The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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No Indorsation

The Pearson Government has survived another non-confidence motion in the House of Commons, but if it accepts this as an indorsation of Finance Minister Gordon's budgetary ineptitudes it will be courting trouble indeed. The Canadian people are sick and tired of elections, and that is why yesterday's motion, which condemned the undermining of public confidence by a breach of budget secrecy, didn't get the support it would otherwise have received. That doesn't mean that the criticism was invalid.

Hope was expressed that, to save the Government's face, Mr. Gordon might see fit to resign. But yesterday he indicated that he has no intention of doing so, and even went on to deplore the "insinuations, innuendoes and slanders" of his critics.

As the Toronto Globe and Mail remarked over the weekend, the time of the House has been wasted in an endless inquisition about this minister's bungling irregularities. An important section of the Budget has been withdrawn, the stock markets have been thrown into wild disarray, and the most damaging charges are being hurled about. It is easy to appreciate the harm that this is doing to Canada's image abroad.

Prime Minister Pearson's loyalty to his finance minister is understandable; but his first duty, surely, is to the country. This requires the replacement of the man who has repeatedly demonstrated his incapacity in the job. Nor should the affair end with the removal of Mr. Gordon. There have been demands in the House for information about trading on the stock markets before and after the Budget, with emphasis on the activities of two companies which lent experts to assist in its preparation. The implications of this sort of questioning are obvious.

As our Toronto contemporary suggests, it is not enough that the rumors should be denied by the Government. If only in fairness to the Budget advisers and their companies, there should be the fullest inquiry to establish the facts and leave no lingering doubt in the public mind.

The Higbee Report

There is complaint in the United States that a large part of federal farm subsides has been going to a few, large, efficient operators who do not need them. This opinion seems to have been reflected in the vote of U.S. wheat producers last month, in which a government program to restrict production which would have ensured high prices for the 1964 wheat crop was rejected. Now comes documentation of a charge that even the remainder of the subsidy payments have relatively little effect in helping the small and marginal farmers at the other end of the scale who were supposed to be protected.

The documentation has been marshaled by Edward Higbee, professor of land utilization at the University of Rhode Island in a study for the Twentieth Century Fund, "Farms and Farmers in an Urban Age." Dr. Higbee was formerly a senior agronomist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Between the 800,000 farmers who constitute "the prosperous and highly productive upper crust of American agriculture" and a mass of 1,600,000 part-time farmers at the bottom there are 1,300,000 producers who want to stay in agriculture although they are at a disadvantage because of inadequate capital. This group, the author implies, presents the main policy problem.

The part-time farmers, according to his figures, already have eliminated themselves from a significant role in American food and fiber production. Moreover, the operators of 61 per cent of American farms in 1959 averaged five times more income from work away from their farms than they got on the farms. Further, some 56 percent of the nation's farmers, in the small and marginal category, received only an estimated 7 percent of government payments.

From this, Professor Higbee concludes: "The history of price support efforts indicates that they do not shelter the small farmer, but they do stimulate his bigger competitors. They should be discontinued in favor of letting free enterprise determine prices."

Few among farmers, however, believe that government price supports could be abruptly and completely withdrawn without some transition period to cushion the major adjustments necessary. The American Farm Bureau, which advocates movement toward a free market, contemplates that it would take several years. The Committee for Economic Development last year proposed a program of adjustment over a five-year period.

Reaffirms U.S. Pledge

President Kennedy's visit to West Germany could be an event of major importance at this time. On his arrival at Bonn, the President took the first opportunity of reaffirming the United States pledge to defend Europe. His pledge has been cited as a rebuttal to the argument of French President de Gaulle that the U.S. might shirk its commitments to Europe in a nuclear showdown. But there may have been more to it than that.

De Gaulle was not the only man to express doubts about the value of the American commitment. Recently West German Defence Minister von Hassel is reported to have said: "Who can tell if a United States President in 1970 will ask his fellow citizens to keep paying the heavy taxes necessary to guarantee American participation in the defense of Europe?" Mr. Kennedy appears to have gone out of his way to make it impossible for any President to go back on this commitment. He has staked the prestige of his country on it, in language that no one can misunderstand.

Today he is preparing to underline dramatically the significance of his presence in West Germany. Accompanied by Chancellor Adenaner and West Berlin's Mayor Willy Brandt he will visit Berlin's dividing wall. A high wooden pedestal—much higher than all others erected for important visitors since the wall went up two years ago—has been built for the occasion. Its official purpose is to give the President the widest possible view into East Berlin; but its real importance is not what he will see from it, but that it can be seen from every spot in the famous "Unter den Linden".

