The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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PAGE 6 SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1962.

The Railway Dispute

The federal Minister of Labor, Mr. Starr, is to be commended for his vigorous action in seeking settlement of the threatened strike next month of railway engineers. In bringing the union leaders and railway management together in Montreal yesterday, he warned that any tieup of rail operations would be "utterly disastrous" in its impact on Canada's economy, thus making it pretty clear that the government would not hesitate to intervene if the Montreal talks failed to resolve the dispute.

Meanwhile there has been assurance from railway union officials that, in this particular case, the Borden-Tormentine car ferry service would not likely be involved. But why, in any case, should it be? We have never been able to understand why responsibility for making such a decision should be left with the railway unions. It is the Dominion Government, not the Canadian National Railways, that owns our car ferries and is obligated to keep them in operation under our terms of Confederation.

The trouble started twelve years ago when a pusillanimous Liberal government at Ottawa allowed our ferries to be tied up and shirked all responsibility for them until Premier Jones called a special session of the Legislature and the "Abegweit" was promptly released and placed back in service. At that special session of September, 1950, our grievance was clearly stated and our rights insisted upon. It was pointed out then—as it should be on every occasion when the question arises—that the operation of these ferries is not an interference with the rights of railway unions, since the ferries are in effect an interprovincial highway, facilitating the transport of automobiles, trucks, busses and independent passengers as well as railway equipment.

Now that the MV Confederation is due to go into service very shortly, would it not be advisable to have this controversial matter settled once and for all? The new ferry will carry no railway traffic of any kind. Why then hand it over to the railway for operation? Why not leave that responsibility with the Department of Transport, where it belongs? There would then be no excuse for governmental pussyfooting in the event of a another railway strike, and the principle would be established, beyond cavil, that the responsibility for maintaining this vital service lies with the men we elect to govern this country, and with no other body of men whatsoever.

The Journal's Warning

Prime Minister Diefenbaker's cat-and-mouse election game is becoming too much for the nerves of members of Parliament, his own supporters included. Even the Ottawa Journal has become disturbed. "This Parliament," it says, "is no longer the useful legislative body needed by this country at this time; it is being degraded into a hustings—into a sounding board for party propaganda."

Somewhat inconsistently, The Journal blames the Opposition. The Opposition, it says, "is abdicating its parliamentary responsibilities and duties. With a heavy legislative program before the house, its leaders are stumping the country, electioneering." Last week, it notes, the Leader of the Opposition, far from performing his role in Parliament, was not even in the House; he was "out on the hustings seeking votes. More, while Mr. Pearson was thus engaged, a small rump of his party, remaining in the House, were holding up supplementary estimates—taking 14 days for a job which usually takes up not more than three or four days."

But The Journal gets back on the right tack when it says that it's Mr. Diefenbaker's job to end this state of affairs. "Surely," it says, "he cannot believe that he can proceed with the legislative program he has mapped out and have an election, too. He must know that if he proceeds with a full-fledged budget, plus a measure for redistribution, plus a measure for Senate reform, plus a measure to abolish closure, plus other important things in the Speech from the Throne, this Parliament will still be here in July if not in August."

So what? Mr. Diefenbaker should make an end of this Parliament—dissolve it and go to the country. This would mean withholding most of his legislative program, but he could now bring down a budget—a full budget if it could be prepared in time; otherwise a financial White Paper showing the country's financial state. Fiscal measures, if deemed necessary, could be brought in later, when the new Parliament meets.

To procrastinate longer, says The Journal, will be "to condone grave harm for Canada." Grave harm for Mr. Diefenbaker, too; for, "while Mr. Diefenbaker and his ministers must remain chained to their administrative and parliamentary desks, the Opposition is in a position to make him fight their kind of a battle—a kind of battle which sees them with the tactical advantage of fighting him on two fronts, holding up his legislation in the House with part of their forces, while roaming the constituencies with another part, launching charges and accusations that largely go unanswered."

It's an emergency, Mr. Diefenbaker! Your old friend The Journal isn't joking, and its advice might be well worth heeding.

