The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Mr. MacRae's Election

The recount of votes cast in Third Queens in the provincial general election leaves Agriculture Minister Andrew MacRae with 9 votes over his Liberal competitor, Mr. Cecil Miller, as against the 17-vote lead reported on election night. It was indeed a close contest, but, barring an appeal to the Supreme Court and an adverse decision resulting therefrom, Mr. MacRae's seat is as secure as if he had a sweeping majority. And, frankly, we are as pleased with the result as he must be himself.

We say this without disparagement of Mr. Miller, who fought a strenuous campaign and is to be commended on his efforts. But Mr. MacRae holds a key position in the Government, and there is no question as to the ability he has shown to fill it capably. He is held in high esteem by Liberals as well as Conservatives, and he shows every promise of developing into one of the best administrators this Province has ever had.

Perhaps, as a newspaper, we are prejudiced to some extent in favor of Mr. MacRae, for he has shown a marked desire at all times to be fair and courteous to the press. Not that he courts publicity in any way, or seeks to influence what any newspaperman says or thinks. It's simply that courtesy is an inherent part of Andrew MacRae's makeup, and the response he gets from other people is a reflection of his own attitude toward them.

He's never found it necessary to carry a chip on his shoulder, or to attribute motives—to newsmen or to political opponents—that are below the standards that govern his own conduct. We hasten to add that this attitude is not unique among our politicians, but it is sufficiently uncommon to merit mention, especially in the case of one who has practiced it habitually in all his contacts with the public.

Ability doesn't always go hand in hand with the amiable traits of a gentleman, but in Mr. MacRae's case it does. Experience, too, in the farming activities to which he has devoted his life, and in the departmental burdens he shoulders. We wish him every success therein, and in whatever challenges the future may have in store for him.

Sixty Talkative Days

When Parliament adjourned for the Christmas holidays, the Commons had sat for 60 days, spending 10 days on the Speech from the Throne, 28 days on legislation, nine on ways and means (budget resolutions), seven on interim supply, three on agriculture estimates and two on the supply motion. On one day no government business was considered, the House taking up all the time available that day to dispose of two unsuccessful appeals against the rulings of the Speaker. Commons committees, meanwhile, with the exception of the committee on government railways, airlines and shipping, barely got started on their chores.

Not a very impressive achievement. When the members return to work on Jan. 21 they will have more than enough to keep them busy. Of the many measures forecast in the Throne Speech only a handful have received Royal assent. These include setting up of an Atlantic Development Board, amendments to the Farm Credit Act, increases in the guaranteeing powers of the Export Credits Corporation, and amendments to the Food and Drug Act to tighten control over new drugs. The House has yet to pass, in detailed study, a single item of the six billion dollar spending estimates for the fiscal year that will end on March 31.

Yet the talk has filled 2,896 pages of Hansard. A good deal of it had to do with seven unsuccessful votes of non-confidence against the Government—five during the debate on the Throne Speech, two on the first of what will be six supply motions between now and the end of the session—if the session runs its normal course.

A new test is expected soon after Parliament reconvenes in the new year, and it may be this time that Social Credit will not be as willing to give the Government the votes it needed and received this fall to stay in office. That is anybody's guess. What is certain is that the precariousness of the Government's minority position will carry over into the unfinished business. It is predicted that the budget which Finance Minister Nowlan is expected to submit to the House in January or February will be crucial in making or breaking the administration; but some feel that the showdown may come before then, either through joint Opposition action or by the Government itself calling for a dissolution.

However, the significant political fact about this Parliament is that the Government has succeeded in remaining in office. If it is grateful for the Christmas recess, the same can be said for the Liberals who have made their own blunders in their hunger for power, and who could profit by a little stocktaking of their position at this season.

Best Inspector

The text of President Kennedy's recent broadcast reviewing his first 23 months in office is being closely scanned for hints of future United States policy. Commentators believe they have found one significant hint in his statement: "The camera, I think, is going to be our best inspector." By this the President is interpreted as meaning that the United States has pretty well abandoned hope that the Soviet Union will accept on-site inspection against weapons, anywhere, at this period. This would apply to Cuba as well as Soviet home territory.

