

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew... W. J. Hanson, Publisher... Wallace Ward, Managing Editor... Frank Walker, Editor... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd. Branch offices at Summerside, Montserrat, Alberton and Souris.

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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink.

PAGE 4 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1966

Leak Or Inspiration?

How come, as Opposition Leader John Diefenbaker asked in Parliament the other day, that the art of budget-guessing reached such a peak of efficiency in forecasting Finance Minister Sharp's budgetary pronouncements Monday night? "Various elements" in the press had predicted that the new income tax would not affect persons earning below \$6,000 a year, and the president of a securities organization in British Columbia had referred to a one per cent increase in the sales tax after a conversation with Mr. Sharp.

Prime Minister Pearson agreed that these predictions were unusually accurate, but saw no reason for having an investigation into a possible "leak" of the tax proposals. The finance minister had declared that there was no leak from his department and that the reports were merely speculative. Mr. Pearson also read a telegram from the B.C. prognosticator, advising the government that no budget information was leaked to him.

These statements, we think, should settle the matter so far as Mr. Sharp personally is concerned. Indeed, it is hard to imagine that anyone in his responsible position would tip his hand in the way suggested. It was known generally, moreover, that there would be tax increases to pay for the old age pension supplement, and speculation was rife as to where the blows would fall. But the mystery remains as to how the targets could be so accurately pinpointed.

Second sight, maybe, but who believes in that nowadays? Teacup reading has gone out, too, and the ouija board along with it. There remains the suspicion that somebody in the know did do some loose talking, and there is concern as to what this could lead to. We doubt whether a public inquiry would get to the bottom of it; but we hazard the guess that, on the quiet, there'll be some soul-searching in official quarters, and some sharp scrutiny of possible suspects.

Certainly the Opposition did its duty in calling attention to the matter. The publicity it received is probably the best way of ensuring that if there was even the tiniest leak it won't happen again.

What'll They Do Next?

Last week at Cape Kennedy, a satellite was put into orbit to spend three days helping scientists learn if long-distance trips in space could make humans ill. It carried quite an assorted cargo. There were more than 10 million passengers on the flight, in fact.

They included 1,000 flour beetles, 560 thumbnail-sized parasitic wasps, 10,000 fruit flies, 10 million bread mold spores, 13,000 bacteria, 64 blue flowering plants, 9 pepper plants, 78 wheat seeds, 120 frog eggs and 875 amoeba. The beehive-shaped spaceship in which they rode was launched on the nose of a Delta rocket, to close out the 1966 schedule at Cape Kennedy.

The flying laboratory, named Biosatellite 1, represents the opening mission in America's \$100 million program to test how weightlessness and space radiation affect the growth of plants and animals. The creatures inside the satellite had all the comforts of earth to keep them alive—plenty of food, warm cabin temperatures controlled by "electric blankets" wrapped around specimen compartments, and atmospheric pressures similar to sea-level conditions on this planet. The main difference was that gravity was removed and some of the specimens were exposed to a radiation source.

We haven't heard how this experiment worked out, but if the

creatures were as prolific as expected, more specimens may have returned to earth than were launched. Experimenters said they could have as many as 13 million bacteria, for example, when the compartments were opened. Since three days to a fruit fly is the equivalent of many years to a human being, mutations that developed will help biologists decide what effect prolonged weightlessness and radiation would have on an astronaut.

Information concerning how the wheat seed and pepper plants grow in weightlessness, without gravity to pull them downward, may some day assist colonists on the moon or space travellers on extended missions who have to grow their own food. This is truly a wonder-world of new scientific endeavor, and it's only beginning to materialize. Later Biosatellites, now expected to be launched in 1968 and 1969, are to carry larger animals such as rats and monkeys on longer duration trips.

