

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink.

PAGE 4 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1966.

Bringing Us In Line

The opening of the Legislature is always a matter of public interest, and today's ceremonies will follow the traditional colorful pattern, in keeping with the importance of the occasion.

In view of the rumors that the coming session is likely to be a pre-election one, with a new Opposition leader who has been dropping hints that he intends to make it a fighting one as well, we trust it will be understood by all concerned that the mace is strictly a symbolic implement and not—as it was originally—a weapon of offense.

In the old days, of course, it was otherwise. Made of iron or steel, the mace could be used on armour like a hammer on a cocoon shell. An ancient Bayeux Tapestry shows a medieval bishop wielding one instead of a sword, so as to conform to the canonical rule which forbade churchmen to shed blood.

In its evolution from a weapon to a symbol, the royal arms was set on a large button at the end of the mace's handle. Thereafter the button was surrounded by a coronet, which by the 17th century developed into an arched crown.

The mace's pattern has remained standard in England since the Restoration, with the House of Lords boasting two maces, one dating from the reign of William III. The silver mace with crystal globe of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, at Holyrood palace, Edinburgh, was made about 1690.

Ours will be just as potent for the purpose for which it is intended, and it is a handsome gesture as the part of the Parliamentary Association to provide for us in this manner.

Serious Situation

Our senior MP for Queens, Mr. MacLean, pretty well disposed of Defense Minister Hellyer's argument that prosperity and high employment accounted for the armed services being short of manpower at this time.

In any case, the policy followed by the department in recent months has been glaringly inconsistent. Now it is offering non-commissioned officers and men of the armed forces a pay raise and re-engagement bonuses of \$200 a year if they remain.

twelfth of \$200, or \$16.66 for each month left in their time. It is estimated that this re-engagement bonus will cost \$27,600,000 in the present fiscal year and \$19,400,000 in 1966-67.

Yet in the last 18 months, a department spokesman stated that 500 RCAF aircrew and 912 other military personnel have been compulsorily retired—with special honours or grants—in a move to cut the strength of the armed forces to 110,000. The strength now is below that figure and still falling, which accounts for the drastic efforts being made to reverse the trend.

It is difficult not to agree with the former Conservative defense minister, Mr. Harkness, that the forced resignations of highly trained personnel in the armed services has been a "monumental mistake." He claimed the forces are losing 7,200 men a year, that 20 to 25 of the navy's ships are tied up for lack of personnel, that every army unit posted for duty overseas has to be reinforced from units remaining in Canada.

Parliament is entitled to a more satisfactory answer than it has so far received to these charges. If, indeed, there is an answer that doesn't add up to an admission of bungling on a "monumental" scale.

Not Obsolete Yet

Remember that bright idea about "phasing out" our railway operations on condition that we get the causeway? It's dead and buried now, thank goodness, but we are reminded of it every time we read of efforts being made to provide faster schedules for passenger trains across the country.

Under consideration by the cabinet is the expenditure of \$15 million needed to build six trains to be operated by Canadian National Railways. Belief is held that they could be put into operation in the spring of next year in time to take care of traffic to and from Expo '67 at Montreal.

In Japan and elsewhere super-speed trains are already serving the public. It is logical that in Canada, where long distances separate our centres of population, improved techniques for rail transportation should be developed.

