

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew
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Re-Nominated

It was a foregone conclusion, but congratulations are due nevertheless to the Hon. J. Angus MacLean, Minister of Fisheries, and Mr. Heath Macquarrie on being renominated as Conservative standard-bearers for Queens in the coming Federal general election.

As noted before, they have two strong opponents in the Liberal candidates, Messrs. E. D. Reid and J. O. C. Campbell, Q.C. It should be a lively contest!

A Muddle

Some day, let us hope, Canada will have a universal-suffrage law. As things stand, quite a number of reputable citizens are denied the right to vote.

Regarding the Indians, a move was made in the last session of Parliament to grant them their rights; but, although it had the support of members of all parties, for some reason it did not come to a vote.

As for the others mentioned, what risk would there be in giving them the right to vote? What is there in their duties which puts them "outside the pale"?

British Warning

Ever since the hydrogen bomb appeared in the arsenals of the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain it has been hoped that the terrible weapon would never be used and that war, if it must come, will be fought by "conventional" weapons.

Well, the hope has finally been shattered by a "White Paper" issued by the British Government. Entitled "Britain's Contribution to Peace and Security" and written by Defence Minister Sandys, the document warns the Soviet Union that "if the Western Powers were attacked even with conventional forces only, they would retaliate with strategic nuclear weapons".

This is the first time that any Western Government has stated that hydrogen bombs and other nuclear weapons would be used at the outset

of any war, whatever the enemy might do; although the use of atomic weapons as a possibility has been talked about freely.

The evident purpose behind the British announcement is to inform Soviet leaders that they cannot count on their admitted superiority in conventional forces in the event of war. Whether this will serve as a further deterrent to war is a question; but evidently the British Government hopes it will.

Those Oracles.

A Patriot editorial writer has entered the controversy as to the present setup of the British Commonwealth. The Encyclopaedia Britannica Year Books, he says, are wrong. The Statesman's Year Book is "half true and half false, which makes it wholly false."

The Patriot writer contends that the Commonwealth is to be interpreted "in the words of the Imperial Conference of 1926." That is the Balfour definition which is now obsolete. The Commonwealth has ceased to be, as it states, a group "of autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another . . . though united by a common allegiance to the Crown."

That is why, in preference to the Imperial Conference statement of 1926, we cited the latest available edition (1957) of the Britannica Year Book, which defines the Commonwealth today as "a world-wide community of independent nations and dependent or semidependent territories bound together by allegiance to the British Crown or by recognition of the British Sovereign as head of the Commonwealth and symbol of the free and equal association of countries within its framework."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Nothing succeeds like success, to be sure. Before last summer's election the Conservatives in some constituencies found it difficult enough to procure qualified candidates. This time the problem is one of oversupply. Even in Liberal strongholds the list of would-be candidates is impressive.

Mr. Dean Acheson, U.S. Secretary of State in the Truman administration, thinks that this is "the worst possible time" for holding top level talks with the Russians and that the West has "less than a 50-50 chance" of making any gains at such a meeting.

The Prime Minister did not exaggerate when he described Canada's tobacco taxes as "the heaviest of any industry in Canada". However, his promise to "look into the matter to ascertain what action should be taken" must not be regarded as a commitment to reduce the taxes on tobacco. They may or may not be found feasible; but, being a luxury, it is reasonable to suppose that tobacco will not be given priority when it comes to reducing taxes on various commodities.



ISLAND BIRCHES

OTTAWA REPORT

That Canadian Medal

By Patrick Nicholson
Special Correspondent for The Guardian

Ottawa: The election campaign has brought on a lot of talk about promises, and whether politicians intend to keep them. This brings to mind a Liberal promise, staked for 14 years by Liberal governments even though they had docile steam-roller majorities which could certainly have put it through Parliament: it was Mackenzie King's promise in 1943 to introduce a "Canada Medal."

This is a small point. But as we have a noisy minority clamouring about the urgent need to have our own National Anthem and a distinctive flag, it is surprising that nobody likewise urges the need for us to have a distinctive Canadian award.

