The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

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The Queen's Message

Her Majesty's Christmas Day message was a simple and heart-warming greeting to all her subjects throughout the Commonwealth. It contained special tributes of appreciation to those who have aided in achieving material progress and development—to the genius of scientists, inventors and engineers—and also to those who have striven in spiritual and intellectual spheres, including teachers in church, school and university. She reminded her hearers that "our standard of living has a spiritual as well as a material aspect", and that Christmas is a time to remember this truth and to be grateful for those who add fullness to our lives.

To those who may have been disappointed at not seeing the Royal family on television yesterday, Her Majesty was at pains to explain the desire of herself and Prince Philip to bring up their children as normally as possible, and to avoid placing unfair burdens of public life upon them in their growing years. Her words went straight to parents' hearts everywhere, and were characteristic of the manner in which her whole address was delivered.

1959 will be a busy year for adult members of the Royal family, who will travel to many parts of the Commonwealth on various important missions. Her Majesty referred to her own forthcoming visit to Canada with Prince Philip, primarily to open the St. Lawrence Seaway but to visit many other parts of the country as well. Nowhere will they be more warmly welcomed than in Prince Edward Island. In the meantime, it has been a privilege to receive Her Majesty's personal greetings in what has now become a time-honored custom of Christmas Day broadcasting.

Heavy Responsibility

It must be said of General Charles de Gaulle, whose election this week as President of France's Fifth Republic came as no surprise, that no one did more for France in the difficult war years. Perhaps no one is better qualified to lead her out of her present troubles and strengthen her position in free world councils. The friends of France—and they are legion—will wish the new President well. They will also trust that the new set-up is indeed a Republic and not just a military dictatorship with a republican facade.

For years General de Gaulle has been advocating a change by which the legislative power would be separated from the executive power, in the American pattern. He has succeeded in that. In fact, he has succeeded so well that henceforth for all practical purposes the executive power will be the only power. The legislative branch has been made just about useless. The President will appoint the Premier and all other ministers. He will have the power to dismiss Parliament at will. He will negotiate and ratify foreign treaties. There isn't much left for Parliament to do.

Perhaps that is the kind of system that France needs today. Presumably, Frenchmen themselves think so; although, of course, it is possible that in their admiration of de Gaulle they overlooked possible risks of the future.

Seaway Effects

Mines Minister Comtois has announced that a special study of the effects of the St. Lawrence Seaway on the coal industry of the Maritimes will soon be undertaken by the Federal Cabinet. The study will be concerned partially with the manner in which the Seaway will facilitate the entry into Canada of American coal in competition with the Maritime product.

For many years imports of American coal, especially in the central Canadian markets, have presented a big problem to the Maritime coal industry. It is reasonable to suppose that the Seaway, with its lower transportation costs, will make the problem even bigger. What the Government can do to restore the balance remains to be seen; but certainly it does not seem fair that Nova Scotia coal miners should be out of work for long periods of time while thousands of tons of American coal of no better quality are being imported.

Perhaps the Government-owned Canadian National Railways could make a contribution by using Canadian coal exclusively, even though it costs a bit more than the American product. That would probably mean further Government subsidies to the Railway; but these would be made up, in part at least, by a stronger economy in the coal mining areas.

While they are about it, the Government may as well look into the Seaway's effects on other phases of Maritime industry—the shipping business in particular. It may be that in the long run the Seaway will benefit all Canada—although there is some doubt of this; but that will take time, probably several years. Meanwhile, the Maritimes, which paid their share of the costs of the Seaway, have a right to be protected against any loss of business.

Visitor From Moscow

After a lot of consideration, the United States State Department—with the approval of President Eisenhower, of course—has accepted the suggestion from Moscow that Soviet Deputy Anastas I. Mikoyan visit the United States early in the new year. At first, according to a Washington report, Secretary of State Dulles was a little doubtful that the visit would be advisable. Even now, it appears from dispatches, he is a little wary about it.