From Moscow comes another odd news item about space experimentation. Pieces of skin from three Soviet doctors were carried aboard a Soviet spaceship six years ago in sterilized bottles, then grafted back onto the doctors. The purpose was to determine the effect of cosmic rays on man. The tests proved that these rays had no dangerous effect on human tissues in spaceflight conditions. This experiment was conducted eight months before Lieut. Colonel Gagarin became the first man in space on April 12, 1964, but the report has only now been released.

Towards Better Balance

Something for Canadians to look forward to in the months ahead is continued economic expansion. This assurance comes from the Bank of Montreal business review for December, and banks are proverbially cagey about expressing themselves in unduly optimistic terms. In this case, we are warned, "uncertainties remain," but the expansion is expected to continue with fewer pressures and distortions than in 1966. The economy has moved a long way in recent months towards a more satisfactory balance between the forces of demand and supply.

However, the bank suggests that "the time has not yet arrived for the removal of existing measures of restraint," since inflationary tendencies still are evident. This is an overall picture, be it noted, and does not take stock of regional differences. It is emphasized that while there were cutbacks in some federal government spending programs, these were offset by increased outlays in others; and that, in addition, the rising expenditures of provincial and municipal governments were continuing to make strong demands on the economy.

The review notes that the gain in total output for 1966 will be at least 50 per cent more than was considered feasible at this time last year. When forecasts were being made in late 1965, credit conditions had been expected to have a depressing effect on retail sales, capital expenditures and housing construction, and on business activity in general. And so they did in due course, "but not nearly to the extent envisaged."

Note is taken of the fact that rising prices, the subject of so much concern, recently began to show signs of slowing down as demand pressures eased. However, upward pressure on costs and prices continued as the effects of large wage settlements made during the year worked their way through the economy. At the same time, a generally tight labor situation, coupled with rising prices, led to an increasing incidence of labor disputes, and time lost through work stoppages during the year reached the highest total in the country's history.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The UN General Assembly has called for a worldwide drive to help the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to raise money to meet its commitments. A good time to start, surely, is at this Christmas season, and in such a manner as to ensure that this great humanitarian program will have the momentum to carry on.

A model of Cumberland, a new town near Glasgow, is to be on show at Expo '67 in Montreal next year. The relief model will be viewed from a bridge and will be in the "Man in the Community" pavilion. Cumberland was selected from all the British new towns planned after the last war and this honor underlines the regard for the Scottish new town in international planning circles.



DEPARTMENT STORE SANTA CLAUSE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Worst Danger In Auto Exhaust Fumes

All city-dwelling Canadians are being slowly poisoned by the new chemicals and industrial dusts which pollute our air. Doctors are increasingly anxious for their patients as lung cancer becomes an epidemic, especially for those subject to bronchial afflictions. But the federal government has rejected Opposition demands for remedial action even against the worst threat, which is emissions from automobiles.

So the Cabinet fiddles, while Canadians burn up with poison. On several occasions this winter, when the poison in our air is normally more lethal than in summer, the snow cover on the ground intensifies the pollution by stabilizing the atmosphere and damping out vertical mixing with the purer air above. When gases are added to the smoke, the pollution becomes much more deadly. Of these gases, 80 per cent come from traffic and the balance from industry chiefly. These gases are measured in parts per million in our air. They consist in the main of sulphur dioxide, which comes from industrial and other heating plants, power plants and incinerators, and carbon monoxide, which comes from the exhaust of automobiles. Traffic is responsible for 60 per cent of all these gases. One dangerous constituent is benzopyrene, a complicated hydrocarbon, which arises in part from the burning of rubber when automobile brakes are applied.

When all these pollutants together are measured, doctors rate a total of 30 parts in a million parts of air as really dangerous, sensitive white tape when 1,000 linear feet of air is forced through it. The measurement of smoke in mid-winter in Montreal shows that the New York alert point of 5 units has been exceeded on many days in recent winters.