Back In 1847

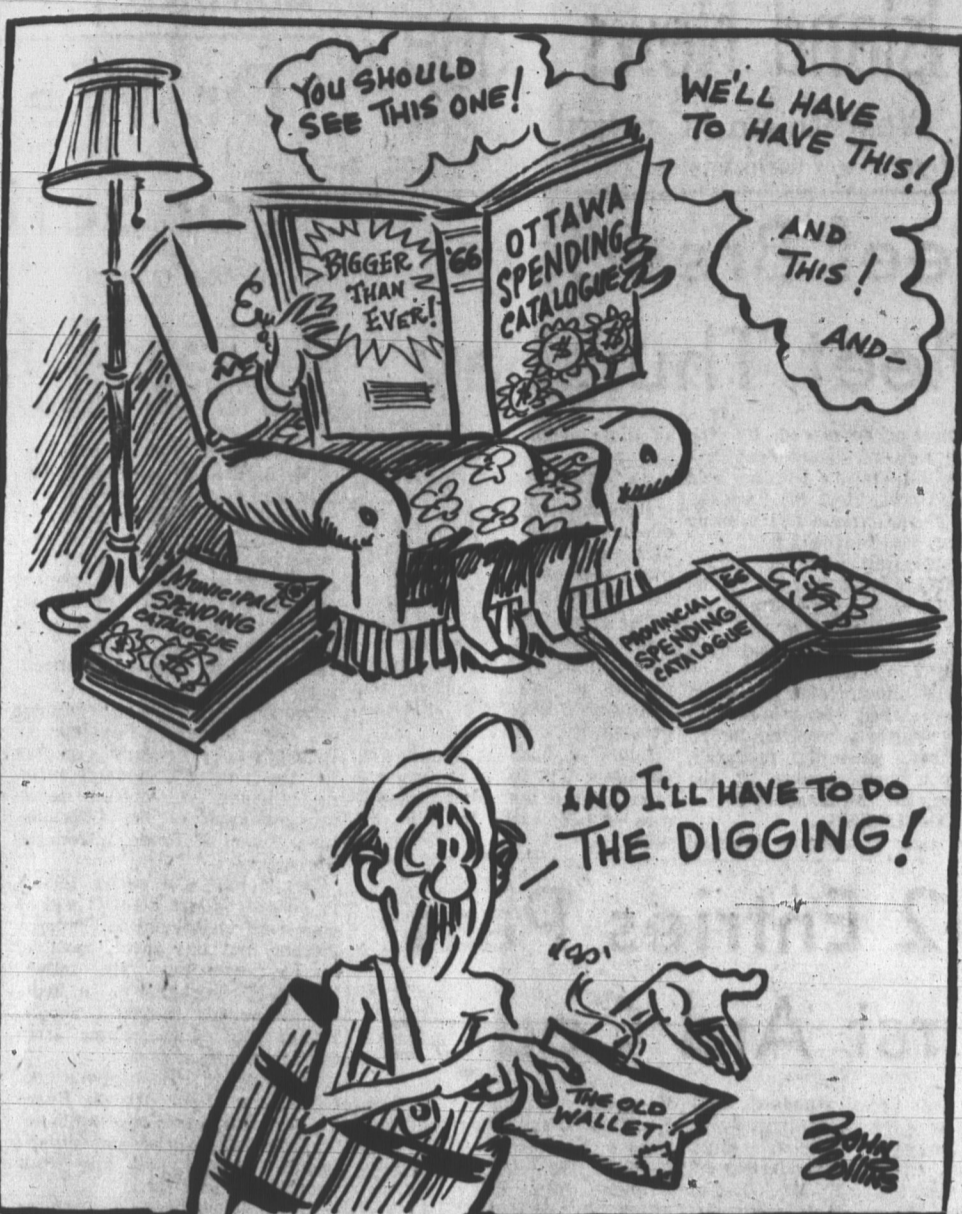
It is interesting to recall that when our House of Assembly met for the first time in the present Provincial Building—back in 1847—one of the first items of business had to do with the accommodation of the press.

The proprietors of The Royal Gazette, of The Islander, and of The Morning News, forming the whole press of the colony, "respectfully requested" that the House afford them "such accommodation as may be deemed necessary" in order that the proceedings and debates might be conveniently reported and given to the public; they deeming it to be "quite unnecessary to make any comment upon the importance of this public duty being discharged with convenience to the parties performing it, or refer to the invariable attention shown to the matter in the neighboring colonies."

The House, evidently, was in agreement that there was no necessity of debating the obvious need for making such provision in the public interest. It accordingly ordered "that it be intimated to the different printers that suitable accommodation will be provided for them."

EDITORIAL NOTE

An exchange suggests an easy way to prevent thousands of traffic fatalities: Figure out some way to have the use of car seat belts regarded as a status symbol.



SEED CATALOGUE TIME

ST. MARY'S IN MISSOURI

A Churchill Memorial To Freedom

Five minutes by foot from St. Paul's Cathedral stood the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermansbury. First built in the 12th century it was gutted in the Great Fire of 1666. Sir Christopher Wren supervised its rebuilding there until 1741 when it burned again after being hit by a Royal incendiary bomb, the walls and supporting columns remaining erect.

PUBLIC FORUM

WHY THEY QUIT THE FARM Sir.—May I through your press present reasons why farmers by the thousands are quitting the farms, both young and old. First, I would be bold enough to ask why there are not even more quitting the job? You ask why do I talk in this vein so boldly. Here are the reasons as I have bumped against them for half a century.

First we all know pretty well how much money we need to carry on for the next 12 months, starting today. But we find to our sorrow that not a man, ignorant or highly learned in the agricultural profession, can tell us what a bushel of potatoes or a bushel of grain, or a hog, or beef animal will be worth six months from now. One thing we do know, when you see a fair price for any of these products being paid the farmer, it's a pretty good sign to quit that line right there.

That happens every time. The government officials, five years ago, encouraged us to get into the beef business. So we did that very thing. Then came the drop in price far below the cost of production, till practically all the beef producers had to quit and sell their stock for one-third what they paid for them. Potatoes are no exception. We had the pleasure, or sorrow, of selling one thousand bushels for a total cheque of \$55, seed colubers at that, some years ago. A few months ago I saw pure bred, well fattened beef cattle sell at an auction sale for 10¢ cents per pound. The owner of those cattle is no longer in the beef business.

Further, farming today is the only business that has no guaranteed price future. Why should we invest from ten to thirty thousand dollars in machinery alone to grow a crop and then depend on the speculators and gamblers for a satisfactory price? Yes, this system of production must come to an immediate end, otherwise not only India and China but our twenty million Canadians will go hungry one of these years. The handwriting is on the wall right now. That is why our Federal Government officials are jacking up the price of butter and milk to the farmer. Why now are beef prices 30 per cent better than six months ago? A shortage is in sight, that's why.

