

W.L. Hancock, Publisher
Frank Walker, Editor
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PAGE 4 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1963

Tragic Occurrences

In a talk recorded for presentation at Christmas Day, Prime Minister Pearson recalled two particularly tragic events of the year now coming to its close. These were President Kennedy's death by assassination, and the crash of a TCA plane near Montreal in November with the loss of 113 lives. There have been other disasters, by storm, fire and earthquake, and indeed it would be something unique in the annals of mankind if there were no calamitous visitations to be taken note of at the year's end.

The most recent harrowing reminder of the uncertainties of life at sea was the fate that befell the Greek liner Lakonia, which burst into flames and exploded on a Christmas holiday cruise in the Eastern Atlantic, in a B.C. circumstances not the least tragic because of charges by rescued passengers that the crew had panicked, that discipline had cracked and that the passengers had been compelled to take charge of lifeboats.

At this safe remove it would be presumptuous indeed for us to comment upon such accusations; but it would seem, at least, that the best traditions of the sea were maintained by the rescue ships in saving so many lives after what might well have resulted in the loss of all the thousand and more human beings on board. It is said, too, that the Greek captain, in true maritime tradition, was the last to leave the ship.

The problem of human suffering posed by such disasters has puzzled wiser heads than ours, and this is no time to make an amateurish attempt at solving it in these columns. But what a dreadful world it would be if there were no guiding lights of faith and hope to steer by in the troubled waters through which we all have to pass, at some stage or other!

There is courage to be drawn from despair while these lights even faintly flicker. And, in many cases, it is when tragedy strikes the hardest that they shine the more brightly. This truth was known to our soldiers in two world wars, who made no pretense at being able to define their feelings in theological terms. It was expressed by—among others—an English poet killed in the first war, whose name we have failed to find in any modern anthology but whose four concluding lines of a poem about a cavalryman going into action in a tragic rear-guard engagement have haunted us ever since. They are these:

"The thundering line of battle stands,
And in the air death moans and sings;
But Day shall clasp him with strong hands,
And Night shall fold him in soft wings."
For all of us there is that assurance, to carry with us through the stormiest earthly experience.

The Voting Age

In view of the discussion in Canada over the proposal to drop the minimum age for voters in federal elections to 18, people in this country will have considerable interest in the proposal by a U.S. presidential commission that the 18-year limit be adopted in that country. This is purely advisory, as the states set the voting qualifications. Only two states, Kentucky and Georgia, now permit 18-year-olds to vote.

In Canada, notes the London Free Press, one of the surprising developments has been the modesty of many young people who feel that they are not yet qualified to take on the responsibilities of electors. In this connection, the U.S. commission points out that it is well to start voting at 18, because by the time young people reach 21 they are "so far removed from the stimulation of the educational process that their interest in public affairs has waned."

The report also calls for the elimination of poll taxes and literacy tests as qualifications for voting. These have been used as roadblocks to prevent negroes from exercising the franchise. But the report does not concentrate on this factor. It argues that no American should be denied the right to vote because his formal education is limited.

This, as our London contemporary suggests, appears to be extending the democratic principle to the limit. Surely the voter has a responsibility to do something to understand the issues involved, and if he or she is not able to take in that information it is likely to put a question-mark on ability to vote intelligently.

But that principle applies to voters of 21 and over as much as to prospective voters of 18. Education of voters is a perpetual challenge in a democracy. There has, of course, never been any insurance that democracy would mean intelligent choices by voters; but no other method has been able to insure intelligent decisions on public matters either.

More Hopeful Prospect

It is reassuring, at this festive season, to note that new attempts are being made, by Britain and the United States, to negotiate specific agreements with the Soviet Union which might help to further improve relations between East and West. Even if these negotiations do not prove altogether successful, there is still reason to hope that international affairs will remain quiet for some months to come.

Since the Cuban crisis of a year ago, it is significant that the Soviets have avoided entanglement with the Western powers on any major issue. The one important crisis in which they have been involved has been the virtual break-up of the Russian-Chinese alliance. They have suffered, besides, a severe failure in their agricultural program, and have announced that defense spending is to be cut for the next two years, while spending on the chemical industry, especially for agriculture, is to be increased.

This may indeed be a heaven-sent chance for reaching a concrete non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union, or a treaty to prevent the dissemination of nuclear weapons. But it is emphasized that however valuable new negotiations may be, their failure should not be looked upon as disastrous, so long as the door is left open for a continuance of peaceful relations which will enable them to be resumed in a still more favorable atmosphere.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is reassuring to note that Canada's gross national product (total value of all goods and services produced) rose in the third quarter of 1963 to an annual rate of \$43,000 million, representing a rise of 13 per cent since the second quarter, 4 1/2 per cent since the end of 1962 and 6 per cent since the end of September last year.

The registrar general for Scotland has been looking over birth registrations for the year 1858 and currently, and finds a definite Anglo-American influence governing the names chosen for girls and boys. A hundred years ago, Flora, Martha and Betsy were favorites. Today there is a trend to Jacqueline, Elaine and Sandra. There is some clinging to tradition, though. Margaret was the top favorite 100 years ago as it is now, although Elizabeth has moved easily into second place, replacing Mary, which is now third. When it comes to boys, John, James and William have a steadily headed the list of choices in that order. But there has been a spectacular drop in the old Scottish names of Donald, Malcolm and Duncan.



