

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

Women's Institutes Convention

For the next two days the city will be host to the forty-first annual convention of the Prince Edward Island Women's Institutes. Delegates representing some 5,500 members of 323 Institutes throughout the Island are meeting to take stock of their accomplishments and chart their course for the future. The president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, Mrs. J. W. Adams of Saskatchewan, will be present to represent the national organization.

It is almost impossible to overestimate the importance of the work of the Women's Institutes. Their interests extend to every aspect of rural life and they have an enviable reputation for accomplishing what they set out to do. Other farm organizations are for the most part concerned with the techniques or economics of making a living. The W. I. is interested in the art of living.

Education, both of children and adults, handicrafts, drama, health and the appearance of the community are only a few of the fields in which the Institute have played and are playing a decisive role. It is not too much to say that they are a most important cultural influence in rural life.

Without the work of the Women's Institutes there can be no doubt that farming would soon run a very poor second to city life in attraction for young and old, so that we may thank that organization and its enthusiastic workers for maintaining our most important industry in a healthy state.

Whither Japan?

Just how strong is Democracy in Japan? From all outward appearances that once totalitarian State seems to have a form of free and democratic government. There is a parliament elected by popular vote. There is a more or less free press. There is freedom of speech and assembly. At the moment the Government seems opposed to any form of political authoritarianism whether of the Left or Right. Most competent Western observers in the Far East appear to believe that the Yoshida Conservative Party is trying very hard to rebuild the nation on a solid democratic foundation; chiefly because it is convinced that any other political line-up would bring a resurgence of the old militarist clique which brought the nation to military and economic disaster.

At the same time it is evident that there are strong forces at work to hinder the growth of the democratic idea before it becomes deeply rooted in the popular will. The Socialist Party, the strongest single opposition group, appears to be patterned not after Western Socialism, with its emphasis on orderly social progress, but rather on extremely radical dogmas almost identical with those of international Communism. Their principal objects of attack are the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement with the United States and national rearmament, even for defensive purposes. Until recently the Socialists contented themselves with normal parliamentary criticism of Government policy; now, however, they have resorted to bolder methods, as instanced by the physical fracas in the Diet a couple of weeks ago.

The general belief is that left to themselves the Socialists would be in no position to undermine the growing relationship with the West. Unfortunately, the situation is not quite that simple. There is another faction, extremely right-wing with neo-Fascist tendencies, operating underground and having for its objective the re-emergence of militarist influence. This is the more dangerous; partly because it works in small cells remote from normal political associations, and partly because it has an appeal for the Japanese masses, who have been taught from earliest days that national prestige depends on the ability to wage wars of conquest; this, in turn, gives militarists a preferred place in the popular appraisal of national well-being. At first sight it seems incredible that the above-ground Socialists and the under-ground Fascists should ever get together in a common campaign of aggression against the new Democracy. But stranger things have happened before and, with one or two minor adjustments here and there, this double threat to Japanese Democracy could turn out to be a very formidable obstacle in the way of Japanese integration with Free World political beliefs and practices.

Canada's low sheep population has been a matter of concern for some years. It is referred to in the Farmer's Advocate as an "unsolved riddle which has never been satisfactorily explained and perhaps never thoroughly understood"—a statement which the Globe and Mail indorses after reviewing the situation editorially. It points out that in 1871 there were fewer farms than today, more woods to harbor wolves, and none but small woollen mills to provide commercial markets for wool. Yet Canada had nearly twice as many sheep on her farms in 1871 as she had in 1953. And the total for 1945 was more than twice as great as in 1953. That high figure was the result of a wool production drive during the war, when we were far short of self-sufficiency. In 1871, with over three million sheep and lambs, the country must have produced virtually all its requirements of wool, lamb and mutton. Today we are far below that standard, with only a little more than a million and a half sheep and lambs in our fields. An economic anomaly in the situation is that woollen products have become near-luxury items, a status which inspires producers to increase their output in respect of other items. But not wool. We are raising only one sheep or one lamb for about every group of eight persons in the Dominion.

"We have been told," says the Globe and Mail, "that sweet clover, complemented with carrots, is a favorite winter diet for sheep in Canada, and that the legume is hard on soil and that carrots are hard to cultivate. But we grow other soil-robbing crops; and certainly sugar-beet farming is at least harder on the back than growing carrots. But we do not pretend to know whether any of these considerations weigh with farmers who might be breeding sheep but are not. We do not know whether they prefer a rayon suit for Sunday best above the decent black broadcloth that was once every homesteader's pride. And even though the taste for lamb chops may be an urban matron's foible, we still do not know why the meat market offers no lure to the potential sheep grower. What sheep we have are good breeds, for flesh as well as wool. And all we can say about the bafflement of the Farmer's Advocate is that we share it."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada's older postage stamps are attracting attention in New York and elsewhere because of a change in Government policy. The post office now keeps on hand supplies of recent issues only and the law of supply and demand does the rest.

The Royal Commission on copyright, trade marks and patent laws headed by Mr. Justice J. L. Isley is anxious to hear representations from the public. October 15 has been set as the deadline for receiving such suggestions.

