

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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Why To The West?

It's 54 years since Sir Robert Borden gave the federal portfolio of Agriculture to Hon. Martin Burrell, of the old British Columbia riding of Yale-Caribou. It hasn't been east of Manitoba since. Most of the time it's been the exclusive property of Prairie farmers; and if they had been kinder to the Liberals in the Nov. 8 election, there would be no doubt of it remaining theirs. But the defeat of Agriculture Minister Harry Hayes in Calgary South left the Liberals with only one Prairie member—Veteran Affairs Minister Roger Teillet, who sits for St. Boniface, Man.

Commenting on this situation, a columnist in the Toronto Star says it's high time the hoary myth that the Agriculture Minister "must be a Westerner" was being discarded. The only argument for it is that the Liberals desperately need to restore their fortunes in the West, and to take the Agriculture portfolio away would make a Liberal comeback even tougher. But the case which the Prime Minister has to balance against this is that changing conditions have long since loosened the Prairies' right to the portfolio, and the election has presented a golden opportunity to move it eastward.

The Star scribble recalls that when Borden started the tradition of Western ministers, the West was still in the pioneering stage. It had a one-industry economy, wheat. It was the problem child of Canadian agriculture. Immigrants, many from Central and Eastern Europe, faced strange, harsh conditions. They needed help. They looked to the Agriculture Department's laboratories for new strains of wheat to beat early frosts and disease and enable them to survive on the land. Out of the dry thirties came aid programs such as the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, run by the department.

But all that has changed. The War on Poverty conference last week drove home the point that the greatest agricultural hardship today is in Eastern Canada—in parts of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes. In the West, the main concern is not the growing of crops, but the marketing of them. And this is done not through the Agriculture Department, but the Canadian Wheat Board, which operates under the Trade and Commerce Department. Moreover, the West no longer has a one-industry economy. Manufacturing, mining, petroleum production make a growing contribution.

We think these arguments form an unanswerable case for putting the portfolio back where it belongs—in Eastern Canada. The Star writer argues it should go to Ontario, on the ground that that province has the highest value of farm output. We can't see this point so clearly; Ontario, after all, is our industrial colossus. If the portfolio should go where mixed farming is of most importance to the area's economy, the Maritimes should qualify. In any case, however, the claims of Eastern Canada can no longer be ignored.

Blackout Post Mortem

One thing clearly demonstrated by the power blackout that plunged 30 million Americans and Canadians into darkness on the night of Nov. 9, is the need for closer working relationships between the operating organizations in both countries, and also between the Canadian and United States governments. Nothing short of "the utmost cooperation" is required, in the opinion of the U.S. Federal Power Commission which has submitted a 95-page report to President Johnson on the subject. The commission was not able to give assurance that such a blackout can never happen again, but it indicated that

new precautions are under study to avert such a contingency.

The commission confirmed the primary cause of the blackout, which is now pretty well known. It was a tiny relay at Canada's Sir Adam Beck hydroelectric plant on the Niagara River that started the chain reaction that in a matter of minutes spread over 80,000 square miles of New York, New England and central Canada. The report suggests that the Beck employees should have reset the electric relay there that handles power loads to take account of the considerable increase that occurred since the device was last set two years ago. It also suggests that employees of the Consolidated Edison Company, if they had acted quickly and shut down parts of their system at the first sign of trouble, could have prevented the blackout. But it boiled down, the report concedes, to a matter of judgment with only minutes to act. Most of lower New England and southern New York blacked out 12 minutes after the initial troubles in Canada.

The commissioners have made a laudable effort to look on the bright side of a dark picture. They found, for example, that there was no evidence of sabotage. Also, that people didn't panic. There was no widespread looting. Actually, statistics showed that the crime rates throughout the area fell below normal for the blackout period. More than one air tragedy was averted at airports in the first moments of the blackout because of the bright, moonlit night. And while more than 850 hospitals were without power because of the failure, no patient deaths are known to have resulted. Most hospitals had some form of standby power available.

However, there is need for an industry-wide study of the adequacy of automatic equipment, also a thorough review of training procedures for emergencies. There may be need, also, for additional legislation to give the government more authority and power over the reliability of power supply, because of the enormous interstate networks that now exist.

An Ontario commission is conducting its own inquiry into the matter, and its findings will likely be of a similar nature. More important, it is to be hoped that whatever remedial action is proposed will be implemented without undue delay.