Why should there be any hesitation about welcoming Mr. Mikoyan or any other high Soviet official to Washington—or for that matter, to Ottawa? What harm could it possibly do? Premier Khrushchev, of course, has his own reasons for wanting to send a high level official to the United States. It may be nothing more than a propaganda stunt, another attempt to convince neutral opinion of the genuineness of Russia's desire for "peaceful co-existence" in face of American obduracy. Or, it may be purely a business undertaking, in the hope that something more might be done to stimulate trade between the two countries, Mr. Mikoyan being considered an expert in such matters. But, whatever the reason or reasons, it might do Mr. Mikoyan a lot of good to converse with United States' Government officials face to face, and to see for himself something of what goes on far from the iron curtain.

While Mr. Mikoyan is on this side of the Atlantic, perhaps a side trip to Ottawa could be arranged. Prime Minister Diefenbaker could tell him a lot of little things he needs to know about Canada's official viewpoint on world problems.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The change from "Empire Day" to "Commonwealth Day" is in line with political developments. We doubt, however, that many Canadians will get excited about it, one way or the other.

* * *

The Toronto District Engineer of the Ontario Department of Highways said recently that one-quarter of all the workers hired by his department should be fired. He classified workers as follows: 25 per cent, crackerjacks; 50 per cent good workers; 25 per cent, trash.

* * *

The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the South coast of Newfoundland, have decided to retain their status as a colony of France. Evidently, the 5000 residents decided that they have as much political independence as they can afford.

* * *

The Prime Minister certainly took plenty of time in the matter of appointments to the Senate. It is not known whether the long delay can be attributed to an attempt to find the best timber available or merely to an assumption that the Senate is not really important.

* * *

The potato is becoming an extremely important crop in the Prairie Provinces, where the estimated annual farm value now averages about $10,000,000. At that, only a relatively small proportion of the potatoes consumed within the region are actually produced there. Furthermore, as population continues to increase, the potential Prairie market for this food item will also expand. The circumstances present a challenge to our potato industry.

'LOADED FOR BEAR'

OTTAWA REPORT

Our Northland Territory

By Patrick Nicholson

A rueful history of our "might-have-beens" could be based upon the consequences of expanionist ambitions of the United States over the past 175 years. Eight major land-grabs have been attempted at our expense during that time. We have successfully repulsed three, and are now launching our overdue but determined drive to repulse the eighth.

This series of attempts to snatch territory, which Canada could justly claim, began with boundary settlements for the revolting colonies in 1783,, when the British Government was unduly generous at our expense. Then and in subsequent grabs, we lost the Maine Wedge, Lord Selkirk's Red River Valley in great part, the Pacific northwest area now Oregon, and Alaska, especially the panhandle. By the war of 1812 we repulsed the Americans' economic pressure to take over southwestern Ontario. In the 1880's we held our against their aims in the southern praries. And in the 1940s we outmanoeuvered the powerful lobby to make New-Foundland the 49th State.

And now we must defend our Arctic Islands.

"A FEW ACRES OF SNOW"

For literally centuries, it was assumed that the title to that the unwanted area of the globe was vested in Britain by right of discovery. Most of that real estate, known as Rupert's land, was owned by the Hudson's Bay Cohmpany. Two years after Confederation, Britain transferred title to the new Dominion; and Canada bought out "The Bay" for a paltry $1,500,000, in what history may prove to have been the all-time best real-estate bargain.

Then for eighty years, "our" Arctic was little regarded, except as the scene of international expeditions with the flavour of sporting contests, and as the site of heroic deeds by a handful of scarlet-coated dog-sled drivers.