Mr. Kennedy explained how a dictatorship could not permit on-the-spot inspection by outsiders and continue to be a dictatorship. He also may have cut some of the ground from under his disarmament negotiators at Geneva, who have been insisting that the Soviets accept some on-site inspection of underground disturbances as part of a nuclear test ban agreement. The President said in effect: "It's not much use trying for that."

He did not say what "camera" he was talking about, but he was referring not only to the cameras of the high-altitude U-2 planes and the low-flying Air Force reconnaissance jets over Cuba, but also to the hush-hush reconnaissance satellite called Samos. What he did plainly imply is that camera pictures will eventually—if they do not already—provide a substantial substitute for ground inspection.

This should hasten the advent of a nuclear test ban, if indeed there is a genuine desire on both sides to end this suicidal race for supremacy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

What a commentary on our civilization, sighs the Ottawa Journal, that the world's great statesmen must spend the time right up to Christmas talking of Skybolt and Polaris missiles, agents of destruction to keep the peace.

* * *

The federal budgetary deficit is coming down. It was $18,200,000 in November, bringing the figure for the first eight months of the current fiscal year to $105,200,000 compared with one of $304,600,000 in the corresponding period of last year. In a statement tabled before the Commons took recess last week, Revenue Minister Nowlan reported revenues of $471,200,000 and expenditures of $489,000. The $18,200,000 deficit for November this year compared with a deficit of $93,600,000 in November, 1961.

ANOTHER GALLERY EXHIBIT

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Scholarly Post - Mortem On '57 Election

Our politicians spend so much time discussing in detail the problems of Canada, that it is a welcome and indeed a necessary reverse play to find that some Canadians are beginning to spend a lot of time in discussing in considerable detail the problems of our politicians.

It is commonly said that Canadians are not a politically-inclined nation. We certainly do not, like the British in their pubs and the Germans in their beer-gardens, spend many evening hours discussing our public affairs. But there is immense and fascinating interest to be derived from politics. Look at the success achieved by the fictional work "Advise and Consent".

This novel described imaginary goings-on in Washington; it was written by a newspaper reporter; it has been gobbled up and serialised and filmed, to the entertainment of many people in many lands who would not admit that they are actively interested in politics.

OTTAWA REPORTS

Our newspapers and periodicals sometimes describe some of the happenings on and around Parliament Hill. But for various reasons, only the doings of Parliament are widely reported. The reasons behind those facts, the deals, the negotiations, the log-rolling and indeed even the conspiracies behind the events of the day, are touched on little — if at all.

So it is a welcome development to find that the Toronto University Press has begun in part to open this closed door, in an attempt to educate and to entertain Canadians in this field of public affairs. It is a field in which we should all be sufficiently well-informed that we can exercise our privilege as citizens with wisdom; it is a field which we would all find enthralling and exciting if we were really enabled to peep into the secret conclaves behind that closed door — as "advise and Consent" made possible.

This first step by the University of Toronto Press is to publish a book describing and discussing the many aspects of a Canadian federal election. "The Canadian General Election of 1957" offers for $6.50 a complete factual survey in 300 tightly-written pages and a slip-in electoral map of Canada.

THE VOTE DISSECTED

The writer of this scholarly post-mortem is professor John Meisel, of the Department of Political and Economic Science at Queen's University. He has explored deeply into the thinking of politicians and the working of their party organisations, and has highlighted the background and the battles of that campaign in a way that outspaces the on-the-spot reports by our newspapers and broadcast stations.

In Britain and in U.S.A. this exercise is no novelty. There such exhaustive studies appear in hard covers quickly and slickly. If there is any criticism of Meisel's work, it would be on the ground that it appeared five years after the event, whereas in both Britain and U.S.A. such books have recently appeared within one year of the event they analysed.