The pedestal was erected many days ago and its height was planned to make its occupants visible to as many East Berliners as possible. It is expected that either a vast crowd will collect to see President Kennedy waving to them across the wall—or masses of heavily armed Communist police will be brought in to keep the East Berliners away, and create a police-state atmosphere. Either way, the reaction would be good propaganda for the West.

EDITORIAL NOTES

So Prince Charles did have that cherry brandy before dinner after all. "We can only hope," comments the Ottawa Journal, "that his taste will improve."

* * *

Emmigration statistics for Germany since the end of the Second World War reflect the troubled post-war conditions. More than 1,500,000 people from the federal area sought new homes between 1946 and 1952. The United States has received by far the greatest number of German immigrants—401,000. Canada comes next with 239,000. Australia is third with 83,000.

GETTING A BIT THREADBARE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

The Question Period And Its Abuses

"Will a commemorative postage stamp be issued to honour the memory of the late Colonel John McCrae, of Guelph, Ontario, the author of the immortal poem 'In Flanders Fields'?" the Government was asked by Alf Hales, who is of course the M.P. for Guelph, in the House of Commons.

"What was, by provinces, the total tonnage of iron ore produced in Canada last year?" asked another M.P.

"Will the Post Office at Wentworth Station, Nova Scotia, be closed?" asked a third.

"Which official flag will Canada fly at the 1967 World's Fair? Will it be a new distinctive national flag, and if so will it include the Union Jack or the Red Ensign?" asked a Montreal M.P.

These questions, among the very many asked on a recent day in Parliament, typified somethings of the man-traps, the wit, the smart-aleckism, the genuine desire for information and the grinding of local axes which contribute to this daily rough and tumble called "Question Period".

DEMOCRATIC

The questions asked of the Government at the opening of each day's sitting of the House have rightly been described as "one of the most powerful implements of democracy." These probings may be submitted in writing with 48 hours notice; or they may be asked orally, with or without prior notice to the Minister to whom they are addressed. The unheralded oral question can be the cutest little trap for the unwary or lazy or culpable Minister; this is indeed a powerful weapon if adroitly wielded by an expert.

But Question Period has increasingly become a time-wasting farce, through successive Speakers of the House permitting M.Ps to use it for propaganda purposes, or to ask oral questions so trivial that they do not measure up to the traditional yardstick of being "of urgent national importance." Often, as backbench M.Ps sometimes admit, they dream up unimportant questions in the belief that "I have to put in my ten cents' worth because everyone else is doing so."

Question Period in the good old days of not many years ago used to last perhaps 30 minutes. Last week a new record was set up, I think, when 226 questions were posed: well after 8. p.m. a restless House was still listening to the grilling of Ministers which had started at 2.30.

204 questions were printed on the Order Paper. 7 were asked by 6 Liberal M.Ps; 91 were asked by 33 different Tories, 75 by 7 Socreds, and 80 by 11 NDPs. 75 of these were answered, and the rest deferred.

Then came 22 spontaneous oral questions, some followed up by one or more "supplementary" questions.

Something of an individual record must have been established by two Socred MPs. One put a group of 32 written questions probing French-Canadian employment in the Post Office. Typical was the catch-all: "How many, of all Post Office employees in all parts of Canada, speak French?" The other put a group of questions worded almost identically except that they referred to the Department of Trade and Commerce, instead of the Post Office. The British North America Act of course does not make French an official language universally in Canada, so it would have been just as appropriate to probe the number of letter-carriers who wear gloves when handling mail.

The hoped-for midsummer adjournment, from 15 July until after Labour Day, was a realistic target by the Government. But the dilly-dallying which is holding up the business of Parliament begins to make it look like a long sticky summer on Parliament Hill for our legislators.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

A GOOD CODE

Sir,—Just recently I had the privilege of listening to an address delivered by a clergyman to a gathering of young people, ranging in age from 8 to 18, and there were a number of older people there too, the writer included.

In view of world conditions today, young people need a guiding principle more than ever, if they are going to avoid the pitfalls, and snares of this complex, and complicated era. The speaker set forth in concise terms, a code of life, which the youngest in that gathering could grasp; and they were freighted with deep meaning too. They are too worth-while for me to keep them to myself. So I pass them along. First. Make the best of everything. Second. Think the best of everybody. Third. Hope the best for yourself.

