is the same with other animals generally thought to be on bad terms. A British zoologist, for example, reports that it is not uncommon to see an untamed lion and a domestic pup fraternizing in the very best form of co-existence. Furthermore, he maintains, lions and leopards, who in their natural habitats never seem to have a good word for one another, are quite capable of playing hide-and-seek in the privacy of a cage. A Dutch airline reports that it often places hens on the heads of elephants being flown long distances to circuses and the like. It seems that elephants are lonely creatures and enjoy the chattering of the gossipy birds.

Then, there is the case of the snakes which consumed with relish their daily quota of mice and rats, but, for some strange reason, spared one of the little creatures and made a pet of it. Weasels, supposed to be death on mice, have been known to pass them up for horsemeat which they shared with their intended victims. These are strange friendships, indeed. Perhaps, if the truth were known, most animals are friendly and sociable at heart, and exhibit wild and ferocious tendencies only for economic reasons.

EDITORIAL NOTES

How's this for political indifference? At a recent state election in New Mexico only 3 voters turned out in a certain riding where several hundred were eligible. And these 3 were poll workers.

An astronomer reports that the planet Mars, on which new vegetation was discovered a few weeks ago, is, unfortunately, approaching the end of its life. But, unless the scientists and the politicians get busy and do something worthwhile about the A and H bombs, neighbour Earth might get there first.

The Russians are extending their "new look" in foreign policy to almost everything else they can think of. Railway freight cars, for example, are to be provided with facilities for loading and unloading at both ends as well as on both sides. In addition, floors are to be constructed in such a manner as to allow loose materials to fall through at the turn of a switch.

A United Nations release puts the decrease in death rates in the period from 1938 to 1953 at 36%. For the same period birth rates rose 8%. All of which means a great increase in the world's population. Unfortunately, the rise in food production has not kept pace; and in some areas it has declined considerably.

Labrador dogs must be wondering what the world is coming to. Until now, they were left pretty much to themselves in the health field. From now on, according to Newfoundland's Resources Minister, they are to be vaccinated every fall against distemper and other canine disorders. Dental treatment will probably be the next thing.



Behind It

OTTAWA REPORT

The Ottawa Conference

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: The full dress and long prepared Dominion-Provincial conference opens here today. Top level Cabinet Ministers will represent the Federal government and each of the ten Provincial governments.

It has been said that provincial governments these days offer the only effective opposition to the government in power at Ottawa. Of the ten provincial governments only four are now Liberal, and these are perhaps in the four economically disfavoured provinces: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba.

The three largest and richest provinces, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, all have rightist governments under different labels. These are Progressive Conservative, National Union and Social Credit respectively. Alberta and New Brunswick also have rightist governments, while Saskatchewan boasts Canada's only C.C.F. government.

In passing, I should question the theme that these six provincial governments offer the Federal Liberals the only effective opposition they encounter. Since George Drew challenged the Cabinet on the subject of Mr. Howe's demand for extraordinary powers as Minister of Defence production, the newspapers of Canada have lined themselves almost solidly behind that challenge. The newspapers in turn moulded a newly-informed public opinion—even among Liberals—in opposition to the Cabinet on that particular point. The Cabinet defied its most punishing defeat in 20 years, and the Provincial Governments played no part in that battle.

RIGHTS JEALOUSLY GUARDED
However it is true that the Federal Government hears some harshly spoken home truths from the Provincial Governments, and no punches will be pulled at the meeting opening here today.

The chief item on the agenda concerns taxation. The province of Quebec has notably insisted upon its rights to levy taxes within its own borders, and has rejected any continuation of the wartime emergency measure whereby the Federal Government alone levied direct income and other taxes, and in return paid to each provincial government a "rental" for the use of these tax fields.

Quebec at the moment has unfortunate double taxation. The Quebec and the Federal governments levy income taxes at different

scales and with different exemptions. It thus happens that Quebecers with low incomes pay less income tax than their fellow citizens with similar incomes in other provinces. Quebecers in the upper income brackets suffer a comparable penalty of higher taxation than in other provinces.

It would however be both possible and practicable for all the provincial governments to agree with the federal government upon the imposition of a standard rate of tax with standard exemptions for married status and for the support of dependents.

Provincial governments could then re-enter the fields of direct taxation without placing their citizens in a position either better or worse than that of their fellows in other provinces.