When the yes of other nations' recently began to turn towards the islands in the Arctic basin, it became evident that half a million square miles of real estate could not be "effectively occupied" by a mere score of representatives of our law and welfare. Yet such occupation was essentialin international law to preserve our sovereignty over our great northern empire. Our Governmeat uncomfortably recognized this fact but did littel to meet the need for positive action. The responsible Minister told Parliment in 1950 that "development in the Canadian North is expanding steadily. In those far northern settlements, pioneering is not just alegend, but a living reality

At that time, the more substantial "living reality" on the Russian side of the North Pole consisted of a population larger than that of our most popular province, all living north of Edmonton, and mostly in half a hundred cities each with more than 50,000 inhabitants, including the capital of Moscow. Our largest community in the same high latitude is Whitehorse, with a population of 5,000.

Our Government had not even compiled accurate maps of our Arctic archipelago, let alone carried out geophysical and other surveys. Often the captains of Canadian ships had to reply on Russian charts. When the Ministers of the new Diefenbaker Cabinet moved into their departments last year, they found there maps of Canada which did not even show two islands, in heart of our Arctic, with an area larger than P.E.I. Had an airborne Russian expedition landed on those islands and claimed them, they would have had strong grounds under international law.

THE VISION UNFOLDS

But the summer of 1958 will stand out in our history, as the time when Prime Minister Diefenbaker energetically launched our first campaign to establish our sovereignty over "our" Arctice and to harness the immense natural riches awaiting us there.

The steps initiated included a complete aerial photographic survey, as the foundation for the preparation of accurate maps; a geophysical survey to guide prospectors; and a survey of the coastline and continental shelf along the significant north-west border of the islands, where Russian and American scientists have long been working on the slowly moving ice islands.

The most spectacular step to declare our sovereignty was the invasion of the Arctic for the first time by a sizeable Canadian force consisting of 150 ships, spearheaded by World War II landing craft and by an airborne army of 1,000 stevedores. Thus our Department of Transport undertook the annual supply lift for all the American-named defence posts in our Arctic shipping in 77,000 tons of food fuel and building supplies, at a cost estimated at only one-third of the price previously paid by the Americans for the lifeblood supply.

Finally, the foundations forour first big Arctic city at Frobisher were laid, and we announced that we will take over the U. S. Airfields on the Dew-line.

Thus we showed the world for the first time that Canada will "effectively occupy" the Canadian Arctic, to assert our sovereignty over our northern defences and our rich Arctic minerals.

It's Even Truer Here

Montreal Gazette

An American businessman has made a speech in the United States that has much meaning for Canadians. He is Mr. Ernest R. Breech, Chairman of the Board, Ford Motor Company. His speech was intended for Americans; it was delivered before the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. But if what he says is true for the United States, it is many times truer for Canada.

Mr. Breech has just come back from a tour of Western Europe. What he saw impressed him. And what impressed him the most was the rapid rise of European industry towards North American standards of production.

It used to be said that European industry was behind that of North America in many ways. Factory equipment was old-fashioned. Tradition had frozen production procedures into rigid patterns. There were too many small factories. Cartels made profits with sluggish methods.

PASSING AWAY

All this, Mr. Breech believes, is rapidly passing away. He found in Europe a keen awareness of the need for economies in production, for integration of industries, for mofern managerial practices, for heavy investment in improved plant, for competitive pricing, for industrial research and innovation.

What is emerging is this: the factories of the United States will be turning out goods with high labor costs, but without machinery and methods sufficiently superior to those of Europe to make the goods competitive.

In the steel industry of the Ruhr, for example, the weekly wage of the steelworkers is less than one third of that of their American counterparts.

For another example, the current hourly-based rate for a Ford assembly-line worker in the auto industry in the United States is $2.44, exclusive of fringe benefits, which amount, roughly, to some 50 to 60 cents per hour. This may be compared with the hourly rate in the United Kingdom, or in Cologne in West Germany. It is $1.05 an hour.

NEARING EQUALITY

American machinery and methods have to be a great deal more efficient to make up that kind of difference in cost. But West European machinery and methods are approximating those of the United States.

The results have already become evident. Many American manufacturers, instead of making goods in the United States for sale in Europe, have been establishing factories in Europe. They are selling in Europe what they are producing in Europe. If they did otherwise, their sales might die away.