Wood Islands Service

It is pleasing to learn, from a statement by Transport Minister Balcer in the House of Commons on Thursday, that a second ferry for the Wood Islands-Caribou route has been approved in principle, and that the contract may be let quite soon, so that the boat may perhaps be ready for the season of 1963. Earlier, the minister had announced that a sum of $23,025 had been provided for modifications to the ferry Lord Selkirk operating on the same route.

Mr. Balcer's statements with regard to the proposed new ferry for this service were given in reply to questions asked during discussion on the estimates for the minister's department. This is the time when queries of this kind are usually advanced from all parts of the country, by members concerned about the interests of their particular constituencies or provinces.

In this case, however, the queries didn't come from any of our elected Island representatives but from the Liberal member for Bonavista-Twillingate, Mr. J.W. Pickersgill. That man Pickersgill again! What would we do without him? He has been prodding Works Minister Walker persistently about our causeway survey and other matters, and has been snubbed many times for his pains. But that hasn't discouraged him, and this time he has been successful in tapping Mr. Balcer for a welcome piece of information.

Were our own members' faces red when Mr. Pickersgill went to bat for us again on this occasion, stressing the inadequacy of the present service and the need for early attention to our requirements? Surely they could have forestalled him had they any knowledge of what was afoot, and put the questions themselves that would have elicited the answers! The House must be wondering whether they are under a vow of silence of some kind, or whether subjects relating to this Province are of too private a nature to be discussed above whispers by our own elected representatives.

In any case, the news it out, and it is Mr. Pickersgill we must thank for his enterprise in prying it loose.

NEW BASIS FOR DISAGREEMENT

VISION TO BE REALIZED

Disarmament And The Better Life

Winnipeg Free Press

The United Nations study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament could hardly have been published at a more appropriate time. In Geneva, 17 nations are once again trying to find a satisfactory and effective way of halting the arms race. Their basic motivation is simply the survival of the human race. But the UN study shows conclusively, in the judgment of the ten economists who conducted it, that disarmament would mean not only the survival of the human race, but a very much better life for everyone.

The turning of swords into ploughshares would release billions of dollars that could be used to assist under-developed countries, build new homes and factories, eliminate slums, provide more and improved facilities for education, health and scientific research, extend social security.

Working hours could be cut with no reduction in real income. There would be more leisure time, more holidays with pay.

In addition to the immediate relief — both financial and emotional — that would result from disarmament, there would be secondary benefits. The easing of international tensions thus brought about would greatly stimulate world trade and modify present trade barriers. This in turn would lead to greater prosperity.

NOT EASY OR SIMPLE

No one believes that the change would be easy or simple. Widespread fears have often been expressed that the elimination of armed forces and the arms industry would, in some countries, bring on a black depression with many thousands of people in the services and in industry thrown out of work.

The economists believe that such fears are unfounded. If the government concerned act with foresight and co-operation. And not long ago a report by a group of U.S. experts said that disarmament could be carried out in the United States over a period of ten or twelve years without causing a depression.

The UN study says that the world has more than enough unfulfilled needs to take care of all the resources that would be freed by disarmament, and that no country need fear a lack of useful employment for these resources. It suggests that governments could maintain a demand for goods and head off unemployment by cutting taxes to consumers, granting tax concessions to investors and, where necessary, paying subsidies to seriously affected regions and industries.

CANADA'S CASE

Some countries (Canada is one of them) which depend on the export of primary products like metallic ores, petroleum, rubber, etc. also would feel the effects of disarmament because they are dependent in this field on demand generated by military purchases.

But, the study says, if military spending were fully replaced by public and private non-military spending, the over-all effect would be minor. In cases where the decline in demand for a particular commodity caused serious and lasting difficulties, consideration could be given to special aid to the country or countries involved.

The UN study should be of particular interest to Canada. Not only are we one of the 17 nations now engaged in the Geneva talks, but, according to the study, Canada is one of the seven biggest military spenders in the world; the other six are the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China, France and West Germany. These seven nations account for about 85 per cent of the world's military spending.

Results In Argentina

By Joseph MacSween
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The results of the election in Argentina—inviting back Juan Peron's rightism — have staggered the Western world but what has happened is not really new. An earlier sampling set the pattern.

President Arturo Frondizi has been reduced to making deals with military commanders to stay in power and, in a confused situation, it seems the government plans on repudiating the results of the election in some areas.