THE KICK IN THE STOCKING

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Handsome Ministerial Greeting Cards

The season of goodwill to all men sees letter boxes for politicians jammed with messages of goodwill from cabinet ministers. In a class of cabinet ministers, public servants, business associations and of course from friends in the Christmas-loping Capital.

The MP's own post office, sited deep in the bowels of the Parliament Building, has had a record year, despatching the hundreds of thousands of greeting cards to political friends and supporters in all parts of Canada. I certainly want to thank the taxpayers of Canada who unknowingly have paid for so many Christmas cards which I have received. From some MPs, cards printed on House of Commons stationery, enclosed in House of Commons envelopes, and mailed free of postage—the frank granted to every MP.

A vivid and imaginative variety of greeting cards was sent out by Ministers this year. Health Minister Judy LaMarsh, for example, chose a festive, coloured photograph of Niagara Falls appropriately past frozen and snow-covered. National Affairs Minister Art Laing equally appropriately chose a black and white aerial view of the Great Lakes. Mr. E. Skimion, Minister of Mines, Bill Bendickson settled for the family group—always a popular choice for politicians showing himself and his wife and children grouped informally in their home. This card was notable for the magnificent quality of the colour reproduction of the photograph.

Finance Minister Walter Gordon and Mrs. Gordon chose a card of a Christmas tree which he added the appreciated personal touch of his written signature—as did July LaMarsh.

As one friend commented to me, "It makes me feel good to use UNICEF cards which I think that each packet of 10 of these cards which I buy will pay for the needs of supply milk for 10 children somewhere here in the world."
Jean Casselman, the Conservative MP from Prescott, Ontario, was among the UNICEF card senders. Mrs. Casselman's father, the former Conservative Cabinet Minister, Hon. Earl Rowe, is now a Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and his card aptly depicted the Ontario Legislative Building, photographed in colour in summer when the beds of calla lilies were ablaze.

Stepping Up Immigration

It's welcome news that the Pearson government is going to step up the flow of immigration. Canada's growth and prosperity require it.
In recent years, immigration has barely kept ahead of the number of people leaving the country, mainly for the United States. Last year, for example, 74,368 people came here to live, but more than 80,000 left. The year before it was 21,000 more.
Immigration Minister G. y Gaveau has announced a program to attract more than 100,000 next year.
Even if the plan succeeds, we'll be taking in only two persons for each one who leaves. And the larger looks pretty modest alongside the influx of 200,000 in 1957, the year the former Liberal government left office.
But even the 100,000 may not be easy to attract. The government should not, and Mr. Favreau has indicated will not, open the door to vast numbers of unskilled people for whom no job opportunities exist here. That would be cruel to the immigrants, and it would not serve the national interest.

Goldfish - Bow Antics

And so they did not live happily ever after. The divorcee film stars are not governed by the rules that apply to the romances of Sylvia Burton who has just been granted a divorce. We need not feel sorry for her. Mrs. Burton is well rid of her husband, and has received a financial settlement that's the envy of many.
Upon the announcement of the divorce the immediate question came: When will Elizabeth Taylor marry Richard Burton? But Taylor is still the legal wife of Eddie Fisher, who in his own turn ran away from another film star wife named Debbie Reynolds when Taylor gave him that once-bitter-sweet.
These people do not live happily before or after wedlock and they live frantically and greedily, chasing the will-o'-the-wisps of their illusions. A public man divorcing his wife is a public scandal. He is a public figure affairs in box-office returns that grow in proportion to the size of the romantic mix-up, has no right to put on a self-righteous false face.

Hosp. No Place If Easily Usenet

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
The outcome of a heart attack is unpredictable.
According to statistics, eight out of 10 victims survive, but there is no way of telling ahead of time which group the individual is a member. As a result, they are best treated in a hospital, where life-saving medicines are available and the man or woman feels more secure.

Some persons may be a little better off at a hospital. They are best treated at home. The same can be said of the elderly and those with an obstinate disposition. The hospital is not the place for persons who are easily upset when the room is noisy, the coffee is cold, or medicine is delayed 10 minutes. It happens occasionally in the best institutions and is not conducive to rest for those easily disturbed by minor annoyances.
The treatment of any heart attack begins with the prompt and adequate relief of pain. Demerol or morphine is used most frequently along with oxygen. Bed rest is also essential to minimize the activity of the heart. Many physicians allow the individual to sit up in bed or all in a chair for brief periods as soon as the pain subsides. More activity is permitted when the chest is comfortable. A commode is preferred to a bed pan.

The meals should be small in quantity during the first week because large amounts of food overtax the heart. In time the patient can be fed on a diet that need for a low fat (cholesterol) diet is debatable unless the individual is obese or the level is excessive.