A mood of more intimate familiarity with public affairs is surging through the western world, and it is accompanied by a new entertainment from satirising public figures. The first makes the second possible. The whole gives a closer understanding of the problems and worries which harass our governments. This beatnik twist to public knowledge of the private side of public affairs may prove to be the sugar coating on a topic we have shunned too long.

Man's Struggle For Power

Globe and Mail, Toronto

Mao-Tse-tung, the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, has known no true peace for more than 40 years. Ever since Mao traveled from his native Hunan Province to Shanghai in 1921 to attend the inaugural congress of the Chinese Communist Party, his has been a life of revolutionary struggle.

During the past three years, Chairman Mao has waged what his own national press would term "particularly arduous struggles" not only against famine and internal opponents to his rule, but against the supreme ruler of the Soviet bloc, Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

There have been some recent prophecies predicting the collapse of the Sino-Soviet alliance but these are probably premature. Although the Russians may realize the ultimate danger of China's exploding population, for the time being both Moscow and Peking stand to lose more than they would gain from an open and final break.

Mao's ideological fight with Joseph Stalin over which Marxist road must be taken to achieve a Communist China has been forgotten by many. Stalin told his agents to concentrate on the cities, and repeatedly tried to obstruct the political and military advance of Mao Tse-tung's Communist peasant armies. Stalin instructed the Soviet Ambassador to remain with the retreating Government of Chiang Kai-shek long after other diplomatic missions — including the U.S. and British Ambassadors— had joined the victorious Communists in Chungking in 1949.

The Chinese Communist leader's current verbal exchanges with Premier Khrushchev, while proving the impossibility of creating a unified Communist command on a global scale, are another phase of his endless struggle with those around him who have failed to see what he calls the truth and purity of his own interpretation of Marxist-Leninist doctrine. They indicate serious differences between Peking and Moscow, but the two Communist giants will not fall out yet. When China's armies begin nosing into Outer Mongolia, Siberia and the western regions of the Soviet empire, it may be a different story.

PUBLIC FORUM

NORTHUMBERLAND SWIM

Sir,— The "Big Swim" has the attention of all patriotic Islanders — also the CBC, Canadian Press and New Brunswick Government. The tentative starting time is early morning Aug. 3, 1963 (D.V.). Deposits for the "cause" are being received at the Banks of Nova Scotia in Albany and Charlottetown: Our people see the possibilities in tourist publicity and are "casting bread upon the waters," with the confidence that it will return "many fold." There is also the prospect of many affluent, patriotic Islanders abroad in Canada and United States helping the venture financially.

Small donations will be thankfully received, and larger ones in proportion. Each deppsitor will have a patriotic working interest. The vast publicity of the "Swim" will attract the attention of millions who have never known the existence of P.E.I., and haven't even seen a body of salt water.

Ours is becoming a close knit community. Our twenty-three beach parks will get their quota of tourists. The National Park is crowded in the tourist season. Nearly everybody gets a share of the tourist dollar to a greater or lesser degree. We must very soon provide wild life parks; theatres (a la Stratford, native fiddling and dancing) — something to amuse and hold those who would otherwise breeze through in a day.

Patriotic citizens and those engaged in pursuits from which direct benefits will accrue, are respectfully requested to make their deposits to the Banks of Nova Scotia at Albany or Charlottetown, which will be receipted and chronicled.

By means of a long and strong pull and a pull together we ought to be able to get together a suitable amount for prizes by Aug. 1st, 1963.

Entries for the swim may be made to our committee.

We are, Sir, etc.,

BORDEN SWIM COMMITTEE.

A TRIBUTE

Sir, — I would like to pay tribute to the taxi drivers of this city. They are a class of people who are more or less taken for granted. No finer, courteous gentlemen are met anywhere. In fair weather and foul they ply their trade, sometimes risking life and limb to convey passengers to their destinations.

Holidays are just the same to them as other days. Some may say that their tasks are easy, but tensions at the steering wheels of their vehicles coupled with late hours are no sinecure. So I say hats off to them. May their shadows never grow less.

I am, Sir, etc.,

F. C. BOWNESS

(Just a passenger)

Charlottetown.