Such an arrangement would have the benefit of restoring to the provinces one of their jealously guarded rights—the right to levy direct taxes. Yet it would be possible for the federal government to collect all taxes, federal and provincial alike, for the convenience of the taxpayer, and hand over to each provincial government its appropriate share.

REDISTRIBUTION OF TAX DOLLAR
This is a constitutional point, of little interest directly to the man on Main Street. There is however tied up with it a point of considerable interest to us all, and that is the maldistribution of our tax dollar.

Thirty years ago, our tax dollar was split approximately 50 cents to the Federal Government, 12 cents to the Provincial Government, and 38 cents to the Municipal Government. Today, the Federal Government gobbles up two-thirds of the municipalities' previous share, while the provincial governments have nothing additional to meet their rising costs.

The result of this is underlined by the changes in governmental debt since the war. Repeated budget surpluses have enabled the Federal government to reduce the national debt; but the total of the Provincial Governments' debts increased during the same time by about the same amount, suggesting that the Federal Government has unnecessarily trespassed upon the taxation fields of the Provincial Governments.

Against this background, we are likely to see sweeping changes in tax fields agreed upon at this week's Ottawa Meeting.

Constitutional Ambiguity

By George Kitson
Associated Press, Washington

Eisenhower's illness has brought into sharp focus a grave defect in the United States political system. Congress may be asked to correct it.

It has brought to the fore this delicate constitutional question: At what point should a vice-president assume the powers of an ailing president and, perhaps more important, who shall determine when those powers shall be returned? The U.S. constitution does make provision for the vice-president to take over when the president falls ill but the language is so ambiguous it might be interpreted as permanently transferring the president's powers and duties, leaving some doubt as to whether the president ever would regain his prerogatives.

DUTIES OR OFFICE?
The actual wording is: "In case of... inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice-president." Politicians ask what devolves: The duties or the office?

The result has been that the office of vice-president never has been used for that purpose in cases of presidential illness. Political observers say Congress

may be asked to clarify the language and spell out the caretaker role of the vice-president when the president becomes ill. The U. S. Supreme Court, as interpreter of the constitution, also may have something to say.

In the present instance, vice-president Richard Nixon has assumed some of the presidential authority by calling meetings of the cabinet and the national security council. He cannot, however, sign documents requiring Eisenhower's signature, though the constitution seems to contemplate such action.

PAST CASES
Although two presidents—James A. Garfield and Woodrow Wilson—were incapacitated for long periods, in neither case did the vice-president assume any of the powers of the president or act for him.

Garfield was shot in July, 1881, by a disappointed office seeker and died two months later. Although he was desperately ill for weeks, his vice-president, Chester A. Arthur, refused to have Garfield declared incapacitated or to assume his powers. Some members of the Garfield cabinet expressed fear Garfield would be displaced

The Poet's Penn
AUTUMN

There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood—
Touch of manner, hint of mood:
And my heart is like a rhyme
With the yellow and the purple and the crimson keeping time.

The scarlet of the maples can
shake me like a cry
Of bugles going by,
And my lonely spirit thrills
To see the frosty asters like smoke
upon the hills.

There is something in October sets
the gipsy blood astir:
We must rise and follow her,
When from every hill and flame
She calls and calls each vagabond
by name.
—Bliss Carman.

The Age Old Story

And he said unto them, Ye are not beneath: I am from above; ye are of this world; I am not of this world... Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.

Snubbed Again

(Moncton Transcript)

The poor planning by the Canadian authorities of the recent tour of Russian agricultural experts in this country, in which the Maritime provinces were ignored despite the fact that Mr. Cyrus Eaton pledged his Nova Scotia estate at Pugwash at the disposal of the visitors and their escort party, is again being duplicated by Ottawa in the impending tour of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood to this Dominion.

This will be the first visit of the Princess Royal to North America, and during her four-week-long tour she will be the guest of the Canadian government. It is not the first time that Ottawa's protocol officedom have blacked out the Maritimes from the itinerary of distinguished personages. Within that inner circle of the External Affairs Department there seems an antipathy towards the Maritimes and a feeling that notable visitors should not tour this picturesque gateway section of Canada. These government officials appear to be impregnated with the erroneous idea that, insofar as the nation's visiting guests are concerned, Canada begins and ends at Quebec.

permanently as president if Arthur assumed his authority.

Wilson, stricken in 1919 by a paralytic stroke, forced his secretary of state, Robert Lansing, to resign in 1920 because he had presumed cabinet meetings during Wilson's illness.

