The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Couldn't We Get This Too?

It is gratifying to note the assurance given here by the Hon. Jean Paul Deschatelets, Federal Minister of Public Works, that his department has agreed to pay 90 per cent of the cost of the 22-miles of Trans-Canada Highway running from Borden to Bonshaw. This will involve a federal expenditure of over $600,000 and will be of great benefit to the Province. The Shaw Government is to be commended on the convincing presentation it made of our claims in this connection, and the Pearson Government on acquiescing in them.

We appreciate, too, the courtesy of Mr. Deschatelets in visiting us on this occasion, and of showing so much interest in our highway problems generally. He intends acquainting himself at first hand with the views of all the provinces relative to Trans-Canada Highway projects, and he has indicated that these views may form part of the basis of a federal conference on highways later in the year. This is an excellent course for the minister to pursue.

We trust, too, that before Parliament resumes Mr. Deschatelets will oblige us in another matter. Let him instruct his engineers to prepare a comprehensive progress report of our Northumberland Strait causeway project. All that he was prepared to tell us at this time was that considerable information had been gained on the feasibility of the undertaking, and that details were now being sought as to the "specific kind of crossing that would be most feasible."

Putting the best interpretation we can on this statement, it still falls far short of the assurance we received in May, 1962, from the then Prime Minister of Canada, that the causeway would be built to include one and one-quarter miles of locks and bridges costing $36,500,000; that the fill would cost $49,000,000 and the engineering work $20,000,000: that the work would employ 1,100 men for six years and provide $30,000,000 in wages; to which was added the information by the federal works department that it would take two years to complete the planning stage and six years to do the job.

This is where the project stood sixteen months ago, according to Prime Minister Diefenbaker. Surely we are entitled to know where we are at today, and in the same concrete terms. There can be no security risk involved in giving the information. If Mr. Diefenbaker misled us in 1962—or was himself misled by his engineers—we have a right to know. If he was correct in his statement and the plans have since been changed, we have a right to know that too—and why.

We trust that our cabinet representative, Mr. MacNaught, will add his weight to our plea for enlightenment on this subject, and that we shall get the whole story from the minister without further delay.

Bonusing Party Splits

Mr. Caouette says he will lead La Ralliement des Creditistes—hitherto the Quebec wing of Social Credit—as a new party in Parliament, separate from the Social Credit party headed by Mr. Thompson, and that he has won the support of a majority of the 24 Social Credit MPs. But according to a Canadian Press report, it appears possible that both leaders, their two-year partnership at an end, might enter the fall session with an equal number of supporters.

Seven Quebec MPs, including the momentarily "independent Social Credit" member Dr. Guy Marcoux, have declared themselves behind Mr. Thompson. Social Credit's four Western members, who include Mr. Thompson himself, are also all in his camp. That makes eleven Thompsonites. Still uncommitted is Lucien Plourde, member for Quebec West.

Supposing a 12-member representation for both of these groups in the House of Commons, does that mean that the taxpayers will have to foot the bill to the tune of another $4,000 a year? It looks like it, under the silly step taken by the Pearson Government last session in providing a salary of $4,000 for any leader with a group of a dozen or more members in the House.

This bonus puts a premium on party splits of this kind, and makes it harder than ever for the country to get back to the two-party system. Heretofore, an extra indemnity has been paid to only one non-government member—the Leader of the Opposition. Now every leader of a faction that can muster 12 adherents in Parliament pockets $4,000 over and above his $18,000 salary.

The Ottawa Journal quotes "some commentators" as saying that the struggle between Messrs. Caouette and Thompson boils down to which of them would get this windfall. If they both get it, it would be a joke on all of us, wouldn't it? And we can thank Mr. Pearson for making it possible.

Pessimistic Reflections

The minister of education for Ontario has announced that textbooks will be provided free to Ontario students in grades 9 and 10, starting in 1964, also that by 1966 he hopes free books will be supplied to students in grades 11, 12 and 13. This is being hailed in educational quarters as an excellent move, and no doubt it is. But the fact that an election campaign is on in Ontario adds a touch of cynicism to the government's concern about the matter at this time.