Diphtheria Still With Us

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Diphtheria still is with us according to reports that reach the public health department. Formerly, the disease was rife at this time of the year in most northern countries. It was the great killer prior to immunization and carried off children of the rich and poor with rapidity. Many of them were happy and healthy one day and dead the next.

A disease never is gone so long as the seeds remain. Diphtheria appears in many forms. In the nasal variety, manifestations are similar to those of a simple head cold but the discharge is more irritating and may lead to redness and crusting of the upper lip. The nose continues to drip for weeks or months when the cause is not recognized. In contrast, a prompt cure follows the administration of diphtheria antitoxin.

Involvement of the pharynx is more serious. It begins with a sore throat, fever, headache, and fatigue. The throat is red at first, but within a day or two is covered with a dirty, grayish-white membrane. This is the clue that diphtheria exists and the physician suggests a throat culture followed by the use of antitoxin to bring the condition under control. Antibiotics such as penicillin, tetracycline, and erythromycin also are effective against the causative microbes. But they have no neutralizing effect against the toxin manufactured by the organism and, therefore, cannot be substituted for the antitoxin.

The most severe type is involvement of the larynx (voice box). Swelling of the vocal cords may obstruct the airways and the youngster may suffocate if the passageway closes. This calls for intubation, a surgical procedure in which the windpipe is cut below the Adam's apple and a tube is inserted to permit air to reach the lungs. Minor degrees of obstruction are associated with difficulty in breathing and restlessness.

In this type, so many suffered from the past, diphtheria that special rooms were set aside to do intubation. Many of our contagious disease hospitals are now closed, but it is interesting to walk down empty and ghost-like corridors with an old-timer recalling past experiences.

IRRITABLE COLON E. D. writes: Do you have to go to a special doctor to find out if you have a spastic bowel? REPLY: A specialist is not required, as most physicians are familiar with this phenomenon. Spastic bowel is notorious for mimicking many other abdominal disorders. Hence a physician must be consulted to make the diagnosis.

HEART FAILURE Mrs. J. writes: What is meant by ventricular failure? REPLY: The ventricles of the heart are so weakened or over-stretched they no longer are capable of pumping the normal quota of blood. When the left ventricle fails, the individual develops attacks of shortness of breath or a sense of suffocation. Failure of the right ventricle produces dropsy.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Sap-Rise Time

By tradition, this is the week when life begins to stir down at the root of things. Old-timers in the lower tier of the maple sugar country will tell you that, three years out of four, Washington's birthday brings the first sap-flow. So unless a howling storm has had things in completely, there will be saples in sugar maples on south slopes before Tuesday's dawn, and there will be piles of first-run sap by sundown.

How does a man know when to set his spiles? Well, he hears the jays call with a new note in their voices, and he hears the woodpeckers drumming with a new urgency. He sees the winter robins venturing out more often into his pastureland. He sees the first faint amber glow in the willow tips, and he sees a subtle living in the red osier stems.

He has seen the grouse come down to his apple trees for a taste of apple buds and though he can't see the change he knows those buds must have begun to swell. He sees the sun rise soon after 6:30 and stay in the sky almost eleven hours.

He knows what time it is, not by the clock or the calendar but by the season itself. Everywhere he turns, he sees that the seasons are still in order. So he sets his first spiles, and a few snid days and frosty nights start the sap dripping.

Our Yesterdays

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 24, 1941) Death striking on the lonely shores of Newfoundland, claimed Sir Frederick Banting, Canada's key man for army medical science, it became known in Ottawa. Two companions died with him in the crash of a military plane. Sources close to the British legation said that British Minister George W. Rendell and his staff were planning to leave Bulgaria, because of the expected entrance into this country of Nazi troops.

Britain's Big Problem

LONDON (CP)—Britain's defence argument, bound up as it is with the old lion's changing place in the world, shows signs of going on forever. The defence white paper issued Tuesday, causing dismay throughout the Royal Navy, was probably the most intensive exercise of its kind ever undertaken by Britain and occupied Defence Secretary Denis Healey for 14 months.

But even before the review was published, Navy Minister Christopher Mayhew had resigned over differences involving not only naval strategy, but broad defence policy. And Prime Minister Wilson, before departing for Moscow Monday, said: "I believe that this question of defence ought to be the subject of a great national debate, not necessarily a party one—a question of whether we should have a world role and whether, if we do not, we will lose our influence in the world."

Wilson pledged during the 1964 election campaign that soaring defence costs would be pegged at \$2,000,000,000, just above the Tory defence budget of that year, which represented more than eight per cent of the total budget. Former prime minister MacMillan also had tried to impose ceilings. In 1957 he set the figure of \$1,500,000,000 (\$4,500,000,000) but by 1960 costs had gone through the roof because of missile and aircraft development.

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