It is important for any sovereign state to have in its power to award a trifling and inexpensive token of metal and ribbon, which nevertheless represents the gratitude of its citizens. For that is what a medal is: a dollar token, but which may nevertheless cost perhaps a life or certainly faithful service to win.

It may be asked whether we need a Canada Medal. No doubt many Canadians, from selfless medical workers in the northern wastes to heroic policemen following armed robbers, deserve some token of recognition by their seventeen million fellow-citizens each year in peacetime. At all levels of our national life, public-spirited men and women give service beyond the call of duty to the state; why should Canada be the only country in the world which is unable to say "Thank you" for such service.

An embarrassing side issue of our lack of a distinctive Canadian medal is that we cannot say "Thank you" to citizens of other countries who perform services for Canada, and this is a national shame. Take for instance the

matter of foreign citizens who serve as our consuls especially in ports and capital cities overseas. In France, for example, there are no doubt Frenchmen resident in Marseilles and Cherbourg who for years have freely given their services to act as our consuls. Living next door to them are the other Frenchmen who have served say Sweden and Japan in the same capacity. After perhaps ten years or twenty years work, looking after the interests of Sweden and watching the affairs of Japan, assisting with those countries' trade with France, entertaining important visitors from Sweden and Japan, introducing businessmen from those countries to the necessary officials and private contacts in France, Monsieur Jean receives from a grateful Sweden an order of the Snowy Elk, first class, which is one of those dollar baubles of metal and ribbon. And Monsieur Jacques receives from a grateful Japan an order of the Rising Sun, first class, also a metal bauble suspended from a coloured ribbon. Monsieur Jean and Monsieur Jacques are both delighted. They talk about their foreign honours and show their medals to their friends.

But what does their neighbour, Monsieur Alphonse think of all this? He has been working even longer and even more faithfully to further the affairs of Canada, which he has always heard is a rich and generous country. But the Canadian Government does not come across, for it has no Canada Medal! to award to its faithful volunteer helpers in foreign lands.

AND YOU TOO
This works in reverse too. The Canadian Government for years has been very embarrassed about its inability to reward foreigners. So to save direct comparisons, it has now asked all foreign govern-

Out Of Space

Arthur Blakely in the Montreal Gazette

A few years ago, many Canadians were flabbergasted to learn that the Federal Government had established the worlds first, official flying saucer sighting station at Shirley Bay, some 10 miles west of Canada's capital.

In charge of the station was a Mr. Wilbert B. Smith, then engineer in charge of the transport department's broadcast and measurement section, intercommunications division.

And in a way, this was singularly appropriate. For Mr. Smith, it was to appear, was a real flying saucer enthusiast.

In fact, the establishment of the sighting station was really his own idea. There was some unused electronic equipment lying around And Mr. Smith, as the story was told at the time, had no trouble convincing his deputy minister that a sighting station would be a fine thing—provided that Mr. Smith assembled the station out of the odds-and-ends of equipment in his own spare time.

And this was done. But before long, the Government in general and the Transport Department in particular must have wished that it hadn't been so free and easy in its handling of the problem. For Mr. Smith as was mentioned before, was a real enthusiast. And before long, he was reporting any number of sightings of unidentified flying objects which could—just could, mind you—have been flying saucers.

Mr. Smith, it was to become clear, was a firm believer in the existence of flying. He may even have been a believer before his detection station made of odd parts began to supply a steady stream of evidence of same. Sensitive instruments at the Shirley Bay establishment gyrated on occasion for no ap-

parent reason. Mr. Smith and his aides painstakingly worked out the odds that the inexplicable gyrations, at least pointed to the existence of saucers. There was a 91 percent chance, it was said, that the "sightings" were real and not hallucinations or something of the sort. There was a 10 percent chance that the unidentified objects causing these were alien, coming from some other astral body. And if this latter were the case, then it was three to one that the unidentified flying objects were spaceships manned by live, rational beings.

Every report of a sighting from Mr. Smith's laboratory tended to give rise to speculation about tiny green men involved in mysterious operations in outer and inner space. Though just why people should assume that such beings must be tiny and green was never understood at Shirley Bay.

CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT

It wasn't long, before these reports began to occasion the Government some embarrassment. Questions were asked in Parliament. Embarrassing questions. Could it possibly be true that the taxpayers were being required to support an establishment which sounded like something out of a science fiction paperback novel? The Government didn't like the questions. It wasn't very fond of the answers, for that matter.

In due course, the flying saucer sighting station at Shirley Bay ceased to function as such. But Mr. Smith has never ceased to believe. Now superintendent of radio regulations engineering, with the same Department of Transport, he addressed a small public meeting here in Ottawa a few days ago. His theme: flying saucers.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

APPRECIATION

Sir,—Would you kindly permit me space in your column to express to the people of Charlottetown my sincere appreciation of the kindness and courtesy with which the members of the High School curling rinks have been received and treated.

Others will officially convey the thanks of the Canadian High School Curling Association for the hospitality and consideration shown the boys, but as a Dad who has come half way across the Dominion to see lads in action, I would be remiss in my duty to the Dads and Mothers of all the boys did I not extend a special "Thank You" for the wonderful treatment the boys have received. I can not think of anything more that could have been done to make their visit to Prince Edward Island a more memorable one.

On this, my second visit to P.E.I., I can more fully understand why my Dad who was raised here, insisted on calling this Island "The Island"! I can assure you I shall long continue to sound the praises of the people among whom we have spent such a delightful week.

I am, Sir, etc.,
STANLEY R. MCLEOD
Minister, Wesley United Church, Fort William, Ontario.

ments to refrain from offering any award to a Canadian citizen. So Johnny Canuck, who for years has served as Consul for Germany in Halifax or Saint John or Vancouver or Quebec City, is not able to receive the order of the Double Eagle. But Sam X. Hogswaffle, who serves as Consul for Germany in the nearby port of Miquelon and St. Pierre, can accept a medal from a grateful government in Germany.

It was obviously after careful study of the need for a Canada Medal that Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced in 1943 that he would create such a medal. Why did he and Mr. St. Laurent allow fourteen years to go by without implementing their promise to Canada?



WINTER WALLS

Winter days, my walls talk to me, sometimes saying pointblank, "See! How good we are to you, keeping out the cold and the snow, blowing about!"

They are determined I appreciate all that they do. How patiently they wait for unpleasant weather, so that they can rise efficiently, heroically, to my eyes!

Then, when they sense protecting me from rough gales or blizzards is not quite enough, they tender pictures for reminding me of spring or summer, or they offer books.

They know how to keep a person warm in this time of early dark and storm: good wood and plaster, and the stratagem of lamp and fire-light glittering ever them.

—Helen Harrington, in the Christian Science Monitor.

Trouble May Be Wrongly Named

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

Each year, many children are erroneously labeled "mentally retarded," "deaf," or "emotionally disturbed" when in reality their trouble is "aphasia."

All too frequently, parents mistakenly give up hope for improvement and resign themselves to caring for a retarded child, or decide to wait "to see if he grows out of it."

CONSULT DOCTOR

If your youngster has difficulty talking, or can't utter more than a few grunts and screeches when others his age are speaking distinctly, consult your doctor. It might be a good idea to inquire whether his difficulty could be due to aphasia.

For more than 100 years, we have known that aphasia can cause loss of speech or understanding of spoken words among adults. Now we suspect this might be the trouble with some 500,000 of America's 2,000,000 speechless children.

DAMAGE TO BRAIN

Aphasia is caused by damage to the brain. It leaves the victim unable to express his thoughts in spoken words and/or unable to understand various written or spoken words. The affliction might be severe or nominal.

In a severe case, a person might not be able to utter more than a few words such as "Yes" and "No." In a nominal case, the victim can't remember names of things. He can recognize an object held before him, but cannot name it.

In speaking of a pencil or pen, such a person probably would describe it as "What you write with."