But Mr. Wintermeyer, the Liberal Ontario leader, isn't letting the grass grow under his feet in making his own election commitments. He has promised within 80 days of taking office to provide medical insurance for those on welfare, unemployed and over 65, at a cost to the taxpayers of $35,000,000. He has promised, within 18 months, to make medicare available to all; also to extend education grants and to provide sufficient university facilities so that every student with a 50 per cent passing mark may attend university.

It's the same old story, of course, in every election campaign. Our own last provincial one, for example, when everything that wasn't nailed down went on the auction block. When will we grow up and cease clamoring for handouts of this kind? The answer, probably, is never. We're all firm believers in Santa Claus when we do our voting, though of course we all profess to see through the illusion and to be acting in the capacity of purely disinterested patriots. A politician friend of ours assures us that "there ain't no such animal"; and he's been around for a long time.

EDITORIAL NOTES

News deemed worthy of being flashed across the continent was to the effect that three fledgling whooping cranes had been sighted last Sunday, up in the Northwest Territories. Later this month they will migrate to Texas. Their number brings to 31 the known world's population of wild whooping cranes.

* * *

The Health League of Canada has taken particular note of the fact that the state government of New South Wales, Australia, is now making subsidies available to municipalities that instal fluoridation systems. What is more, Australia's federal government has fully indorsed fluoridation as a public health measure.

* * *

In most of the world, people spend half or more of their disposable incomes for food. In Russia, the figure is said to be 55%. But in the United States, food costs are less than 20% of the average family budget. Thanks to modern machinery, fertilizers, pesticides and improved farming techniques, an hour of farm labor now produces four times as much as it did in the period from 1919 to 1921.

PARTY LINE

THE ARAB'S BIBLE

Koran Preserves The Common Tongue

National Geographic Society Bulletin

The world's most influential book, after the Bible, is the Koran.

The family of Islam numbers about 434 million individuals. And it is the duty of every Moslem man, woman, and child, within personal limitations, to memorize as much of their holy book as possible.

Yet Westerners know little about the Koran's contents, because translations are rare. Translators approach it with extreme caution.

Moslems hold that the words of the holy book— which govern every moral and civil action of a believer—were transmitted from God directly to the prophet Mohammed some 1,350 years ago. The phraseology may not be altered, and translations are never used in mosques.

TURKISH TRANSLATION

A Turkish translation of the Koran was in the works for almost four decades before its publication in 1961. The first complete Chinese edition appeared only in 1957, though some inhabitants of China were converted to Islam ten centuries ago. The first Latin translation, made in A.D. 1143, was not published for four hundred years.

With English becoming the world's most widely used language, Koranic scholars are concentrating increasingly on this field. A paperback version became available in the United States in 1946. Another pocket-book Koran— translated from Pakistani into English— will soon appear.

Moslem reverence for the Koran's precise words have preserved in the absolute purity a classical form of Arabic which can be understood readily across the entire Arab World from Morocco to Indonesia.

An Arab who has memorized the entire book—which contains 114 suras, or chapters, of varying lengths— earns the coveted title hifa. His accomplishment is compounded if he can make at least one pilgrimage in his lifetime to Mecca, the birthplace of Mohammed in present- day Saudi Arabia.

Mohammed never pretended to be divine, and one of his last utterances was, "Oh Lord, let not my tomb be ever an object of worship." Born in about A.D. 570, the infant Mohammed was given by his widowed mother to the care of a foster mother in the desert. At perhaps 40, an unlettered man, Mohammed had experienced an extraordinary religious enlightenment which turned him from Mecca's idolatry to his own conception of an all-powerful, merciful deity not unlike the Hebrew and Christian God.

RECORDED ON PALM LEAVES

Every word of the Koran was dictated by Mohammed to associates who jotted the revelations on bits of parchment, palm leaves, and scraps of leather. After his death from fever in 632 and his burial in Medina, the fragments were collected and arranged. No apparent effort was made to assemble the Koran in chronological order, but his successors scrupulously avoided the temptation to edit or supply connecting sentences for seemingly missing parts.