It's difficult to believe that Frondizi, a long - time campaigner, was caught by surprise since he is a veteran in opposition to Peron, whose siren song received much of its melody from the late Eva Peron.

Eva, in the view of thousands, is a saint, and Juan, in their view is unmatched in his care of the "shirtless ones."

U.S. CAUGHT AGAIN

The United States, it appears, is caught once again. Its offer of massive assistance to Latin America was interpreted by Peron followers — and Peron himself in exile in Spain—as a bribe.

Authorities have noted repeatedly that President Kennedy's Alliance for Progress proposals were only made after Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro invited all of Latin America to a leftist solution of their problems.

The new facts are that in a free election Peronists with more than 2,500,000 votes—one third of the total—won a plurality in 10 of the 14 provinces and half of the seats at stake in the lower house.

Responsible commentators have said there is nothing that can be done about these facts without returning the concept of rule enforced by Peron, who himself used the army as a springboard to power.

RULE SOURED

Other facts are that it probably would have been impossible for Frondizi to be elected in the first place without the implicit support of Peron. This support has soured his rule.

Frondizi has in statements scorned Peronista support but it's on the record that Peron urged his admirers to vote for Frondizi in the February, 1958, elections.

Some estimates placed the number who did so at about 1,500,000. Another 500,000 cast blank ballots instead. Totalled, these figures are not distant from those of the last election, in the view of some observers.

Students of Latin America had considered the earlier figures as showing that Peron—2½ years after being driven from the country — still wields influence over 20 per cent of the Argentine electorate.

Pondering The Monstrous

Vancouver Province

The nuclear arms race has certain psychopathic connotations. These come to the fore whenever there is talk of superior nuclear strength.

It is lunatic to talk about winning a nuclear war and it doesn't matter whether the boasts are made by the Soviets, or our side.

U.S. Defence Secretary McNamara now says his country's nuclear striking power is so immense that the United States could absorb a surprise assault, destroy Russia, and still have enough nuclear power left to counter any blackmail threat from a third power. Presumably he means Red China.

No doubt Mr. McNamara has a duty to keep up the morale of Americans and American allies, but does he do this when he talks about capability to take on all comers in a nuclear war?

EXPERTS DISAGREE

Experts in the West have disagreed drastically about Soviet nuclear weapon strength. A month or so ago the reliable Reporter Magazine said the U.S. Central Intelligence had cut back its estimates of Russian nuclear power nearly 80 per cent in less than two years. If they were correcting error, such a margin of error is itself rather frightening. Error could, indeed, be reversed instead of corrected.

Estimates of how many Americans and Russians would be killed in a nuclear war have ranged up to 80 million for the side that got hit first, with perhaps less for the aggressor.

TALK OF WINNING

Here, too, estimates seem to slop over into the area of near-pathological speculation. And talk of winning after such monstrous genocide is certainly not sane.

One thing we can be sure of. Both sides could inflict terrible damage. Little civilization could emerge from the ashes of a nuclear war, no matter how many people survived.

Estimates of what the United States, the Soviet Union or any third power with nuclear weapons might do to others is only half the story.

Global devastation is the other half. . .and no one can ever afford to forget it.

ROYAL SOCIETY

The Royal Society of London for the Improvement of Natural Knowledge, founded in 1660, now has some 625 Fellows and 66 foreign members.

The Poet's Corner

THE CAT

The centuries lie back of his
proud stare
And satin step. He has a pedigree
Entwined with the long course of
history,
A heritage shown in his haughty
air
And worldly charm. No stranger
to the grace
Of living in great houses, he has
seen
Tall marble colonnades of pink
and green
And terraced gardens hung aloft
in space
Like floating jewels. He has seen
empires fall.
Sacred to Egypt's palaces, he
knew
Beloved in Rome and Greece, as
was his due.
The ages have revered him. How
with all
These memories in his blood, is
he content
With hollyhock gardens, sun and
catnip scent?

—Jane Morrison,
in the Christian Science Monitor

'Shiners' Need Greater Care

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

THE BLACK eye often is neglected because of the connotation it carries and the deeply rooted idea that it is a trivial injury. But the shiner deserves more consideration than sympathy, ice packs, or beefsteak as the swollen, darkened area may mask a more serious injury to the thin bones that house the eye. A direct blow may fracture the floor of the orbit and the condition is overlooked unless a special X-ray is taken.