ANOTHER ASPECT

This situation has another aspect. If tariffs were dropped, the United States might still not be able to take much advantage of the improvement, as far as the European market is concerned. Their goods might still prove uncompetitive. On the other hand, European goods, produced with equivalent methods but lower wage costs, could easily invade the domestic markets of the United States.

All this would be interesting, even if it were true only of the United States. But if it is true of the United States, it is twice as true of Canada. For Canada, with its small home market, does not have the base for mass production that the United States has, with all the economies which this makes possible. Nor do the wage levels in this country differ sufficiently from those of the United States to counteract the far lower European scales.

MR. COYNE'S REPORT

In his report for 1957 the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Mr. J. E. Coyne, had this to say: "Average hourly earnings in general continued to rise and this, in combination with the declining trend in output per man-hour, resulted in increased labor costs per unit of output. Competition in external and domestic markets became keener than in 1956, and some Canadian producers found it increasingly difficult to meet domestic and world competition, in view of the higher costs they were experiencing."

If the United States has reason to be worried over what it is doing to itself with its rising costs, Canada has far more reason to be worried, especially as foreign trade is a far more important proportion of the trade of Canada, than it is of that of the United States.

The Peace River Frontier

Monthly Review, Bank of Nova Scotia

For more than a century after Alexander Mackenzie recorded his impressions on his epic journey to the Pacific Coast in 1792.93, the land of the Peace River remained the lonely realm of the trapper and the fur trader. In the early decades of this century it was thought of almost entirely as a pioneer farming area, for it was and still is the last great agricultural frontier on the continent.

In recent years, however, attention has been increasingly directed to its other resources. Since the first big gas well blew in at Fort St. John in June, 1952, it has become a major natural-gas area.

Inventories of forest-reserves have furnished an estimate of the extent of its valuable timber and pulpwood resources. Private investigation has established that near Hudson Hope there is one of the largest hydro-electric sites in the world. In short, the region can no longer be discussed in terms of agriculture alone, important though agriculture remains.

NO SET BOUNDARIES

The "Peace River country" has no set boundaries. Indeed, it had been considered by some authorities to include as much as 60 millon acres (or roughly 94,000 square miles) covering most of northwestern Alberta northeastern British Columbia, and by others to include only about 16 million acres (25,000 square miles).

The area used in this review—the portion of the Peace river drainage basin between Hudson Hope, British Columbia, where the Peace river canyon cuts through the Rockey Mountains, and Vermilion Chutes, Alberta—falls somewhere between these two. In the census areas that correspond more or less to the settled parts of this region the population rose by roughly 50 percent. in the 10 years following the war. from somewhere between 50,000 and 55,000 in 1946 to approximately 80,000 in 1956.

SURGE OF GROWTH

In this surge of growth, as in the earlier ones, improved transportation has been crucial to development. The first major inrush of settlement followed the building of the railway north from Edmonton to High Prairie in 1914, to Peace River in 1915 and to Grand Prairie in 1916.

Prospective wheat farmers swarmed in by thousands as the railway reduced the transportation hazards of the great stretch of rough country and "dismal spruce forest" between the Peace River country and civilization the first carload of wheat was shipped out in 1915.

Again in the late 'Twenties, the population doubled as the "end of steel" moved gradually west ward to Hines Creek on the north side of the river and Dawson Creek on the south.

ROADS IMPORTANT

In the most recent period, roads have played a big part. From the Alaska Highway, built as a defence measure in the early war years, oil and gas exploration and forestry pushed outward north of Dawson Creek and Fort St. John.

The Mackenzie Highway, completed in 1948, opened up the country as far north as Hay River on Great Slave Lake and linked it with the railway at Grimshaw. And in 1952 the John Hart Highway crossing the Rockies through Pine Pass to connect Prince George and Dawson Creek, gave the Peace River country at long last an outlet to the Pacific Coast.