There is no doubt, however, that the richly lyrical and rhapsodic parts of the Koran were dictated early in Mohammed's religious career; the more doctrinal sections, when he was speaking as Islam's elder.

The Koran— the legacy of one mortal man— had a dynamic effect on the Arab people. It converted merchants into scholars, tribesmen into warriors. Its unifying influence helped a basically nomadic people to forge, in brief decades after the prophet's death, one of the world's greatest empires.

The holy book has remained a vital part of educational tradition in the Islamic World, giving each generation an unusual love of its language.

Bloodshed In Birmingham

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The latest bombing, riots and bloodshed in Birmingham tend to obscure the fact that despite malevolent operations of white supremists, some slow but steady progress has been made this month in opening more southern white schools to Negro children.

In essence, the integration process is still of a token nature.

Race barriers were lowered for the first time in four Charleston, S.C., schools. The number of Negro students in desegregated Memphis, Tenn., schools increased to 258 from 46. And all-white classes opened with their doors to Negroes in Baton Rouge, La., Savannah and Athens, Ga., and Tallahassee and Jacksonville, Fla.

Alabama and Mississippi remain the hard core of resistance to integration and in these states blame for lack of progress can be placed to a large extent on political leaders.

Even newspapers which have taken a neutral stand on the integration question the behavior of Alabama Governor George Wallace who says after the course of events in Birmingham: "This is only the first inning and we have not come to bat."

The Washington Star says that if Wallace intended to incite violence by his erratic behavior, he has succeeded "perhaps beyond his expectations."

If Birmingham is the racial battle serves as a lesson, it is questionable whether Birmingham police will discover who bombed the home of a Negro lawyer for the second time in three weeks, and whose bullet killed the 20-year-old Negro, a victim in Wednesday's bombing and shootings.

Just a week ago the biggest mass march in U.S. history brought 200,000 persons in prayer and song to the Washington shrine of Abraham Lincoln. There, a Negro leader set hearts aglow by telling of a dream that one day Negro and white children of Alabama would walk hand in hand as brothers and sisters.

DID IT PAY?

Now some Negroes may wonder whether the march did any good. Would the white southerner learn anything except through bloody revolution?

The U.S. government's proposals to help Negroes fight discrimination by tougher laws are bogged down in Congress. The civil rights commission, which helped smash barriers against Negro voting rights, is due to expire shortly unless Congress moves with emergency speed to provide an extension of the commission's life.

Yet Negro leaders are convinced history is on their side. They believe the walls of discrimination must fall. In Alabama, politicians, backed by white police, undoubtedly will cause new hardship, new bloodshed.

So far, the white supremists have succeeded in closing Birmingham schools rather than allow integration. But the U.S. justice department is keeping careful watch. It is unlikely the schools would remain closed for long before the administration starts thinking of enforcing integration with the use of federal troops.

IS MAJOR FODDER

Hay today makes up 38 per cent of milk cow rations in North America and 60 per cent of feed for other cattle.

The FLYING DUTCHMAN RESTAURANT
"Your Island Steak House"

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.

SEEKS PEN PALS

Sir,—While on holiday recently in Newbury, England, I had the pleasure of meeting a young girl from your town. She told me a little about it, and about the people who live there, and from what she said I came to the conclusion that it is a little bit like my own beloved country, Ireland. Because of this I would very much like to correspond with some of your young people, especially young policemen and college students of both sexes.

My own age is 19, height 5' 4", hair black, eyes brown, rosy complexion; hobbies include pop music, reading and going to the cinema.

As I do not know whom to get in touch with in order to get a pen-pal, I would be grateful if you could find space in your newspaper to print this letter. Please ask them to write soon.

Yours faithfully
NUALA HEGARTY (Miss)
28 Summerhill Park,
Belmont, Derry, Ireland.

The Poet's Corner

THE MAN WHO SHARES HIS BOOKS

I love the man who brings along a book!
He compliments my comprehensive force
When he would share with me each gladdening path,
Each joy he finds along their pleasant course.

I love him when he sits beside my fire
While we go gently to and fro between
The sunny peaks of thought, alert to glimpse
A verdant hill we may have passed unseen.

