The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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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, Montague, Alberton, and Souris.

Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers Advertising Services, Toronto, 425 University Ave. Empire 3-8894; Montreal, 640 Cathcart Street University 6-5942; Western Office, 1030 West Georgia Street, Vancouver (MA 7037).

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Not over 40c per week by carrier.

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$15.00 a year off Island and U.K. $20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.

Not over 7c single copy.

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Abroad And At Home

We are fortunate in Canada to have escaped the ravages of floods that have left thousands of victims homeless in Oregon, California and other western states over the weekend, with the death toll still mounting and damage running into a billion dollars. Entire communities have been wiped out in some sections, and parts of five states have been declared disaster areas. Amid the harrowing details given in a San Francisco dispatch was a footnote about battered Christmas trees floating among the surging debris, symbols of the wrecked hopes of many who had been looking forward to joyous family gatherings at this season.

We have indeed reason to be thankful to have escaped such visitations of nature. But complacency is another thing; and it is worth noting that nature isn't always responsible for conditions of widespread hardship and suffering. They exist right in our own favored land at this season of cheer and goodwill, and throughout the year, for that matter. They exist because we have chosen, by and large, to ignore them.

They don't make the headlines as a catastrophic storm would do. But according to Hon. J. R. Nicholson, the federal minister in charge of this country's main housing agency, nearly 100,000 Canadian families live in conditions that are a disgrace to their communities. He told a federal-provincial symposium of housing and urban renewal that greater attention must be given to those Canadians who are living in "forgotten pockets" of urban poverty, in surroundings that are unfit for human beings.

Apart from the despair and degradation which such conditions create, neglected areas impose an unnecessary drain on the civic economy, Mr. Nicholson said. Municipal services become more costly while assessments decline. He called for a broad coalition of federal, provincial and municipal forces to attack the problem.

Such projects may in fact now be undertaken within the framework of the National Housing Act and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Canada is fortunate that it has the machinery at all levels of government to attack these problems, and it is to be hoped that the year 1965 will mark the beginning of a concerted effort to do so.

Mr. Thompson's Overtures

Many people will agree with Mr. Robert Thompson that the Conservative Party is passing through a grave leadership crisis. It is threatened with the loss of all its French-Canadian support, and it is tragic that a party with its traditions and background should come to such a pass. However, there is irony in the fact that the Social Credit leader should be so solicitous about the course it is taking.

Indeed, the Globe and Mail hazards the guess that he must have been speaking with his tongue far into his cheek when he undertook, recently, to analyze the malaise afflicting the Conservatives. During the palmy days of Social Credit early in this parliamentary session, it recalls, Mr. Thompson was challenged to join his fellow Socreds in caucus to discuss party policy—in French. The embarrassment ended when he separated or was separated from his French Canadian members who followed his deputy leader, Mr. Caouette, into revolt and thereby left Mr. Thompson with a corporal's guard to call a party.

"The Social Credit leader might therefore be regarded as something less than an authority on political unity," says our Toronto contemporary. "And yet, there are reports from Ottawa that Mr. Thompson would like to lead some of his Socreds into a political marriage with Progressive Conservatives. Is his tongue still in his cheek?"

Not necessarily; but it is a fact that Mr. Thompson lost no time in heaping praise on Mr. Balcer when Mr. Balcer announced that he might leave the Tories. "Canada," Mr. Thompson said at that time, "needs a coming together of men of like mind, dedicated to the preservation of the country. . . I believe that Mr. Balcer is such a man." He also said that Canada is in a sorry mess and that what is needed is a "realignment of political forces in terms of principles which affect the unity of our nation."

Plainly, Mr. Thompson is putting the welcome mat out for any defectors from the Tory party who may feel themselves lonely sitting as independents. His selfless willingness to give up leading a distinctly minor party that isn't going anywhere for the job of leading a major party if he can just string one together is what is most obvious at this time.

We don't think he's joking at all. It's his deadly seriousness that makes his overtures most disquieting, for those at least who believe that the Conservatives haven't completely lost their marbles and are still capable of settling their differences in the national interest.

The Death Penalty

There is a good prospect that during the coming year, capital punishment will be abolished both in the United Kingdom and in Canada. Recently, by a massive vote of 355 to 170, the British House of Commons approved abolition, and a similar bill is scheduled to come up in the Canadian Commons early next year.

In Britain the bill to replace execution with life imprisonment now awaits debate in the House of Lords, which rejected abolition of the death penalty in 1956. But that was when a Conservative government, opposed to the measure, was in power. It is a "free vote" this time and the expectations are that the bill will be passed and cleared for royal assent in the near future.

At Ottawa, too, party ties will be removed when the vote is called, and every member will be at liberty to vote as he chooses.

The only concerted attack on the death sentence in the Canadian Parliament has come from the New Democratic Party. But it is believed that a similar opinion is widely held in Liberal and Conservative ranks. Indeed, under both party governments in recent years, commutation of capital sentences by Cabinet order-in-council has been the rule rather than the exception. Nor is there any doubt as to the trend of public opinion which has been building up against the death penalty in this country.