Hints To The Canny

Want to save on your next income tax? Then do a little planning now before the end of the year, urges a writer in the current issue of the Financial Post. He lays down some precepts of fairly general application in this regard; such as, for example, paying pledges to charity which will total more than the standard \$100 deduction, before Dec. 31. Also one's medical and dental bills. If one's expenses are at or near 3 per cent of one's estimated net income, it may be a good idea to have further medical or dental work done—if you can get an appointment. But the bills must be paid before the yearend, regardless of what may be recovered from insurance, if they're to reduce the tax collector's take.

Small businessmen, farmers, professional people and others operating on a "cash basis" are also advised that they may save on income tax if they prepay deductible expenses before Dec. 31. Those who have carried on business all year may buy depreciable assets such as cars and office equipment before the end of the year and claim depreciation at the proper rate for the whole year.

And hark to this, young blades! Another way to save on income tax is to get married before the end of the year. This enables the groom to claim a \$1,000 marital exemption. If the wife does not earn more than \$250 before yearend, the \$1,000 exemption will not be reduced. The Post writer fears that these reflections may "take a lot of the romance" out of the affair, but isn't he being over-solicitous on this point? With the cost of living going up the way it is, matrimonial plunges can do with all the economic support they can get these days. A tax cut at such times is not to be sneezed at.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Scientists, reports the New York Times, have at last authoritatively confirmed what air passengers long have suspected—that anybody who feels abnormal after jetting across an ocean or a continent is normal. They have come up with the final results of the first precise testing of people who have flown fast through many time zones. The findings showed psychological disruption and confusion for 24 hours. Body functions were out of order for three to five days.



BRINGING HIM DOWN TO EARTH

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Smooth Performance By Mr. Martin

There's a tradition in the Press Gallery that demands instant news from meetings of the Cabinet. Since time immemorial, journalists have laid in wait for the prime minister and other ministers as they emerge from the Council Chamber. With the post-war growth of the Press Gallery from 42 to 127 members, overcrowding of the exit has become complete blockage. Recently Prime Minister Pearson reacted testily against this running the gamut, and set up a new system: after each Cabinet meeting either he or a civil service aide will brief the press in a calm and orderly pre-conference.

The first briefing by an aide led to justified protests; not having been in the Cabinet meeting he could neither say what had happened nor answer questions. So, last week acting Prime Minister Paul Martin, in his most suave pol manner, told us he would correct things. From monkeyshines with Mike, we switched abruptly to oral perambulations by Paul. He gave us the full treatment, fifty-five minutes of trivia, Pauline publicity, and views wrapped in verbiage.

PAUL SPARKLES

Paul Martin of course is a real trouper. He began by announcing a payment of \$2 per ton on the sugar beet crop. "This will be of great interest to the constituents of Essex East beamed the old pro, who of course, is elected to parliament by those very constituents. Then he announced two 3½-day holiday weekends for civil servants.

Canadian sanctions against Rhodesia and pause. "I have been in Cabinet all day, he said in a weary voice. It was after 5 p.m. when the seven hour meeting had ended—no Cabinet apparently had decided nothing else. So we then heard at length about Paul's forthcoming visit to London to consult with government leaders about Rhodesia and to Paris where, this year being Canada's turn, he will preside at the NATO ministerial council meeting.

Far more interesting than what Paul said was his manner of saying it, and his reaction to his audience. There were perhaps forty journalists and half as many of Paul's aides almost filling the square paneled room. There were two television cameras and TV cookers, or lights, violently roasting an exhausted

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 15, 1940) A reported German attempt to send Nazi troops through France to Libya and Greece to help Italy without disturbing the Italian home morale was declared to have been rebuffed by France with a flat "no" from chief of state Marshal Philippe Pétain.

Lieut. Frederick A. Large arrived safely in England, according to word received by Mrs. Large, Charlottetown. Lieut. Large left an East Coast Canadian port some time before in charge of naval ratings.

TEN YEARS AGO

(December 15, 1958) Last Wednesday Mayor David Stewart of Charlottetown presented a key to the City to Premier A.W. Matheson of Prince Edward Island.

"Christmas in the Market Place," the season's opening presentation by the Charlottetown Little Theatre Guild was presented in the auditorium of Queen Charlotte High School. The play was directed by Elizabeth Willett. The presentation was enhanced by the inclusion of special music by the Charlottetown Choral, with William Keith Rogers conducting.

Polypoid Lesions

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Polyps of the rectum are suspected when there is bleeding or bloody mucus noted in the stool. Investigation also is in order whenever bowel habits change, such as the occurrence of constipation or diarrhea in an individual who was regular. The same can be said when abdominal cramps develop and, more so, when distress fails to respond to medication.