Though I admire the folk who share a smile,
The folk who speak of stars in meadow brooks,
The friends who walk with me through sun and cloud,
Give me the man who comes to share his books.

When raindrops spatter on the garden walk
And I must leave, it's comforting to know
My friend may come to share a newfound book,
For then I shall not miss the pansies so.

When I am busy with the spade and shears
And find a faded rose or twig, I lean
Against a trellis and soliloquize.
The tendrils of his mind are evergreen.

When I'm in pensive mood beside a bed
Of fresh blown daffodils, their blooms remind
Me of my friend who comes to share his books
And how he loves the gardens of the mind.

—S. Barlow Bird
Freetown, P.E.I.

Happy About Third Child

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

A happy mother has something to share with me: "Please don't think I'm a stupid female after you read my letter. I read your column every day and it seems to me you never get any good or happy news. I thought I could cheer you up by saying I am going to have my third child and am very happy about the prospect. I hope you don't think me forward — I just wanted to share my happiness with someone who could use a little."

You are a darling and I hope your husband is just as happy. We receive thousands of letters every week and the majority are from people in trouble. But symptoms are like worries — the majority never materialize or indicate anything of a serious nature. I am rewarded by trying to help these people, and therein lies my happiness.

Health columns should be written for the well, without discouraging the sick. They are not to be used for advertising drugs or as propaganda for physicians. But we must be factual and tell some of the bad featured about disease as well as the good. We aim to tell our readers how to recognize certain ailments and how to avoid them. If they have a disease, we try to give them information on what is being done for the condition.

We cannot diagnose, prescribe, or take the place of the family physician. After all, a letter tells only part of story and usually examination and laboratory tests are required to determine what is wrong.

Do health columns make hypochondriacs? No, because the foundation for the nervous condition was laid long before these people started reading health columns. It is true that many readers may think they have every disease we write about, but the emotionally mature do not dwell on it.

ITCHING AND BLISTERED FEET

F.G. writes: Is it possible to have athlete's foot only in the summertime? My feet don't bother me in cold weather but, starting in the spring, itching and blisters appear.

REPLY

Yes, especially when the feet perspire excessively. But why guess? There is a simple test to determine whether a fungus is responsible. In addition, good remedies are available should the infection be present.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

H.O.S. writes: Please tell me what multiple sclerosis is and is there a cure for it?

REPLY

Multiple sclerosis is a disease of the nervous system leading to a variety of symptoms. Recurring attacks of numbness and pain in the extremities are early manifestations. Later, muscle cramps, weakness and paralysis occur. The cause is not known. There is no cure but medicines are available to relieve symptoms.

MEAT NOT HARMFUL

N.W. writes: Would a meatless diet help high blood pressure?

REPLY

No. It was a common belief years ago that the proteins in meat aggravated high blood pressure by disturbing the kidneys. We now know this is not true.

NEPHRITIS

A.G. writes: Is Bright's disease in a child contagious? The mother was told that a strep infection caused this kidney disease.

REPLY

Bright's disease is not contagious but the streptococcal infection that triggered the disorder is.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A New York City apartment building which charges tenants a minimum of $1,000 per month, advertises that it is near "11 buses and subways."— Hamilton Spectator.

Special cells built for drunks in Winnipeg have indirect lighting which has no glaring effect. The drunks will have enough glaring to put up with then they go home.— Peterborough Examiner.

It seems inconceivable that a lifeguard's call for assistance in the rescue of a girl should go unheeded — in fact draw the response from another girl nearby, "Grab her yourself, you're the lifeguard." But this happened at a Vancouver suburban swimming pool. Fortunately the 13-year-old victim of near-drowning was revived by artificial respiration.— Victoria Times.

Some planned parenthoods turn out about as close to the plans as some government projects.— Fuel Oil News.

There are at least 3,500 male and 120 female licensed drivers in Ontario who are over the age of 82. There is one licensed motorist 96 years old and one licensed woman driver 95 years old.— Canadian Forum.

Among many, many things which United Nations field forces are teaching the Congolese, at a cost of $33,000,000, is the art of changing a diaper. Lest anyone should run away with the idea that the need for such training marks the Congo as a backward country, we should remind ourselves that tens of thousands of fathers in Canada can't do it either.— Fort William Times Journal.

