

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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A Dangerous Trend

The resolution to adopt the formula for amending the Constitution is before the provincial Legislatures and Parliament at this time. It would have been passed in a very casual manner here had not the Opposition members strongly objected, taking the ground that the House should go into committee of the whole and have the promoter explain its ramifications clause by clause. This does not seem to have met with the approval of the Government, but at least the measure was held over for some days so that further consideration could be given to it.

Premier Shaw appears to be of the opinion that since the formula was adopted unanimously at a federal-provincial conference, there is nothing much for the Legislatures to do but vote their approval. This is the wrong attitude, and we commend to his attention the example of the Conservative opposition in the New Brunswick Legislature, where the formula was approved on Tuesday but only after several Conservative speakers had expressed reservations as to its possible effects.

Opposition Leader Sherwood emphasized that it was for the people of Canada, through their elected parliaments, to determine constitutional changes. Other members of his party expressed grave doubts about the clause permitting the delegation of federal powers to the provinces and objected to the manner in which the Legislature was asked to give its sanction to "an accomplished fact."

There is a dangerous drift in all government quarters to assume that federal-provincial agreements, arrived at in secret conferences by a handful of government executives instead of in the open debate of the parliamentary process, should be regarded as sacrosanct. The Toronto Globe and Mail calls attention to this danger, warning that it can only result in weakening the authority of the central government and in diluting the whole concept of responsible administration.

The drift is all too evident at Ottawa these days. In Peter C. Newman's series of articles on Prime Minister Pearson appearing in The Guardian, one reason for it is noted. Mr. Pearson, says the writer, "prefers the conference table to the Commons floor for the simple reason that nothing in his life has prepared him to defend himself against persistent Opposition badgering."

If this be the case, it is reassuring to note that his party members in this Province are made of sterner stuff, and refuse to accept the idea that there is anything binding about major agreements reached in this manner. On this issue, by the way, they are fully in accord with federal Opposition Leader John Diefenbaker. Politics, as they say, makes strange bedfellows.

Still Hoping, Anway

Now it seems that Transport Minister Pickersgill didn't actually say, last weekend, that a start would be made on our causeway project this year but only that he "hoped" it would be made—which is what he said last November in Montague. And it seems that Solicitor General MacNaught didn't say, as reported, that tenders were going to be called shortly but only that he, too, "hoped" the causeway would be built—not this year, he wasn't that definite in his hope—"but as soon as it was possible to do so."

Strange that these revised versions weren't issued until Mr. Macquarrie asked, the other day in Parliament, how the Government could be considering making a start or calling tenders when it hadn't yet decided whether the causeway would

carry rails. It was then that the parliamentary secretary of Public Works Minister Cardin—who himself hadn't denied the accuracy of the statements attributed to his colleagues when he spoke earlier in the week—announced that the ministers had not been "quite so categorical" as the newspapers had made them sound.

So we are back where we were before, with a generous handout of hopes and a modicum of concrete information. Meanwhile it is worth noting that other Maritime areas are following the convolutions of this issue with interest and sympathy for our cause. The Moncton Transcript, in a recent issue, says it is time the people of Canada were given a definite date for the commencement of the work, that not only will it provide Prince Edward Island with a permanent link with the mainland, but it will also be of benefit to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

"An engineering marvel such as the causeway," says the Moncton paper, "could conceivably become a tourist attraction in its own right. It would be a great boost for this section of Canada and would be a suitable demonstration of the federal authorities' goodwill in trying to uplift the Atlantic region."

The Transcript joins us in adding one more "hope" to the ever-growing list, namely, "that concrete facts as to the form of the structure together with a firm starting date will be expeditiously made public."

Voting Rights Bill

President Johnson has put lots of teeth in the voting rights bill which he sent to the U.S. Congress on Wednesday, and which is to be given top priority by the nation's legislators.

The bill provides, specifically, that "no voting qualification or procedure shall be imposed or applied to deny or abridge the right to vote on account of race or color." To insure enforcement, it would erase state literacy tests and similar requirements in low-registration and low-turnout states, counties and cities.

If discrimination persisted, the Government would assign voting examiners to register people for federal, state and local elections. The bill would also rule out requirements of "good moral character" or of statements from voters—or anybody else—to prove an applicant's qualifications.

The bill would focus its guarantees in six southern states: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia and South Carolina. It is there that voting turnouts fell below 50 per cent of the voting age population in last November's presidential election, a fact which is blamed by administration officials on racial discrimination.

There is reason to believe that Congress will heed Mr. Johnson's call for prompt action in striking down the ingenious methods used for 100 years to deprive Negroes of their constitutional right to vote, and in lifting from the nation itself a burden of guilt which has become intolerable.