Dr. Leonard C. Doubleday reported four such instances in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In one, a boy was struck in the right eye with a baseball; another was hit by a rock. The third was a hospital orderly who received a blow while trying to restrain a mental patient. He blew his nose 24 hours later, and his eye bulged out. X-rays showed a downward depression of a fragment of the bone at the base of the orbit. The fourth man was in a night club fight and a plastic operation had to be done to reconstruct the floor of the orbit.

Many families maintain the tradition that the good fairy will pay a dime for every tooth a child loses. The youngster puts it under the pillow and the exchange takes place in the still of the night. Fallout has created a new demand for these teeth.

A baby tooth survey is being conducted in St. Louis and a report by the director, Dr. Louise Zibold Reiss, appeared recently in Science. This group found that teeth and bones absorb strontium 90 and calcium in the same ratio. It is here that baby teeth enter the picture; analysis provides indirect information concerning the amount of strontium 90 that has settled in the bones.

Collecting deciduous teeth from the good fairy is much easier than removing a piece of bone for analysis. According to Dr. Reiss, a two year collection of 5,000 incisors from any area of the nation will yield all the information needed to tell how much strontium 90 was absorbed by the bone during the preceding seven years.

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

BOUTS OF VOMITING

Mrs. W. writes: For two years my 5 year old girl has been suffering from bad vomiting spells. She has no fever or pain with these attacks and when she was in the hospital they could find nothing wrong. She is a happy child who eats well. Do you have any suggestions?

REPLY

Nervousness and allergy are possibilities, if X-rays of the stomach and intestine were negative. There is no need for concern if the child has not lost weight and otherwise is healthy. A clue may be obtained by noting what she ate, and what happened prior to vomiting. The cause may be a food, or something the parents are doing.

GNAWING PAIN

Mrs. C. writes: My husband gave up smoking after using a pack a day for 54 years. He has had a gnawing pain in his stomach since then and we wonder if he gave up cigarets too abruptly.

REPLY

No. The gnawing pain may be coincidental and X-rays are in order.

BENDING, GOOD EXERCISE

J. B. writes: Is cooking on top of the stove, instead of in the oven, hard on the stomach?

REPLY

No, but bending down to put food into the oven is exercise that will harden the muscles of the abdomen. If you refer to frying versus baking or broiling, the oven is better.

TESTING FOR IMMUNITY

J. R. writes: Is there a blood test to show whether a woman is immune to German measles, either through having had an attack or otherwise?

REPLY

Yes, but it is not a routine test and can be done only at a few laboratories.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 24, 1937)

The Island Motor Transport Ltd., has taken over the city bus service operated for the past two winters by Arthur Lewis. The I.M.T. also bought out Mr. Lewis' franchise for the Charlottetown - Souris service. Mr. Lewis has accepted a position with the I.M.T. Ltd.

A large and appreciative audience greeted the players of "Rummage Donations" in the Salvation Army Citadel, Tuesday evening, each player doing justice to his part. Bridget and Andy kept the audience in fits of laughter, while Grandma was worried, thinking Rummage Donations had something to do with spirituous liquors.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 24, 1953)

Dr. R.G. Lea, chairman of the Board of School Trustees of Charlottetown, yesterday announced the appointment of K. A. Parker, Headmaster of Mt. Allison Academy, Sackville, to be superintendent of schools for Charlottetown.

Wallace H. MacLean, Vernon River has been elected to serve on the 1952-53 council of the Barbs, organized sophisticatemen, at the Colorado School of Mines. Mr. MacLean, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. MacLean of Vernon River. Before going to the "Mines" he attended Prince of Wales College.

Speaking for Myself

If in Doubt, Just Toss 'Em Posies

A speaker I heard last Sunday said that one way to keep a marriage happy is for a husband to remember the date and take a gift to his wife on their wedding anniversary.

That's fine. But this speaker, a man and an unmarried one at that, made no reference to a further problem often faced, when a husband and wife agree as to the date of their anniversary but not as to which anniversary is being observed. It arises because most women, if not all of them, tend to be coy about their age.