Hard Age For Adults

Des Moines Register

Life is growing more and more humiliating for oldsters who haven't had the benefit of a modern scientific education.

It hurts to read about the 10-year-old Pasadena boy who interrupted a lecture by an expert who had helped to develop an iron engine using positively charged atoms of caesium for power for spacecraft. Questioning the time schedules given by the expert the boy asked:

"If we were to use ion propulsion to go to the stars, wouldn't we approach the speed of light and so, according to Dr. Einstein's theory, wouldn't the spacecraft mass increase? Then wouldn't the mass of the propellant increase and reduce the specific impulse?"

The expert said "yes." He said the adult experts had overlooked this and they would go back to the drawing boards and refigure the travel time.

When there are children like that going around, adults will have to learn how to defend themselves.

The only way that seems feasible is to tell them that even if you don't know an ion from an id you can spell and parse and diagram sentences and play the guitar and that after all you're bigger than they are and not to forget it.

Blondin's Bold Feats

Guelph Mercury

A little more than one hundred years ago —to be exact — on September 15, 1860— Charles Blondin, the French acrobat, performed his dare-devil act of making a 1,100 feet tight-rope crossing of the Niagara Falls in honor of the visiting Prince of Wales.

Blondin wore skin-tight pants and vest — and he had a wreath of feathers around his head. Many thousands of people had assembled and during the act the screams of women could be heard above the roar of the Falls.

Blondin crossed from side to side, and then went to the middle and lowered himself with one hand, grasping the rope, and began swinging in space.

He then carried his manager, Harry Collard, on his back. Stirrups hung from Blondin's shoulders and into these Collard put his feet. In the middle of the stream Blondin rested and Collard then stood on the rope beside him. As he did this the balancing pole swayed violently up and down—and a scream of horror swept over the thousands of onlookers. What had happened was that Collard suffered a cramp and felt he could not go on. Blondin helped all he could and gradually the pair eased to a landing of safety.

This done, Blondin attached short stilts to his legs; at the end of the stilts were hooks.

In the middle of the act he bent over and seemed to slip — and a great shout of horror swept over the onlookers as the intrepid man hung face downward under the rope by the hooks, and swayed from side to side. Eyes turned away in horror. But reaching up he grasped the rope—pulled himself up—and returned to safety. A very white faced Prince of Wales grasped his hand and said: "Thank God, that's over".

Blondin died in his bed in London, England, in 1897. A fate few thought would ever be his lot. He had cheated death a thousand times during his career, with never one accident.

He was singularly lucky.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
September 7, 1938

Alberton made history on Friday when the new paved highway in that section of the country was formally opened with a street dance and speeches by prominent gentlemen. About two thousand people were present and Alberton was gaily decorated for the occasion.

Miss Tessie Sears left this morning for Montreal to take up her new duties as assistant librarian in McGill University Medical Library. Miss Sears has been a member of the staff of Prince Edward Island Libraries for the past five years, and Miss Batson's first assistant in establishing the Carnegie Demorstration Library here.

TEN YEARS AGO
September 7, 1953

One of the worst storms to hit this province in recent years, today uprooted trees, blew roofs off buildings, flattened standing crops, disrupted communication and plunged whole areas into black-out. Wind gusts up to 70 miles per hour with an average velocity of 45 miles an hour swept the province.

The Alcoholics Anonymous Club, whose quarters were destroyed by fire in the Palmer Electric building recently, have now acquired new quarters on Grafton Street, in the room formerly occupied by the Star-Lite dance hall.

COME TO NOVA SCOTIA FOR A LIGHT HEARTED FLING

Deep sea fishing may be a millionaire's sport—but you don't have to be a millionaire to enjoy a fun-filled day of deep sea fishing off Nova Scotia. (*We can supply you with a map and a list of scores of fully equipped boats complying with government regulations as to sanitation and safety*). Enjoy too, Nova Scotia's inland beauty spots, historic sites and woodland trails. So, bring along your family for one of the finest holidays under the sun!

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