This is caused 55 per cent by domestic heating, 20 per cent by continuous industrial operations, 15 per cent by weekday industry and commerce and 10 per cent by traffic. In summer, there is of course no heating, so the smoke concentration falls. But in winter, when it is at its peak, the snow cover on the ground intensifies the pollution by stabilizing the atmosphere and damping out vertical mixing with the purer air above.

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Vanishing Fruitlands

That was a grim picture of the future of the Niagara area fruit industry as painted at the annual convention of Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. Dr. W. H. Upshall, who has just retired as director of the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario at Vineland, told the convention that smog may eliminate farms throughout the peninsula.

Mr. Upshall was speaking of the growing pollution of the air from many causes, factories, cars and heating equipment in homes. He spoke of "tall chimneys and oil-burning trucks on the road, belching forth smoke in riotous competition."

Dr. Upshall also spoke of newly planted fruit trees which were little more than surviving, trees planted too late in the season and neglected. And there was mention by Dr. John Archibald, the new director of the institute, of the need for a harder peach stock as the only hope of the peach industry.

There was, however, a small bright spot in the overall picture, the fact that a serial study of the peninsula revealed some 5,000 acres of fruit which had been missed in the earlier tree fruit census.

Fruitgrowers have at all times had an uphill battle against the elements, fruit pests and other enemies. They have been ably assisted in the battle to survive by the Horticultural Research Institute at Vineland, and that this assistance will be both continued and increased has been promised by Institute Director, Dr. John Archibald. For the future Dr. Archibald sees greater use of mechanical harvesting with aids for small fruit crops. And while peach lands may continue to disappear with the growth of municipalities and industry, grape lands can be expanded.

The picture painted is not altogether new, for warnings of the loss of fruit lands have been issued over a long period of years. The lamentable fact is that no one appears to be listening to the dire warnings.

Mr. Susskind Is Unliked

David Susskind, the American television and film producer, doesn't like Canada.

That came out clearly on a TV interview this week, where he described this country as "an anonymous geographical mass of inertia," a "somnolent and unimportant handmaiden of the American government" and generally an "ineffectual" nation.

Canadians can take these love-pats in the spirit in which they are given. We appreciate the fact that much as Mr. Susskind may hate us, at least, unlike most of his countrymen, he knows that we exist; he even knows that we are located "north of Buffalo."

But he goes a little too far when he describes Canada as "that great mass of land...from whence cometh very little by way of insensitivity or imagination

Quarantine Measures

By Dr. Theodore E. Van Dellen Quarantine comes from the Italian word *quaranta*, meaning 40. The procedure was brought into existence because of fear of pestilence. From 1377 to 1665 the chief commercial cities of the Mediterranean adopted and enforced a 40-day detention period for ships from unloading when there was pestilence on board. There is considerable conjecture as to why this number of days was selected.

Some say that the 40-day period was derived from the biblical period of 40 days. Others, the 40 days of Lent, the custom of having a truce last for 40 days, or the legal period allowed a widow to dwell in her deceased husband's house. Hippocrates considered the 40th day of a disease as the most critical.

At any rate, the term applied mainly to maritime quarantine, and the procedure (except for the 40 days) still is followed at ports of entry. The vessels are inspected and certified as being free from communicable disease. During the examination they fly a yellow flag standing for the letter "Q" of the international code. These rules are essentially the same for planes flying from international airports.

There are many other types of quarantine such as interstate, home, cattle, dog, and for special human diseases. The term isolation is used interchangeably with quarantine, but there is a technical difference. The American Public Health Association defines isolation as the separation of persons suffering from infectious disease. In the past they were put in special rooms or in a communicable disease hospital often dubbed the pest house. Quarantine limits the freedom of persons who were exposed to a disease during the incubation period. This also applies to animals.

Nowadays the patients are isolated and the contacts are treated with preventive drugs. The old days of nailing a placard on the door as a sign of quarantine may bring memories to many, but we hope it is gone forever.