Ottawa Comment

Commenting on Mr. Matheson's resignation as leader of the Liberal Party in this Province, the Ottawa Journal notes that the "usual speculation" has developed—with guesses as to his state of health, that he is headed for the Senate, and that new men think they are better qualified to dislodge the Conservatives from provincial power than the former Liberal premier. It goes on to say:

"Two positive contributions to the discussion on Mr. Matheson's reasons for going can be offered. One is that he was in Ottawa not long ago and looked hale and hearty. The second is that at 61 an Island party leader is just starting out. The present premier, Conservative Walter Shaw, is 77 and won his first election in 1959. Mr. Matheson could rest for 10 years and return to the political wars refreshed and be given an Island welcome."

Perhaps that's what he intends to do.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Ottawa Journal notes that an estimated 4,517,000 Canadians receive cheques from the Federal Government each month—family allowances 2,712,000; universal old age pensions 999,000; civil servants 202,000; veterans and dependents 178,000; employees of government agencies and proprietary corporations 131,000; members of the armed forces 120,000; old age assistance 105,000; disabled and blind pensioners 61,000; RCMP 9,000



EXCALIBUR

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Thatcher Makes Good In Saskatchewan

Premier Ross Thatcher, whose first budget recently slashed various taxes in Saskatchewan by nearly \$15 million, has just turned down Prime Minister Pearson's invitation to join the federal cabinet, according to his high Liberal informant.

Mr. Thatcher sat in the House of Commons for nine years as a socialist MP, then he left the old CCF and joined the Liberal Party. After defeats in two federal elections, he was chosen to lead the shattered Liberal party in the province of Saskatchewan, through his immense organizational ability and drive, and his personal appeal, he quickly ended the 17-year rule of the CCF, and became premier.

He was invited to Ottawa recently for talks, and spent two days here in consultation with the Prime Minister and other top Liberals. Mike Pearson asked him to return to federal politics, and offered him a seat in the Liberal Cabinet. This inclusion of Thatcher would round out the cabinet by giving representation to the only province now lacking a minister; it would also help the Liberals' federal battle in that province.

It was assumed with good reason that Ross Thatcher would have no difficulty in winning a seat. Come a federal election, he could certainly break through the present Conservative monopoly in Saskatchewan, where the Diefenbaker image will no longer keep out even the NDP in the next election according to common belief here.

But the Rose-Marie province called with its love-song, and Thatcher said "No," his responsibility now is in his own province, and there is a job to be done there.

Years of socialist rule under Tommy Douglas had reduced Saskatchewan to a have-not province with diminishing relative population industry was scared away, and so were potential settlers, while the young were driven out by lack of opportunity.

The most vivid demonstration of the falling stature of Saskatchewan is the fact that the electoral redistribution now in progress will take away four seats, reducing that province's representation to 13 MPs in a House of 265 MPs. Yet 20 years ago, Saskatchewan's population rated 21 MPs in a smaller House of only 245.

In his first budget, which he called a "development budget," Ross Thatcher—Provincial Treasurer as well as Premier—fulfilled his election promises to reduce the sales tax to four per cent; to grant purple (tax-free) gas for farm trucks; to extend the list of goods exempt from

sales tax, to help newly-weds by remitting sales tax on their initial purchase of furniture and household equipment; and to eliminate the mineral tax on farmlands. Yet he plans for a surplus.

ATTRACT INVESTMENT Most significantly, his budget continues his policies to create opportunity and attract new businesses to Saskatchewan. In the belief that only private enterprise methods will bring the investment essential to the achievements of economic and social goals.

The Thatcher regime is already bearing fruit. Canada's breadbasket province will soon be known as the world's greatest producer of potash; oil and gas developments are being encouraged; the first steps towards creating a significant pulp and paper industry are being mapped; most important, encouragement is being given to secondary industries, which alone can offer new jobs for skilled workers.

Hon. Ross Thatcher has proved himself in his private life a successful business man; he then turned his talents to ranching with similar success. His record ensures that Saskatchewan will be governed with two qualities not universally remarkable in our politicians today: administrative capability and personal integrity. That he has preferred to remain in his present office in Saskatchewan's gain—but Canada's loss.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

A SUGGESTION

Sir,—I think it would be fitting that a plaque should be placed at Confederation Centre in memory of the late Mrs. E.B. Ellis whose brain child it was. Had it not been for that very clever lady this colossal structure might never have been erected.

I am, Sir, etc., F.C. BOWNNESS Charlottetown.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Sir,—We the residents of Fifth Kings have enjoyed for more than 53 years the privilege of nominating and electing our own Members. This privilege, as in any democratic country was enjoyed regardless of party allegiance. However, due to the recent Commission on Electoral Reform, we were deprived of this age-old privilege.