George Simon Ohm, German physicist, died this date 1854. He announced his theory of the law of voltaic current in 1825, and published "The Galvanic Circuit worked out Mathematically" two years later. In 1852 he became professor of experimental physics at Munich.

The Saint John Telegraph-Journal reports that a Sussex gardener is producing potatoes sans stalks. It seems that the seed potatoes he planted just produce clusters of other potatoes. He feels that he has the problem of potato bugs licked. With no stalks there can be no leaves for the bugs to attack.

President Eisenhower has prophesied an eventual halt to conspiracies against freedom. He said that this would be accomplished not by force but through patient perseverance and the growth of knowledge among nations and men. That is, of course, the only way in which freedom can be achieved. Force may prevent free men from being enslaved but only their behaviour in time of peace will make their freedom effective.

The Duke of Edinburgh is to sponsor a three-weeks Commonwealth and Empire conference on industry and its social responsibilities. The conference is being organized by the Industrial Welfare Society and is to be held at Oxford during 1956; it is anticipated that some 300 delegates from Britain and overseas will attend.

Cabinet appointees is noted by an Ottawa columnist. Mr. Marler, who replaces Mr. Chevrier as Minister of Transport, is two years older than his retired predecessor. Mr. Campney, who replaces Mr. Claxton as Minister of National Defense, is even more unusually five years older than the retiree whom he succeeds. Mr. Harris is three years older than Mr. Abbott was when he was appointed to be Minister of Finance; and Mr. Pickersgill is three years older than Mr. Harris was when he was appointed as Minister of Immigration.



Homework Over The Holidays

The Poet's Corner

SUMMER DAWN

When the sun rolls up behind a wall of grey
Crinkling the edge of an indolent cloud
With gold and orange brocade, and the grey
Unfolding undulations swiftly crowd
Over the ocean, how easy to believe
The world still young — so sharply
do we feel
The limpid freshness of the morning
steal
Along the edges of the mind and leave
A luster on the body like the glow
Of sunrise on the tide. Gladly we lift
Our faces to the east as islands
show
Their tenderest smiles at day-break
All the drift
Of life is flooding with new hopes that
flood
And touch us as the bay is touched
with sun.
—Wilbert Snow in the New York Times

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

ADVERTISEMENTS

From the P. E. Island Register, April 28, 1929.
Notice is given that from the first day of May next, the office of the Colonial Secretary and Registrar will be moved from the Barracks, to a room adjoining Colonel Holland's office.
Mr. Brown, teacher of the Charlottetown Grammar School, respectfully intimates that he will, on Monday the 11th of May next, open a class for the Rudiments of the Latin language. He can accommodate a few more boarders and day scholars; the former will have the advantage of morning and evening tuition. "The strictest attention will be paid to their moral and religious improvement."
William Cullen, auctioneer, announces the sale, at noon on the 12th May at his sale room, in Charlottetown, of "all that extensive ship building establishment at Grand River, Richmond Bay, lately occupied by Messrs. Matthew and William Stewart; occupying an area of about two acres, it is a leasehold property, of which there is an unexpired term of 26 years to run."
Richard Bagnall offers for sale a site for a Mill, near the main road leading to Princeton, 17 miles from Charlottetown, possessing a powerful run of water, and banks on both sides of the stream sufficiently high to build a dam of 20 feet.
Another Mill, not at present going, is advertised for sale by James Aitken, sr., Bay Fortune, "with an excellent pair of stones, brought from Whitehead, N.S., the iron works all good." This mill site possesses "a good substantial dam, built with clay and bushes, which has stood for 20 years."
There is only one Mill within 20 miles, besides itself, and the inhabitants are very desirous of having it set going.
James Trant, Surgeon and Licentiate Apothecary, acquaints his friends and the public that he resides in one of Mr. Samuel Bagnall's houses, opposite the Queen's Head Hotel, in Pownall Street, where he intends following the business of his profession.
Alexander Ross, cooper, gives notice that his apprentice, Richard Torby, "did on Tuesday the 14th inst. abscond himself from my service," and that any person harboring the said apprentice or taking him from the Island, will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law.

There have been times in the past when Anglo-American relations have been far more strained than recently. Five and twenty years ago, when Ramsay MacDonald went to meet President Hoover on the Rapidan, they solemnly declared at the end of their talks that "war between the two countries is unthinkable." Today it is unthinkable that it should ever occur to Sir Winston Churchill and Mr. Eisenhower that there could be any need to say such a thing. The existence of an "intimate comradeship" is a basic assumption.

What has the conference achieved with regard to the disagreements which, though by no means fundamental, have existed with regard to policy in Indo-China? Those differences have largely arisen from varying assessments of the possibility of securing a reasonable settlement there. The British Government has, roughly speaking, been optimistic, the United States Administration pessimistic. Mr. Eden has stressed the importance of guaranteeing by Communist and non-Communist powers of any settlement that may be reached and the desirability of associating as many Asian states as possible in such a system. Mr. Dulles, sceptical of the possibility of a settlement, and distrustful of Communist good faith, has been stressing the necessity for some kind of security organization to deter any possible further Communist aggression.