ANAL ITCHINESS B. P. writes: What is pruritus ani? What are the symptoms, causes, and prognosis concerning this condition?

REPLY Anal itching stems from infection, allergy to citrus fruits, nervousness, pinworms, and overindulgence in milk, popcorn, condiments, and alcohol. The condition is good if the cause can be detected, and eliminated. Gricofulvin, an anti-fungal agent, is the latest remedy.

RENAL TUBERCULOSIS N.J.I. writes: In tuberculosis of the kidney, is the infected organ removed?

REPLY This was done before the advent of streptomycin PAS, and the isoniazids. Today these drugs are used first, and if they are unsuccessful in controlling the infection, surgery may be needed.

ENLARGED ADENOIDIS K. J. F. writes: What are the symptoms of adenoid trouble?

REPLY Enlarged adenoids may cause headache, nasal obstruction, and occasionally deafness. Children with enlarged adenoids usually are mouth breathers and some have facial distortions.

NO RELATIONSHIP V. C. writes: Is it true that people with arthritis never develop cancer?

REPLY No. This is another old wives' tale that is more far-fetched than some of the others.

PURITY DAIRY

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A leading manufacturer of breakfast cereals has told the parliamentary committee investigating food prices that he regards an extra 10 minutes in bed as very serious competition. It may mean that a person does not have to get up at the start of the night. "Surely the same could be said by the bakers. How many people skip that second piece of toast? Come to that, how many people prefer an extra half-hour in bed and skip breakfast altogether? — Ottawa Citizen.

Gloomy Peace Prospects

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP)—A year ago, the U.S. was preparing an energetic diplomatic campaign in world capitals to show its desire for peace in Vietnam, an initiative tied in with a 37-day pause in bombing North Vietnam. This year, it has asked Secretary-General U Thant of the United Nations to "take whatever steps you consider necessary to bring about the necessary discussions which would lead to a ceasefire."

But officials emphasize that American conditions for peace talks have not softened. The National Liberation Front, political arm of the Viet Cong, apparently has rejected any personal move by U Thant.

WAR EXPANDS The contrast between a year ago and now underlines some gloomy realities, including the prospect that a Southeast Asian peace is at least as far away as ever while the undeclared war broadens in the scope of the military commitment by the U.S. and North Vietnam.

The fighting continues in sizable adjacent areas including Thailand, where some U.S. troops are getting involved against guerrillas.

President Johnson's war options grow more limited, the obvious ones, illustrated by the increased bombing action in and around Hanoi in the North, are sharper applications of American arms.

Further, the U.S. seems to have exhausted many avenues and pipelines to the other side simply because the North, the Viet Cong and China reject out of hand U.S. conditions.

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Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 22, 1941) Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington after a secret journey for a series of momentous conferences with President Roosevelt which may pave the way for unified direction of war strategy.

Reoccupation of a number of populated points by Red army forces steadily advancing in fierce fighting was announced by the Soviet information bureau.

TEN YEARS AGO (December 22, 1956) The Nationalist Government of Johannesburg revealed that 132 persons arrested on treason charges will face trial for trying to convert South Africa into a Soviet-style "peoples' democracy."

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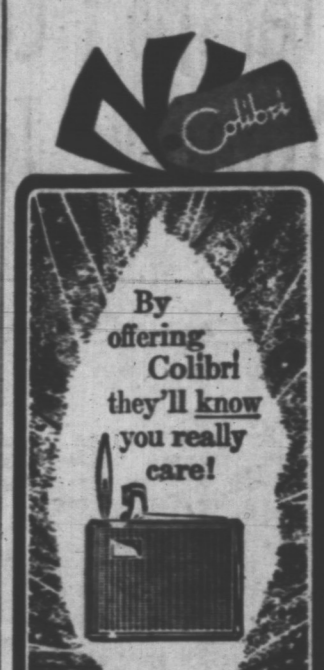
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