Friends! Young and old, it is not a hard code to remember, is it? Make, Think, Hope. Now, let us change the order a little, and we will give thought as to how we can best bring our dreams to pass. For all of us must just stop and think things through or we will run up against a stone wall. We must hold to a hopeful outlook, "Hope Springs eternal in the breast." "Where there is no vision, the people perish". We must prove ourselves to be resourceful; and ever remember that our forebearers had to exercise that ability. By God's Grace. We can do the very same thing.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. D. JOHNSTON
Montague, P.E.I.

CORRECTION

In a letter appearing in yesterday's Public Forum Mr. Christopher Gledhill was quoted as saying: "I do so blame him (Mr. Curran) if he does not bother to go all out for a new custom when he is fully occupied." This should have read: "I do not blame him", etc.

Plan Automotive Museum

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

A "tribute to the past and a peek into the future" is the description used for an Automotive Museum sponsored by the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, and presently under construction in that city.

The purposes of the museum are to provide a national tourist attraction, publicity for Oshawa as the home of the automotive industry, provide accurate reference materials for students and universities and to realistically illustrate the engineering skills plus the design and craftsmanship involved in the building of automobiles.

A former automotive building is being renovated to provide 25,000 square feet of floor space for exhibits. The museum will be divided into several specific sections, each one displaying highlights of a particular phase of the automotive story. Displays will be changed and rearranged at various times to offer variety.

One section, to be called the McLaughlin room, will tell the story of the McLaughlin Carriage Company. Cutters, buggies, carriages and the early autos of that era in Oshawa's history will be displayed.

Another section will cover the development of the automobile as a means of transportation from 1770 to 1963. Featured in this area will be displays showing the progressive developments of engines, tires, glass, accessories, fuels and lubricants.

Custom, classic, antique and "hot rod" cars, many loaned by private owners and changed at regular intervals, will be another interesting part of the display.

For the progressive minded visitor, some of the latest experimental developments in today's auto industry will be shown in a "Peek at the Future."

Financing of the project is through private subscription. Industries in Oshawa that are connected with the auto industry are being asked to contribute towards the building and its renovation. It is expected that the museum will be self- supporting once it is firmly established.

Prayer In The Schools

Toronto Telegram

The shock waves of the U. S. Supreme Court decision forbidding the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and Bible passages in public schools are felt in Canada. For we, too, pride ourselves on a system that is rooted in the principle of the free exercise of religion, and we are also faced with the dilemma of rearing a God-fearing generation without encroaching on the rights of differing dogmas.

In Canada, as in the U. S., those who oppose school prayers are probably a minority, but in both countries statues were designed precisely to protect minorities. Our tradition goes as far back at least as 1852 to a law that "free exercise of religion is insured to all of Her Majesty's subjects without preference." In the U.S. the first amendment to the Constitution bars the majority from ordaining "an establishment of religion."

The American court said last year in the New York Regents' prayer case, and now reaffirms in the Maryland and Pennsylvania cases, that the establishment clause prohibits the creation by government of a religious norm from which one has to be excused. A strong case can be made for upholding the same interpretation of the law on this side of the border.

Prayer is distinctly an individual matter. How one prays is too personal and sacred a question to be decided by government officials — and public school authorities are such officials. The method and content of prayer are strictly the affair of individuals who must suffer no pressure or restraint in this regard.

Does this mean that the U. S. decision or those who approve it deny "the privilege of prayer?" By no means. Everybody remains free to pray or not to pray according to his conscience and traditions. The exclusion of prayers from schools simply means that official power cannot be used to make others pray in a certain way. As Justice Tom Clark phrases it in the U.S. decision: "In the relationship between man and religion, the state is firmly committed to a position of neutrality."

It does not follow, as some critics argue, that the logic of this stand should require the elimination of all references to God at public occasions. Classroom prayer is different from state ceremonial. The latter lacks the psychological elements of compulsion when children are bidden to join their teacher— a symbol of authority— in prescribed devotions.

Need Motivation To Quit Smoking

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

It is not easy to quit smoking when the habit is firmly established. Various products have been advertised to help the individual give up the habit but they are of questionable value.

Something along this line is needed because of the abundant evidence that excessive smoking causes cancer and chronic bronchitis. The habit also may contribute toward the development of circulatory disorders, coronary artery disease, and peptic ulcer.

Most of the older preparations contained alum or silver salts. They were astringent mouth washes or lozenges that resulted in a bad taste when a cigaret was smoked. There was little proof of their effectiveness except testimonials, which mean little.