The Age Old Story

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The Washington Meeting

By W. N. Ewer, United Kingdom Information Office

When the Washington talks ended the Moscow radio announced that they had "left the fundamental Anglo-American disagreements unsettled." That is a characteristic misreading of the situation. Disagreements there certainly have been, and sharp ones, during the past two months especially as regards policy in South East Asia. It is not the first time that there have been wide divergences of view between London and Washington. Nor will it be the last. Such disagreements are bound to arise, in any free partnership of democratic countries. They have to be settled patiently and sometimes rather painfully. They are discussed frankly and publicly, and on occasions not over wisely, by free politicians and by a free press. That is something which it is never easy for totalitarians to understand or to assess.

But these current disagreements between the British and American Governments have never been "fundamental." They have concerned not the purposes and what one may term the tactics of diplomacy — the ways and means of best securing a common end. They have, since statements after all are very human given rise to misunderstandings and irritations. These things happen. But it is easy to overestimate their importance. And it is one of the objects of such a personal "high-level" meeting to remove them.

Both behind this appeal there is the clear implication that if ratification does not come within a short space, alternatives will have to be considered. The promise made to the Germans two years ago must be kept. Nor can Germany's contribution to Western defence be indefinitely postponed. Mr. Attlee made the point the other day in a broadcast. If E.D.C. failed some other way would have to be found. Here, too, is a grave and an important decision. Again there are many who would think that it has already waited too long. But such criticism is always easy.

So apart from everything else, the Washington talks have produced two joint decisions of the first importance. More could hardly have been expected.

GENEVIEVE FOR U.S.

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The heroic French army nurse, Genevieve de Galard Terrauze, has accepted a congressional invitation to visit the United States later this month. It was announced Saturday. The nurse who won fame as the only woman in the Indo-China siege of Dien Phu will visit Washington, Cleveland, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

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NOTES BY THE WAY
While sitting in his skiff, a Manitoba man had a leg broken by a low-flying plane. There's probably insurance against that, but who would think he needed it?—Windsor Daily Star.
Every day we receive information about seminars, clinics, conferences, workshops, bus-groups and pepper-pots being held this Summer. Only the invincibly old-fashioned still hold meetings.—Peterborough Examiner.
"A lop-sided pattern has developed in Canada foreign trade, and it seems to be emphasized as time passes. Canada is buying more from the United States than the United States is buying from Canada, whereas Britain is buying more from Canada than Canada is buying from Britain. As the result, Canada has developed a dangerous over-dependence upon the United States, whereas the great British market lies largely latent and inactive, because Britons do not have the Canadian dollars to buy from us all that they want and need."—Montreal Gazette.
A writer estimates that the total number of Doukhobors in Canada is 15,000. Fifteen thousand is a very small part of Canada's total population of 15 million, but it is surprising what a great trouble a small number can cause. Of course that is because Canada is a democracy. In a country like Russia, it would be comparatively easy to bundle up the 15,000 Doukhobors and send them to the salt mines in Siberia. And there would be none in the country to deplore this undemocratic method of handling a bothersome situation.—Port William Times - Journal.
The fall of Premier Laniel's government and the acknowledged failure of the Geneva conference have been foregone conclusions ever since the fortress of Dien Bien Phu fell to the communists. In retrospect, it almost appears as if the Soviet Union had timed the conference to coincide with the Red assault on Dien Bien Phu in order to place the western democracies still further on the defensive and to create political chaos in France.—Nanaimo Free Press.
Announcement of Canadian winners in lotteries always results in a demand to legalize the sale of lottery tickets. Such an act of the Government would serve to increase heavily the number of purchasers and expenditure on this account. The present law and regulations keep within certain bounds the common desire to get "something for nothing." If our government were running these lotteries this type of gambling would literally know no bounds. It is not desirable that such a condition should be permitted to develop.—St. Catharines Standard.

The U.A.W., the auto-makers' union, has taken the first step to its next major goal, namely, obtaining from the industry a guaranteed annual wage for its members. This will be quite a trick if the union can pull it off, but there's one quite obvious catch. The industry, before granting a guaranteed annual wage, will, in turn, have to get a guarantee from the public that so many cars, and no less, will be bought each year. This trick may be just a trifle difficult to execute.—Brookville Recorder and Times.
Well-justified screams of protest from tourists lured by the Banff National Park by expensive and deceptive Dominion Government advertising will soon be echoing off the peaks as drivers encounter the terrible road conditions. A Calgarian, recently returned from Lake Louise, reported that the forty-mile trip from Banff to Lake Louise took him nearly two unhappy hours rattling roughly from pot-hole to pot-hole. On his return, during what might have been expected to be working hours, he counted six workmen doing maintenance repairs.—Calgary Herald.
Then there are passers-by — utter strangers — with dogs that have an active interest only in the destructive aspects of a dog's life. These strollers will linger to chat while their pets gambol, leaving pawmarks imprinted where zinnias would have come up. And of course there are little children

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