We are in no way prejudiced against the people of Queens County having two extra Members. However, this measure should not be brought about at the expense of the loyal electors of Fifth Kings. I think a more sensible solution for this problem can be reached without depriving the people of Fifth Kings of their right to elect their Members.

In speaking to some of the prominent businessmen and residents of Queens County they expressed their opinion against the abolition of Fifth Kings. Many felt that Fifth Kings has the necessary population and economy to support the two existing Members. It supports three of the most prosperous lobster packing plants on the Island, a large industrial development in Georgetown and numerous agricultural and dairy resources.

Therefore why should an area which contributes so much to the economy of Queens County be deprived of the right to elect Members to champion the rights of the people in the Provincial Legislature? In closing I feel that the abolition of Fifth Kings is a very anti-democratic and dictatorial move.

I am, Sir, etc., RESIDENT

Fooling The Critics

Hamilton Spectator

We would like to tip our hat in a token of respect to Murdoch Cranston of Halifax who submitted a painting to an art show recently that was as phony as a nine dollar bill. It was made of thick paint, bottle tops, and linen rags. Entitled "Expo 67," it was selected as an "interesting example" of "creativity," by a show judge. The price tag on it was one thousand dollars.

Mr. Cranston has again shown though it shouldn't need any emphasis, that few people in the curiously upside-down orthodoxy of our day have the simple courage to say that they don't know what the darn painting is all about, when in their own eyes it is incoherent garbage.

So often literary and artistic gibberish gets by, even into the prize status, because no one has the nerve to admit he doesn't get its vibrant message. It has long been a standing joke, in the yoked context of Mortimer Snerd that gawking innocents will confess "I don't know much about art but I know what I like." This is in fact a perfectly intelligent comment. It is infinitely more sophisticated than a mumbling confession that, although a poem or a painting is baffling there is unquestionably a lot in it for those in the know.

In the Halifax case there was a lot, including bottle tops and linen rags. Some years ago, two Australians put over a marvellous hoax to say that he was then celebrated as free verse. It was great kidding in motive and in technique. In spite of this, the so-called critics went for it hook, line and sinker, and greeted the dawn of a new literary technique.

Strange World Of Fishes

National Geographic Bulletin

Do fishes sleep? Do they have ears? Do they drink water? These and many other questions about fishes are answered in the National Geographic Society's new book, Wondrous World of Fishes. In 168 colorfully illustrated pages, the book reveals the fascinating ways of 340 species of fishes found in and around North America and Hawaii. More than 400 illustrations, mostly in color, portray fishes from coral reefs to cold northern streams.

In announcing publication of the book to the Society's 4,500,000 member-families, President Melville Bell Grosvenor said: "Wondrous World of Fishes joins a proud list of National Geographic titles Adding to your understanding of that marvelous creature, the fish, this volume takes you deep into a realm where man still is an intruder."

Chronic Bronchitis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Chronic bronchitis is a common respiratory infection. Most victims have a daily cough at least three months of the year. The hacking is variable, changing with the weather and season. It is least troublesome in the summer but more persistent and severe with each succeeding winter.

Colds usually are blamed because respiratory infections bring on or aggravate the symptoms. In time, it is continuous, unless the cause is removed. The cough is productive, and worse in the morning and evening. Some victims bring up an ounce or more of a yellowish mucus daily. Most sufferers puff or blow going uphill or climbing a flight of stairs.

Most people neglect chronic bronchitis because it is not considered a serious ailment. This is a grave misconception. It is progressive and often develops into emphysema, asthmatic bronchitis, or bronchiectasis. These are the disabling aftermaths and physicians drop the diagnosis of chronic bronchitis when these conditions take over. This is not done in Britain where bronchitis is listed as the cause of about seven per cent of all sickness leading to absence from work and seven per cent of deaths from all causes.

Early treatment is effective but the outcome is not good after the lungs are scarred and shortness of breath ensues. Early symptoms must be taken seriously. Smoking and polluted air should be avoided. Anti-bacterial drugs help control infection and reduce coughing. Wheezing and blockage of airflow may require the use of dilator drugs and expectorants. Avoid fatigue and an adequate diet, and exercise enough to expand the lungs.

CHILDREN AND COFFEE Mrs. P. writes: Is it harmful to children to drink coffee? I have been told it stops their growth.

REPLY Growth is not affected by coffee but this beverage is not advised for children because of its stimulating action. Most children have more pep than they know what to do with and do not need an additional stimulant.

RHEUMATIC HEART J. U. writes: How is a rheumatic heart diagnosed?