Examination Shows Degree Of Neck Injury

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Deller

MEDICAL editors have their off days, slumps, dumps, and what not. We find that one word makes a difference, especially when it is the opposite of what it should be. An article on whiplash injuries serves as an example of what I mean.

This condition follows an accident in which a stopped car is struck from the rear and the occupants are thrown forward. I made the mistake of saying "the head is thrown forward and then snaps backward." The opposite occurs in that the torso, being heavier and supported by the seat, is thrown forward. The unsupported head, located on a flexible neck, goes backward and then possibly snaps forward.

The word, whiplash, describes only the way the injury occurs. It is not in itself an abnormality and a thorough examination is needed to determine what tissues in the neck have been injured, varying from torn muscles to a broken neck.

"The article on scorpions also hurt my pride. I mentioned scorpion bites, knowing full well that scorpions do not bite —they sting."

We are accused occasionally of omitting causes of different diseases or failure to include every detail of a particular disorder. Space is limited but additional information on a medical topic will be furnished those who wish to learn more if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.

On the other hand, when one cause is omitted unintentionally, we are reminded over and over again by our readers. The omission may be insignificant to most of us, but not to the sufferer of this condition.

As an illustration we neglected to mention nylon hose in a question on the cause of sweating feet. Some persons are sensitive to these fibers, which results in redness, burning, or sweating of the feet. Others are allergic to one of the chemicals in shoes and the skin breaks out when this footgear is worn.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self - addressed envelope accompanies request.)

SLEEPING PILL

Mrs. R.S. writes: My cousin has been taking a barbiturate sleeping pill for about a year. Now she is six weeks pregnant. Could these pills cause the baby to be born deformed the same way as thalidomide?

REPLY

There is no evidence that any of the barbiturates produces deformities in babies. Thalidomide and one of the hormones are the only drugs known to do this and women should be cautious about using any new product during the first three months of pregnancy.

LUNG MOISTURE

W.L. writes: What is meant by moisture of the lungs?

REPLY

In the strict sense, everyone has moisture in the lungs which is easily demonstrated by blowing against a mirror or a pane of glass. But the term often is used by physicians to denote excessive moisture or secretions. This disorder is found chiefly in dropsical conditions, heart failure, and inflammation of the lungs.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Stuffy nose may be of emotional origin.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

December 28, 1937

The Bridge tournament sponsored by the Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals, held at the Queen Hotel, Monday evening was acclaimed by all the one hundred and sixty guests, as one of the most enjoyable evening bridge parties ever attended. A few cheery remarks by His Worship Mayor Turner added to the attraction of the evening.

New York, Dec. 28 — Grey Owl, Canadian Indian Naturalist, who was "a poor frightened savage" when he first appeared in London on the stage with Buffalo Bill, returned from the Empire's Capitol today full of "big talk" about his reception at Buchingham Palace by "The Great White Father".

TEN YEARS AGO

December 28, 1952

Yesterday afternoon a private Fleet Finch plane piloted by L.A.C. James Rae Franklyn of the RCAF Station, Summerside had a crash landing at the farm of Lloyd Affleck, Bedeque, near Bowness' Pond. L.A.C. Franklyn was flying to Summerside from his hometown Digby, N.S. when the crash occurred.

Carollers from Notre Dame Academy and the YMCA added greatly to the festivities of the Christmas season at the Charlottetown Hospital to sing to the patients. This gesture of goodwill was much appreciated by both the staff of the hospital and the patients.

SIXTEEN FLEE

BERLIN (AP)—Six East Germans slipped across the border into West Berlin during the night Wednesday, bringing to 16 the number of successful escapes reported during the Christmas holidays.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It's surprising that some political party doesn't promise to make Christmas fall on a Tuesday every year. Ottawa Journal.

When a cardboard box with no return address arrived at his home, George Andrew remembered a recent bomb-in the- mail case and called police. Two officers gingerly opened the box and found dozens of Christmas cards. Andrews had ordered.— Liverpool (Eng.) Despatch.