There have been suggestions the vice-president be relieved of his duties as president of the Senate, which requires him to preside over the upper house while Congress is in session, to give him more time to assist the president and act for him in case of illness.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.
SOME CURES ARE FOUND FOR MORNING SICKNESS

The birth of a baby is a joyous event for all concerned. Those first three months of pregnancy, however, usually are not much of a joy for the expectant mother.

Of the more than 4,000,000 women who will become mothers within the next 12 months, more than half of them will suffer morning sickness.

It strikes most women during the first three months of pregnancy, and generally disappears or at least becomes more bearable.

Modern Drugs
With our modern drugs, though, most cases of morning sickness can be cured.

One of them, a tablet called Bonadonin, is reported to be especially helpful. However, it is available by prescription only.

Medical research has determined that if you suffer morning sickness you probably have a deficiency of, or an added need for, vitamin B-6.

Since 1948, many gynecologists and obstetricians have agreed that vitamin B-6 is important in the care of pregnant women. And more and more of them have been prescribing this vitamin for their patients.

Inadequate supplies of B-6, it is believed, result in an excessive accumulation of ketone bodies in your blood. This is important in the care of pregnant women. An overload of ketone bodies in your blood, therefore, means that acetylcholine is over-produced and morning sickness is the result.

While vitamin B-6 helps prevent accumulation of excessive amounts of ketone bodies and acetylcholine, it has not proved completely satisfactory in preventing sickness.

In Bonadonin, however, it is combined with meclizine, a motion sickness drug, which inhibits the action of acetylcholine and acts to ease the vomiting impulse at the nerve level.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

M. M.: What is the cause of a terrible itching of the skin, especially down the back and arms?
Answer: Skin itching is difficult to cure, although it is possible to relieve the symptoms. The diet should be simple; plenty of water should be drunk, and the bowels should be kept open. Bathing in soapy water should be avoided. The use of plain grease, such as cold cream, is soothing and the use of bromides has been found valuable.

DAMAGE QUEEN'S STADIUM

KINGSTON, (CP)—Queen's University officials were faced with an extensive paint job Saturday after vandals smashed windows and splashed paint over Richardson Stadium on the eve of the intercollegiate football opener between Queen's and McGill University. Damage was estimated in the thousands of dollars in the wake of the overnight incident. Bright red, white and black paint was smeared over seats and walls.

This is again pointedly demonstrated in the tour route of the Princess Royal who arrived at Quebec recently aboard the Canadian Pacific liner Empress of France. Her month-long tour as the guest of the Dominion government will see the first three days spent in Quebec City, then four in Montreal, three in Kingston, three in Ottawa, two at Toronto and Niagara Falls, one in Winnipeg, five in Victoria, two in Vancouver, then about two more in Montreal before setting out for home on October 25.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

When the State assumes responsibility for the health of the people, it will also have to assume responsibility for their behavior, and see to it that they observe the laws of health. This might include supervision of their eating, drinking and sleeping habits and even their reading, their thinking and their recreation.—The Rural Scene.

The latest of the German war criminals to be released from prison is Admiral Erich Raeder. With the amnesty offered in Russia to persons convicted of having collaborated with the Germans, and with the possibility that German prisoners still in Russia will be released, some of the hatreds stirred up by World War II are gradually being forgotten. But the evil consequences of the war will not be wholly counteracted unless a stable peace ensues.—Ottawa Citizen.

The National Association of Home Builders has invited Russian specialists to inspect American housing developments. We trust the plan includes an exchange visit to Russia to American builders. Even if what we do here, including building, is all far superior to Russian accomplishments, trips to Russia by our experts are still useful if only for verification and comparison. We should never assume we have a monopoly on brains, or cannot learn. That is over-confidence, and he who is over-confident sometimes loses the decision.—Detroit Free Press.

In the New Jersey Turnpike, which cost an average of \$2,400,000 a mile to build, the total cost of collecting the toll amounts to 1.7 percent of revenue. On the Pennsylvania Turnpike the cost of collecting tolls is 4.9 percent of revenue. In the Main Turnpike 8.7 percent and on the Willbur Cross Parkway the cost amounts to 15 percent of revenue. This is a remarkable variation, but it is still that even the least costly is plain expensive—more so, certainly, than the collection of gasoline taxes and car registration fees.—Beacon-Herald.

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