The pattern of farm production reflects both market influences and adaptation to soil and climate. Wheat growing, the prime objective of early settlement, is still preferred as a cash-crop enterprise, particularly on the dark soils which are suited to it.

The forests of the Peace River country and its tributary areas could obviously provide the base for much more extensive forest industries. As with agriculture, however, the remoteness of the region means high transportation costs which put producers at a competitive disadvantage as compared with those closer to-large consuming markets.

NEW OPTIMISM

Improved knowledge of the variety of resources in the Peace River country has given rise to a new optimism about the future A fresh vista has been opened up for instance, by the realization that the power potential on the upper Peace River near Hudson Hope is much larger than had been thought.

The boom in oil and gas exploration that followed the discovery of the Leduc field in 1947 spread only slowly to the Peace River country. A few gas and oil finds were made, mostly in the Alberta section, and interestingly enough the first export permit for Alberta gas was that granted in 1950 for the pipeline from the Pouce Coupe field to nearby Dawson Creek, B.C.

But it was not until the possibilities of the Fort St. John field began to be realized in 1951 and 1952 and plans were advanced for a pipeline to Vancouver that a rush for exploration permits for under way. In northeastern British Columbia more than 250 wells were drilled in the years 1953 to 1957 inclusive, nearly seven times as many as in the preceding five years.

Blood Pressure Test Important

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

BLOOD pressure test is one of the most fundamental of all our medical tests.

Yet, strangely, some persons actually are afraid to have this simple test made. They don't fear the fabric cuff which encircles the arm or the device holding the column of mercury by which the blood pressure is measured.

FEAR RESULTS

They often fear the results of the test. They are afraid that it may produce a high blood pressure reading, and they envision this as a sentence of premature death or at best a life as an invalid.

Of course this is just plain silly. If you have high blood pressure, you and your doctor both want to know about it so you can take the proper precautionary measures.

RISES AND FALLS

As a matter of fact, blood pressure rises and falls many times during an average day. It is lower than normal when you arise in the morning. It rises when you eat and falls when you are sleeply. It rises when you worry or do something strenuous; it falls when you read a book or take a warm bath.

When you become arngry, or suffer some other severe emotional stress, your blood pressure may increase by 50 percent temporarily.

WHEN RELAXED

Now your doctor isn't particularly interested in these normal fluctuations; he wants to know the pressure when you are relaxed. To get this reading he might have to take your blood pressure several times.

Just thinking about the test—especially if you are one of those who fear the results—is often enough to produce an abnormally high reading.

If you do have high blood pressure, don't know it and don't take steps to correct the condition, any number of things might happen.

SOME POSSIBILITIES

Perhaps an artery may rupture in the brain causing apoplexy, or another may rupture in the eye, impairing your vision. A blood clot may cause coronary thrombosis, heart trouble. Or maybe the heart will give out altogether in a vain attempt to maintain the strenuous high pressures demanded by your body.

On the other hand, if you do know that you have high blood pressure, you can plan a corrective program. Maybe you doctor will recommend that you go on a low salt diet, cut down on fat consumption and otherwise watch your diet.

EFFECTIVE DRUGS

Your doctor also has at his disposal many highly effective newer drugs such as hexamethonium and also the tranquilizers.

Yes, the outlook for a person with high blood pressure is extremely favorable—if he knows about his condition and acts to correct it.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

J.F.S.: My doctor said the swelling in my side is a lymph node.

What is that and can it be removed?

Answer: A lymph node is often miscalled a "gland" and is a collection of cells, very much like tonsil tissue, which filters out infection from the lymph channels passing through it. It may be enlarged because of infection or from some other disease.

Lymph nodes are often removed for microscopic examination in order to make a diagnosis.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The common belief that youngsters have lost their proper respect for their elders was shattered last week in Notre Dame de Grace. A boy, about to hurl a well-aimed snowball, was heard to say, "You shouldn't be wearing a homburg today—Sir". —Ottawa Journal.