Visitors are likely to be a problem. This is no time to have crowds of talkative people who spend hours at the bedside. Most hospitalized persons like easily visiting relatives, friends, and business associates. They are in no mood to talk and visits are exhausting.

The exception is the spouse, older child, or a close friend. Now and then, an urgent business or family matter comes up. A conference in the room must be arranged when the patient cannot relax until it is settled.

SCRATCHING CAT
E. M. writes: Our young daughter has a cat which scratches her frequently. Some one said she might get a scratch fever in this way. Is she likely to, if the animal is healthy?

REPLY
Yes, because cats often carry on their paws the causative organisms that lead to cat scratch fever even though they are not ill.

FAMILY ARCHES
Mrs. J. writes: My husband and my father's sister were born with extremely high arches in this deformity inherited. I'm concerned because I am pregnant.

REPLY
Possibly, but why worry if the defect has not proved a serious handicap to your husband or his? TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Be fit for life.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
December 26, 1938
At Government House, Leinster Gardens, and Mrs. De Blois played host to 925 needy children for a Christmas party. His Honor presented each child a bright new 25 cent piece, the boys with a hockey stick and the girls with a doll, can, and lace-trimmed.

In Rome, Pope Pius XI, aged and troubled Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, rested and prepared after the exertion of celebrating three masses and presiding at a strong denunciation of what he termed Italian disregard of the Papal concordat.

TEN YEARS AGO
December 19, 1953
A collision involving a truck and three cars occurred at Montreal last night when a driver of a truck who was reportedly blinded by the lights of a car, crashed into the rear of an automobile which was immediately behind and the three vehicles received varying degrees of damage.

The Fall number of Red and White, the official publication of the Student Party at St. Dunstan's University is rich in a diversity of contributed articles and editorials on current topics. Student Organizations and Athletics are dealt with in detail.

THE LIVELY ONES
NORWICH, England (CP)—Twelve young people have been asked to live on Norwich's triennial music festival next year. Already they are planning an open-air concert, a masked ball, barbecues and a fireworks display.

GETS TRIP HOME
WALVERTON, England (CP)—Lance-Bombardier William Foster of the Royal Artillery, stationed in Hong Kong, got a free trip home to Liverpool for Christmas. He won a raffle conducted by the Chinese and the prize was a return air ticket to England.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Overheard in a dentist's waiting room: "This tooth is driving me to extraction!"—Wall Street Journal.
Dolls become any more realistic, toy departments may have to employ pediatricians as clerks.—Edmonton Journal.

Congress And Foreign-Aid

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer
The fury of the current congressional debate over foreign aid is just as example of what may be in store for President Johnson when the Republicans get to work on bare-knuckle politics in 1964.

Every move, every proposal that has the least element of controversy about it will be handled through the most powerful subject to the highest political artillery: the opposition campaign.

Yet the foreign aid fight also involves questions of whether the Democrats themselves are not partly responsible for the chaos that resulted.

Part of the problem may lie in the offices of congressional leaders and part in the framing of the bill itself. When the late President Kennedy announced last October that the U.S. would allow wheat to be exported to Russia, he gave clear indications the transaction would be handled through commercial channels with no government credit involved.

Since that time, the principles have undergone change. The Russians were not disposed to pay high U.S. transport charges when lower rates were obtained from non-American vessels. They also were not ready to pay high commercial interest rates on credit when lower U.S. government rates were available to non-Soviet customers.

In order to preserve what remains of hope there remain to sell surplus wheat to Russia, the administration was forced to get congressional approval to allow federal agencies to participate in such sales. This was done in the form of a rider attached to the controversial foreign aid legislation.

The opposition immediately raised a cry that the administration is trying to bail Soviet Premier Khrushchev from a sea of economic troubles at home. One of the original aims of U.S. foreign aid was to push back the Communist advance. Now, it appeared, the U.S. was trying to support it.

The situation became more befogged when State Secretary Dean Rusk was reported to have told a closed-door North Atlantic ministerial meeting in Paris that, in the current Soviet-Sino struggle, it would be better to help Khrushchev than Mao Tse-tung.

American aides both in Washington and Paris quickly added, however, that the intent of Rusk's remarks had been misconstrued; that he was not really supporting Khrushchev but merely pointing out the advantages to the West in the Russians retaining their peace. A coexistence philosophy over China's open belligerence.

However, the wheat rider has been one of the main targets for the Republicans, supported by some Southern Democrats.

BRIEFS

In order to meet the wishes of the many associations, the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism has decided to grant more time for the preparation and the submission of the various briefs.

The delay for the submission of briefs is extended from February 1st to July 1st 1964.

THE SECRETARIES
Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism
P.O. Box 1508
OTTAWA, Ont.



CHILDREN'S THEATRE

A sort of souped-up version of Sleeping Beauty is the second production staged by the Museum Children's Theatre in Toronto. The theatre was established to enable children to see professional actors in plays that appeal to the very young. The delightful reactions of the youthful theatre-goers, who chatter appreciatively if the performance is a good one, have been captured in a colorful Weekend Magazine photofeature appearing in this week's issue.

The Evening Patriot
MAGAZINE
and Colored Comics
At your favorite Newsstand