Some of these persons are "word blind" in that they cannot understand what they read, although they can actually read it. VARIOUS CAUSES

The brain damage which produces aphasia can occur in various ways. Some of the causes include German measles in the mother during pregnancy, breathing difficulties at birth, incompatibility of certain blood types, diseases such as meningitis during infancy, or a serious accident in early life.

Fortunately, something can be done for many of these children.

Each year, about 300 youngsters, ranging from one to seven years, are examined at the Institute for Language Disorders in Children at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Examination shows about half of them have language disorders resulting from brain damage.

TRAGIC LABEL

The school, the only one of its kind in the nation, makes happy, useful youngsters out of many of these children who otherwise would have borne the tragic label "mentally retarded" throughout their lives.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

D.T.: How would you treat a sty?

Answer: Usually, cold compresses are applied early so that the sty may not progress. Later, hot compresses are applied. The pus may have to be removed surgically by lancing.

The Age Old Story

Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The undersea raider, we are reminded, is the world's sneakiest weapon — as anyone who has ever sat on a toy submarine in the bathtub can testify. — Hamilton Spectator

Satellites may girdle the earth but a government's treatment of a minority will remain the truer measure of its progress.—Sherbrooke Record

An English doctor has taken a professional look at events in this century and has come to the conclusion that sickness of political leaders rather than sin has been responsible for historic blunders. His thesis is of particular interest today when the Western world, particularly the United States, has an almost clinical concern for President Eisenhower's health and its power to affect Western fortunes.—Edmonton Journal

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Feb. 21, 1933)

Detailed reports of all departments of the city's business for 1932 were presented at the annual meeting of the city council held last evening, with His Worship Mayor W. S. Stewart and the full board present. Mayor Stewart gave a comprehensive report of the activities of the Council during the past year stating that despite the economic trend the city financially had fared off well.

Mr. George McCallum who has been on the staff of the Canadian National Fox Breeders Association for some time has been appointed Secretary, succeeding Mr. John S. Wright. Mr. Vernon Matthews of O'Leary has been appointed accountant.

TEN YEARS AGO

(Feb. 21, 1948)

Serious problems caused by the decline in crop producing ability of the soils of Prince Edward Island are dealt with in a report from the soils and crop committee. The decline in productivity was attributed to a decrease in livestock, failure to return adequate plant food to the soil, loss of the fertile top soil through erosion, lack of attention in fertilizing and managing pasture and grass lands and improper land use.

An increase in the Boy Scout movement of 260 members since last October was announced by Field Commissioner Walter LePage at the regular meeting of the Provincial Council. His report states that fifteen troops and fourteen packs have registered for 1948, an increase of three troops and six packs over last year.

Advertisement for 'Baby's Coughs' medicine, featuring a bottle of the product and the text 'Best for Baby's Coughs'.

Children driving to school requested to watch out for pedestrians.—Edmonton Journal

Conscience is the voice that tells you not to do something which you have done it.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Having to live with a senile is the high price a woman pays for henpecking her husband.—Waterloo Record

A couple in Wheatley, Ontario, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary by saying they set up housekeeping with three cents. Yes, but what those three cents would buy in those days!—Peterborough Examiner

Dean Geoffrey Andrew, assistant to the president of the city of British Columbia, says that the public will not pay professional teachers' salaries, which will be a nasty smack at students.—Nelson News

Winnipeg Police Chief Robert Taft quite properly has refused to comply with a school board request for a police campaign against child smokers. The chief said that it was up to parents to curb the use of tobacco by children. If school trustees believe that smoking has become a serious problem, they should devote some attention to an educational program aimed at parents and children.—Winnipeg Tribune

MAXIMS
A good name is seldom given. When character is gone it is gone, and one of the richest jewels of life is lost forever.

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NOW... IS THE BEST TIME TO START INTERIOR HOME PROJECTS

The traditional time for home repairs and improvements is the Spring and Summer months. Interior work that could be more economically done now, is delayed until the rush season begins. Delay in starting can result in costly inconvenience and extra time in completing your projects.

We can supply the necessary Building Materials and Invite you to come in and consult us on your requirements.

- These include—
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Plywoods
Arborite
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Cabinet Hardware
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