On Christmas Day, all diners on South African Railways will provide for 68 cents, the following dinner: melon cocktail, mushroom soup, fillet of Cape salmon with sauce tartare, braised ham and spinach, roast stuffed turkey and salads, vegetables, Christmas pudding and brandy sauce, mince pies, cheese and biscuits, coffee and fresh South African fruit. Will Canadian railways please copy? — Ottawa Journal

"Desperately Needed" were the words in bold type which we noticed in the advertising columns of a Toronto paper recently. Our interest thus aroused we looked at it closer to find out what was "desperately needed", imagining it must be some serious case of family misfortune. It turned out that what the advertiser wanted was two or four tickets for the Grey Cup football game.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

He looked out of the window and called to his wife. "There goes that woman Bill Jones is in love with." She dropped the cup she was drying in the kitchen, hurtled through door, knocked over a lamp and craned her neck to look. "Where?" she panted. "There," he pointed, "that woman at the corner in the tweed coat." "You idiot," she said, "That's his wife." "Well, of course it is," he replied.—Wall Street Journal

We are not amused, much less enthralled, by the prospect of an electronic judge, as held forth by a French lawyer-mathematician. Even if such a device were used to decide cases "whose solutions can be derived unambiguously from data" it would be Orwellian as well as Wellsian. If we ever start dispensing "Justice" from a card index system—we'll get just what we deserve.—Lethbridge Herald

In the nostalgic literature of America, much is written about the good old country doctor, but you hardly hear about him any more. For this is the age of the specialist. There seems to be an expert for every part of the body from head to toe, and it's often hard to know where their spheres of influence end. A patient could easily go to an upper colon man, for instance, when it's really his lower colon that's awry.—New York Herald Tribune

Three years ago the French National Railroads presented its "phantom" train, which ran without crew by remote electronic control. Recently it has been demonstrating a highly-perfected electronic extension of that creation: On command, a locomotive now will move its hundred-ton bulk only one inch; nuzzle up to an egg on the track without breaking it or rolling it off; start up and reach the precise speed ordered; brake, stop, and back up at the exact speed required. The new electronic marvel also stops itself if an object should lie on or across the tracks. —France Actuelle

The Age Old Story

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.

The Poet's Corner

LITTLE CRUSADER

This double - holstere dsheriff
son of mine
Does more to soothe the furrows
from my brow
Than any bland, frock - coated
diplomat.
My child has not the wisdom of
his peers,
To carefully judge the errors of
mankind,
And mete out punishment to fit
the crime.
He's not concerned with measures of reform;
His trigger finger is his only
law —
The "badmen" die before the
good are harmed!
but we, his peers and diplomats
know well
The fruitlessness of such philosophy . . .
And so my son must lose his
sheriff's badge,
Nature will rob him of his horse
and guns
To leave me sitting in my evening chair
Shivering from the thoughts of
nuclear lynching.

Len G. Selle
In the Toronto Daily Star

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Dec. 26, 1933)

The usual Christmas trees and presentations to hospitals, orphanages and other institutions were conducted yesterday by the Gyro Club. Free Dispensary and other organizations. In the morning the Orphanages were visited and in the afternoon visits were made to the Sanatorium, Infirmary and the hospitals.

Mrs. Louis Roper was elected president of the East Royalty Women's Institute at the annual meeting held last evening at the home of Mrs. P.S. Bradley. Other officers include Mrs. George Harper, vice-president; Miss Hilda Bradley, secretary-treasurer.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Dec. 26, 1948)

It has been learned that the "Trinity North", which arrived in port at Montague on Wednesday, will be the last ship to come here for this season. The ship, under command of Captain Jack Briton, will take on a cargo of potatoes, vegetables and other mixed produce.

Christmas cheer was brought to the Mt. Herbert Orphanage and to St. Vincent's Orphanage when the Gyros called on their annual sleigh ride spreading happiness and Christmas cheer among the children of the Orphanages. Other Clubs in the city also sent gifts to the children to make this a very happy Christmas for them.

MAXIMS

In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of.

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