REPLY Most victims have (1) a history of rheumatic fever, (2) murmur, indicating leakage of a valve, (3) an abnormality in the size and shape of the heart, (4) changes in the electrocardiogram compatible with previous rheumatic activity.

WON'T EAT M. R. writes: What will happen to a child who, at age one, refuses to eat solids and takes nothing but milk?

REPLY Since there is no iron in milk, anemia may develop. Reduce the milk intake and continue to offer solid foods. This child will eat when hungry.

ACNE IN YOUNG MEN Mrs. L. writes: Could nerves cause acne in a 21-year-old male who is soon to go into service?

REPLY No. Acne is common at this age and is unrelated to nerves.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Clerk—"Sir, I'd like my salary raised." Boss—"Well, don't worry. I've raised it somehow every week so far, haven't I?"—Toronto Star

"I thought your secretary was blonde?" "She was but she's gone off the Gold Standard."—Sarnia Observer.

An actuarial report prepared for the Canada pension plan estimates that with low fertility and low immigration there will be 4,702,000 Canadians in 2050 but, with high fertility and immigration, 155,544,000. The last figure is impressive to those who remember politicians being cheered to the echo when they predicted in the 1930s, that Canada would have 16,000,000 people in 1971.—Ottawa Journal.

Patrolman: "How did you knock this man down?" Motorist: "I didn't. I just pulled up to the cross walk and stopped to let him pass. Then, he fainted."—Sarnia Observer.

It is odd but true that men with names like Banks and Rivard have combined to leave the government upstream without a paddle.—Ottawa Journal.

St. John's Telegram: Once upon a time the automobile was considered a luxury. But not any more. As a matter of fact about the only thing left in the luxury class nowadays is a space capsule for commuting to the planets. Everything else you can think of is becoming so commonplace as to be automatically listed as a necessity.—St. John's Telegram.

Cyprus Problem Again

By Carman Cumming Canadian Press Staff Writer

The last colonial Governor of Cyprus once quoted two rules-of-thumb about the troubled island:

1. What you expect to happen won't. 2. Anyone who understands the situation is misinformed. Events of the last few days seem to show there is more truth than whimsy to the sayings. There is also irony in the fact that the man who quoted them, Sir Hugh Foot, now is immersed in the Cypriot problem again as Lord Caradon, head of Britain's United Nations delegation.

On Cyprus, the sayings have been borne out by an eruption of fighting that has brought a new flurry of threats, charges, tension and troop movements. And at the UN there is frustration that after a full year of work and the outlay of upwards of \$30,000,000, the island still isn't ready for peace.

Diplomats growl privately that Cyprus is impossible to figure out, and that it seems intent on its own destruction. There is an Alice-in-Wonderland quality about some reports coming back from the international force—including 1,100 Canadians—that is trying to keep order.

RUN FOR SHOVELS One incident alone, told in dry official language in a report by the secretary-general, shows the kind of thing the force has had to face. It took place Jan. 9 in Kouklia, a village in the Paphos district where feuding Greek and Turk still live side-by-side.

The report said shooting was heard in the village and a UN patrol "hastened to the spot," where it found that the Greek Cypriot National Guard and police on one hand and the Turkish-Cypriot villagers on the other hand, were "manning their trenches in an ugly mood."

Each side maintained the other had fired hundreds of shots. Villagers have contradictory reports on how the incident started, but "all agreed there had been an explosion and that the Turkish-Cypriot coffee shop had been damaged."

UN police (UNCIVPOL) were called in to investigate, and "both sides reacted to the situation in characteristic fashion."

By starting to dig trenches all over the place? It took the UN six days to get them to stop, but eventually the situation cooled off.

Meanwhile, the UNCIVPOL investigation revealed that the trouble had started with some Greek-Cypriot police having a brandy party about 50 yards from the Turkish-Cypriot coffee shop," the report said.

"One of the revelers had lighted a home-made bomb, which had gone off. Both communities reacted to the explosion by assuming that the other side had attacked them and fired back wildly. A United Nations patrol is still in the village."

GOOD TRAINING UN reports are sprinkled with this kind of incident—like in that they flared up quickly in the explosive atmosphere and might have caused bigger trouble but for the UN.

At best, Cyprus has provided the UN with a unique case study on how to intervene between bitterly antagonistic communities. The history of the Cypriot operation should be invaluable for future UN actions of the same kind.

At worst, the UN could still be caught in a bloody civil war, made more serious because both sides have strengthened themselves while the international troops kept the lid on.

And even if the lid stays on, a UN presence probably will be needed for some time—unless Cyprus provides the stunningly unexpected and decides that peace might be better after all.

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