Lobelia is another old-timer that crops up from time to time. Years ago this alkaloid was used like tobacco by the American Indians. Lobeline is the active chemical and the rationale behind its use is that it acts like nicotine. The chief selling point is that lobeline might make a good substitute after the individual gives up smoking. But the argument falters when the evidence is considered from the scientific point of view.

The smoke of one cigaret contains 1.5 mg. of nicotine. Most two-pack a day addicts can absorb 60 mg. of nicotine (slightly less with filters). According to the Medical Letter, the recommended dosage of two leading over - the - counter lobeline products supplies 6 mg. or less a day. In other words, it is not much of a substitute.

Despite this drawback the results of some studies seem to substantiate the efficacy of these lobeline compounds. On the other hand, an equal number of studies show them to be useless. We question the value of any remedy when opinions are so far apart and suspect that psychological factors play a major role when the smoker is able to quit.

Sucking on lozenges may provide the same oral satisfaction dervied from smoking, but gum and hard candy will do the same. To be successful, the smoker must be motivated by the conviction that smoking is harmful. And always remember that one puff makes you a smoker again.

USES 200 PLANES

The RCAF's Air Transport Command uses 200 aircraft ranging from the single engine Otter to the Yukon which is capable of taking 135 passengers.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Confucius didn't say this, but he might as well have: Person who blows own horn will come out little end of same. —Guelph Mercury.

Atchison, Kan., Globe: The most disappointed people in the world are those who get what's coming to them. —Atchison, Kan. Globe.

This country is shot-out, hunted- out and all but fished- out. We are fond of calling ourselves a people with a high standard of living; a civilized people. It is time we began to put restrictions on hunting with a view of its eventual elimination. So long as we are not in need of the food wild animals might supply we cannot justify killing them. People who kill for fun are barbarians.—Kingston Whig Standard.

Iowa University experiments reveal that a husband's influence on family decisions is directly related to his ability to out-talk his wife. So that's the answer.—Hamilton Spectator.

The latest accessory for the outdoor life is a plug-in electric fire lighter. Just the thing if you get lost in the bush.— Ottawa Journal.

Donner Memorial State Park, three miles west on U.S. 40, commemorates probably the goriest event of pioneer days. The Donner Party, en route from St. Joseph, Missouri, became stranded here during the winter of 1846 without food. As members of the party died, those remaining resorted to cannibalism in desperation. Of the 81 in the group, 45 were finally rescued. Picnicking and camping facilities in the area.— California - Nevada Tour Book.

The more we hear of the dangers of tobacco, aspirin, liquor, too many vitamins, city air, treated water, sugar, tranquillizers and cholesterol, the more it seems that the only thing left to take is poison. — Ottawa Journal.

Life - sized statues of Adam and Eve used to be the showpiece of a noble estate in Somersetshire, England, but one dark night thieves whisked Adam away, leaving Eve starkly alone. It's not surprising to learn that the owner now has decided to put Eve in storage to keep her out of temptation's way. —Cape Breton Post.

A Chicago woman attending a meeting in a hotel opened her handbag. Out jumped ten mice and sent the 200 women screaming and climbing chairs. The lady was hauled into court and fined $100. We don't know how those mice got into the handbag but we do know from the casual observation of these bags that they are so big that few women know precisely what is in them apart from a powder puff, a lipstick and a wallet. How would the poor girl know she had ten white mice? — Sarnia Observer.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(June 25, 1938)

The seventh annual meeting of the Charlottetown Hospital Nurses' Alumnae was held Thursday night in the Nurses' Home. Miss Helen Soloman in her address reviewed the activities of the association since its inauguration seven years ago. During this time through the efforts of the Alumnae several necessary articles of equipment have been purchased for the hospital.

A car crashed through the railing on the Charlottetown end of the Hillsborough Bridge approach early this morning, and landed with the four wheels uppermost on the shore below. The steering wheel locked as they were making the turn on to the bridge. The occupants of the car were uninjured.

TEN YEARS AGO
(June 25, 1953)

A cheque for the amount of $4,592.60 was presented recently by the Ladies Orange Benevolent Association of British America, for the Relief of flood victims in Europe. This was made possible by the contributions of the lodges in Canada.

A survey of types of fish off the coast of this province is being undertaken by Sherman Bleakney, herpetologist of the Division of Zoology of the National Museum of Canada. The survey is being conducted by the Federal Department of Resources and Development, and much of the information gleaned will be set forth in pamphlets for distribution to schools and other interested organizations.

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