A despatch from Ossett, England, indicates that the he[illegible] master of a grammar school there has established a "smoking room" for his 14-to-17 year-old pupils. His reasoning: It will cut out secret smoking in the boiler- house, lavatories and potting sheds." Perhaps the school can now move on to more basic matters. Why not establish test rooms where open cheating is permitted, thus eliminating the need for furtiveness and ink on cuffs?—Christian Science Monitor.

Washington Reaction

By Harold Morrison

Canadian Press Staff Writer

Fidel Castro is in a gay mood. He not only made the United States eat dirt in the futile Cuban invasion attempt 20 months ago but now he has collected a handsome price for release of 1,113 prisoners.

Under White House persuasion, U.S. manufacturers contributed some $53,000,000 worth of food and medicine to pay the prisoners' "fines" and Castro also demanded and got $2,900,000 in cash before the prisoner release could be completed.

Apparently convinced he struck a good bargain, Castro has allowed 1,000 relatives of these prisoners to leave Cuba and is considering the release of 22 or 23 Americans now behind Cuban jail bars.

This would seem on the surface to make for friendlier relations between the U.S. and Cuba. But in contrast to the Havana elation, the Washington mood is one of well-concealed anger.

TOOK RESPONSIBILITY

Having approved the invasion attempt while denying the invaders the protection of American air cover, President Kennedy took responsibility for the prisoners' fate.

It now is disclosed that the president's brother, Attorney - General Robert Kennedy, took a leading role in the collection of food and medicine which Castro demanded, secretly pushing the whole project to the point where some manufacturers complained they were being bullied by Washington. The secrecy of the project probably was an indication that the president feared public opinion. Clearly, Castro has been a great plague for the Kennedys.

Kennedy, therefore, hasn't given up the drive to bring the downfall of the bearded leader. A new order to bar the use of American ports on return trips for ships which deliver goods to Cuba is in the works. It likely will be issued just as soon as the U.S. gets all the prisoners it can out of Cuban jails.

This likely will be followed by other American moves in later months to tighten the economic noose around the Caribbean Island. The Washington plan is to coax other Latin American countries to join in anti-Castro programs to prevent the world from reaching the conclusion that the U.S. merely is attempting to clobber Cuba into submission.

COMPLAINED TO OAS

Thus, the U.S. lost no time in complaining to the Organization of American States that the Cuban regime is still preaching revolution in other Latin American countries—"a clear indication of the continuing interventionist purposes of the Castro regime."

It was a Kennedy point in his negotiations with Soviet Premier Khrushchev that providing other conditions are met, the U.S. would not invade Cuba as long as Castro does not try to export his revolution to neighboring states.

This does not mean that Kennedy is planning an invasion of Cuba immediately. What it probably means is that the U.S. will gradually step up harassment.

The release of the Cuban prisoners may help, since these men harbor deep hatred of Castro.

The Hanging Lamp

Ottawa Journal

No one knows precisely when ancient man first learned to place a wick in a bowl of animal oil and give himself light. Pioneers in frontier cabins depended upon the light of fireplace and the glow from pine knots. The invention of the lantern with protection for the flame was a start. With the discovery of petroleum came the glass-enclosed lanterns and hand lamps.

There are those who remember the big lamp that hung above a table with its red and white checked cloth and pewter Lazy Susan. It was about 1860 that whale oil lamps gave way to petroleum. Mother picked the hanging lamp from the mail order catalogue. It was a large, brass-bowled lamp on chains that allowed it to be pushed up and pulled down. The catalogue said it had 58 candle power. The dome was decorated with beautiful purple petunias, and sparkling cut glass pendants were suspended from the dome band.

Around kitchen tables and beneath such hanging lamps boys and girls across a nation did their lessons and read the Youth's Companion. Perhaps a lad with a big geography book occasionally read a western novel that interested him more than the capital of Australia or the rivers of South America.

The era of the hanging lamp is gone, along with cedar churns and stereoscopes. But there are those who look back over the decades and remember the scene of long ago, when a golden glow spread from a hanging lamp and a family knew security and unity as they read in the soft light.