Certainly at our house it seems to be taken for granted on most days that I have been married to that woman for exactly as long as she has been married to me. But not on anniversaries. Then it becomes her position that her wedding day wasn't nearly as long ago as mine.

PACKED WITH PERILS

So far, I've heard of no marriage counsellor who offers any advice on the right way to handle this situation.

Yet it is packed with perils. What happens, for instance, if a husband buys a gift appropriate to observance of a pearl (or thirtieth) anniversary, only to find his wife is still celebrating her silver (twenty-fifth) or china (twentieth) anniversary?

Sure, any wife will show pleasure over whatever gift is presented (pearls would be dandy), but what kind of attitude will be produced for the occasion? Yet some wives keep on observing their twentieth anniversary for as many as 15 years.

BLUSH-INSPIRING

Like as not this is why many a husband keeps on joking being condemned as a poor dope, without any imagination, when he never gets beyond tossing his wife a handful of posies, or a box of chocolates, on anniversary after anniversary.

Worse embarrassments often are risked, too, as I can remember from more than a dozen years ago, when that woman had a really serious attack of year-switching. At that time I remember I would face blush-inspiring questions as to whether our daughter had been a child bride, and just how it happened we had grandchildren.

In part of that era I even suspected that woman of having mistaken her daughter's wedding anniversary for her own; all of this suggesting juvenile prowess on my part of a kind which has to be described as most unlikely.

FINGERS AND TOES

In later years, however, the year-juggling by that woman has at least become less extreme: enough so to lead me to accept for a while that it involved nothing more than her general arithmetical confusion, which at times can be massive. After all, when a woman has been telling her left hand from her right, it scarcely seems reasonable to expect her to be able to count.

Indeed, through quite a few years, I accepted the proposition that her ability to count could not be expected to go beyond the number of fingers and toes she had available on which to do her counting. This presumed she always could count to at least 10, and up to 20 with her shoes off.

In support of this theory, it was right after our twentieth anniversary when that woman began having her biggest trouble settling on which one came next. Indeed, from that date forward, she has never since come up with a figure which checks exactly with the one suggested by our wedding certificate.

SIMPLE EXPLANATION

In the end, though, I've had to abandon even that theory. At last, after being stupid about it for a great many years, I've finally come to see there is a very simple explanation. It lies in the fact that women are female (a darn nice arrangement, too, when you stop to think of it), and this gives them an approach to the key dates in their lives which must forever remain mysterious to men.

Since this is the universal condition among women, without enough exceptions to be worth mentioning, it follows that there is nothing unusual, much less exclusive, in that woman's approach to anniversaries.

And the way women handle this matter is totally simple, when you come to understand it. So far as they are concerned, no year really takes place unless they make public mention of its passage. Among women, when a year hasn't been counted, it hasn't happened.

NO FALSIFICATION

It's as simple as that. There isn't even falsification. Just feminity, in this method.

It is not unusual, thus, to find a woman observing a thirty-seventh or thirty-eighth birthday for five to nine years in a row. And it is a rare thing to meet a woman who steps boldly to the fact of being 39 years old (that's getting too close to 40), much less to the fact of being 40.

When they finally move on, it's ordinarily to some age like 42 or 43, where they again feel free to linger a while. By the time a woman says she is past 50, no person this side of heaven is safe to guess her real age, if measured in mathematical rather than feminine terms.

In the same way, observing a wedding anniversary with a higher number than 20 is avoided as long as possible, and it suggests that same age figure of 40.

DON'T ASK ME

It is a handy brand of truth to have available, this female version.

And, so long as it remains available, don't ask me what anniversary it is we'll be observing at our house next week.

I'll have to wait until that woman tells me, before I have an opinion. Whatever figure she chooses will suit me fine. If the fact that she'll be female about it is a defect, it is still a bargain at that price.

Meanwhile, just to be on the safe side, I'd better gather a handful of posies somewhere, to toss at her. On this question of what anniversary we are about to observe, there is no safety except in remaining uncommitted.

Burton Lewis

Memo from your Master Feeds Dealer:

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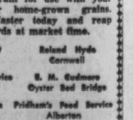

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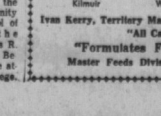

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