These lesions are potentially dangerous because they may become cancerous or cause obstruction. The possibility of this happening is not great but why take a chance when a simple remedy is available? They are easily seen through a special tube (sigmoidoscope) that is inserted into the rectum. If this examination were made on 100 adults selected at random from the street, these tumors would be found in five to seven of the group.

What do polyps look like? They vary in size and shape but the majority resemble miniature punching bags. Some look like small, slightly raised tumors and others grow from the wall of the intestines as small velvety projections. When lesions of these types are seen in the sigmoidoscope, the polyp is removed, sent to the laboratory and additional surgery may be recommended if it is cancerous. The chance of the tumor being malignant is less than one in six.

But the problems associated with polyps of the rectum and colon are not always this simple. Half of those with these tumors never have symptoms; the lesions are found incidentally during a routine examination. The sigmoidoscope is not a long tube and X-ray studies are needed to uncover lesions that are beyond the reach of this instrument.

This procedure is recommended whenever bleeding or other symptoms of polyps develop and the sigmoidoscope examination is normal. The usual studies are a barium enema and air contrast tests.

SLEEP POSTURE

G. H. writes: Is it harmful to sleep with the arms above the head?

REPLY No. Exceptions occur if this posture results in pressure that disturbs the circulation or causes tingling of the arms. This happens occasionally when the nerves or blood vessels leading to the upper extremities are pinched by muscles, tendons, or ligaments in the neck when the arms are held in the position mentioned.

WATER WITH SULFA

M. H. writes: Why does doctor advise drinking lots of water when sulfa pills are taken?

REPLY When the sulfonamide has done its work, it leaves the body via the kidneys. Extra water is consumed to keep the chemical in solution while passing through these organs; otherwise blockage may develop because of crystal formation.

BOOD DONOR

B. R. writes: Soon after I donated blood I developed blackouts. Would replacing the blood solve my problem?

REPLY Possibly. The blood is replaced within four to six weeks, and the blackouts should disappear if they are related to the donation.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Kissing and Cuddling Upsets Professor." Headline. Perhaps he's too old for that sort of thing.—Calgary Journal.

Grandpa took the kids to a Saturday afternoon cowboy movie. The box-office window listed only the children's admission price. "How much for adults?" he asked. "If you can stand it, man, you're in for free."—Hamilton Spectator.

A new twist on strong language from John Cohen, a British professor: "The human who first abused his fellows with swear-words instead of bashing their brains out with a club should be counted among those who laid the foundations of civilization."—Ottawa Journal.

Nigeria's Proposal

By Carl Mallins Canadian Press Staff Writer

Nigeria's plan for an emergency Commonwealth conference about Rhodesia could give the family of nations a necessary injection of pep. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa of Nigeria, till now a respected but almost hidden persuader in Commonwealth affairs, has stepped into the open with his weekend proposal for a meeting of Commonwealth heads of government next month in Lagos, Nigeria's capital.

In his messages to other Commonwealth governments, Balewa suggested the meeting should consider means by which the rebel white-minority regime in Rhodesia could be "speedily and effectively brought to an end."

COULD SERVE AFRICA

His initiative could serve the interests of the African countries, the British government and the Commonwealth in extracting some of the acrimony from arguments over the best way to set Rhodesia on the road to Negro-majority rule.

The 16 African Commonwealth members are committed in theory to a Dec. 3 ministerial resolution of the Organization of African Unity pledging a break in relations with Britain if the rebel Rhodesian regime still is in existence Wednesday.

African governments now in doubt about the wisdom of the OAU resolution could use the

The Disappearing Armies

Milwaukee Journal

Ever wonder how the war against Japan happened to end? You probably think that Japan surrendered to the United States?

That isn't the version of the Soviet Union. The Russians forced the surrender, they claim.

It isn't the version of the Chinese Communists. A 1959 textbook is quoted by Radio Free Europe: "The Soviet Union declared war on Japan on August 8, 1945. The brave Soviet Red Army, the main force of the global anti-fascist war, pushed in four columns to northwest China, and swooped down upon the enemy troops. The tremendous aid given by the Soviet Union to the Chinese people during the war of resistance, and the annihilation of the Japanese Kwangtung army by the Soviet Red Army contributed enormously to the Chinese people's victory over their enemy."

That will teach the Soviet Union to disagree with the Chinese Reds on ideology. They'll disappear from the Chinese history books just as we did.

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