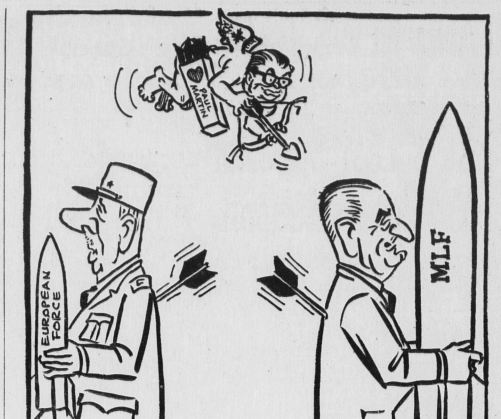
It is not surprising that newspapermen, for the most part, are strong supporters of the proposed measure. It is their grim duty to cover the details of hangings when they occur. We have yet to know of one who has done this personally, and is able to look back on his experience with anything but horror.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Keep slush and ice off headlights, tail lights and direction signals in winter. Check them every day, advises the Canadian Highway Safety Council.

* * *

Zambia, like other African nations, is getting rid of British names and monuments and substituting its own. It has been having trouble in renaming the famed falls that David Livingstone was the first white man to visit. It plans to change Victoria falls to Mosiotunya or Shongwa. But Zambia owns only half of Victoria falls—the boundary with Rhodesia goes right down the middle of the Zambezi river and splits the falls in two. Tourists have long traveled to see Victoria falls and have left a welcome lot of money in their wake. The Rhodesians have too much sense to risk losing all this by renaming their half of an established tourist magnet.



CANADA'S NATO WEAPONS

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Sees Need For Business Men In Politics

The Dollar Curtain between business men and Parliament Hill is an undeniable fact of Canada's life. Neither the present Pearson Cabinet, nor its predecessor the Diefenbaker Cabinet, would compare favourably with the board of directors of any multi-million dollar Canadian company, measured by the yardsticks of efficient administration and coolly-judged priorities. In fact neither Pearson nor Diefenbaker have ever operated a peanut stall—and one wonders whether either could do so profitably.

Yet the experience and ability and judgment of a number of successful business men could make an invaluable contribution to Canada on Parliament Hill. Official income tax reports show that there are nearly 4,000 millionaires in Canada—most of them self-made financial successes.

Patriotism suggests that many of these should be prepared to contribute their ability for a few years in later life to the country which has made their success possible. But of those 4,000, the number of such practising patriots now on Parliament Hill could be counted on the thumb of one hand.

His name is Malcolm Wallace McCutcheon.

OTTAWA NEEDS DIRESTORS

The most respected and active of Canada's younger Senators—Wally McCutcheon is only 58 years old—recently spoke to an audience of business men in London, Ontario on this subject. "The water is fine—come on in," he told them.

Bellyaching about the policies or attitudes of your provincial or federal government won't do you, your party, your province or your country a bit of good, he said. "Politics needs a lot fewer Monday morning quarterbacks, and a lot more Saturday afternoon linemen and ball carriers."

"Business men, whether they are small '1' liberals or small 'c' conservatives in their political leanings, have not been playing their full role in our principal political parties, and hence in the government of our country. Far from it."

"What I want to convince you of," said the Senator, "is this: First, that more business men should involve themselves actively in politics, either as candidates and members of legislatures and parliament, or as active workers and supporters of a political party. And second, that in any event business men should encourage rather than discourage their friends, associates and employees to become active in politics as candidates or supporters; and that business men have a duty to promote, foster and encourage political awareness political education, political interest and activity."

FROM BAY STREET

Senator McCutcheon made his debut in politics when he was 56 years old. He had spent years of his life in private business, but significantly he gave much time to active work on behalf of many charitable organizations. He won fame and fortune as one of "The Four Horsemen" who built up the E.P. Tayor industrial empire.

An expert in organization and management, he was an outstanding success in fostering the development of successful businesses, and thus he helped to create many good jobs for Canadians in resource industries, in manufacturing and in service industries.

Late in the Diefenbaker years, he was appointed to the Cabinet, where he at once shone as a tower of strength through his ability, his experience and his judgment. But the ship was already bound for the rocks, and struck before he had time to emerge as a later and greater C. D. Howe. However, at his present age, he has many years of useful service yet ahead of him. Not the least of his services to Canada is his latest plea to other business men to come on in where the water is fine.

For Eager Tourists

Hamilton Spectator

The many permanent advantages of holding a World's Fair or a Pan- American Games in one's own backyard are almost numberless. Montreal, with its World's Fair (Expo '67) scheduled for 1967, and Winnipeg, scene of the 1967 Pan- American Games, are finding this out already.

True, considerable debt will probably be incurred in the production of both events, but in the long run the two host cities will be lasting beneficiaries of the government and private business subsidization that made the Fair and the Games possible.

Montreal, for example, will have the man-made island in the St. Lawrence that cost millions of dollars to construct. It will also have the new roads and tunnels built to serve the fair. And, it will have a giant 1,066-foot tower that will rival the Eiffel Tower as a tourist attraction.

The Eiffel Tower, incidentally, was built for the Paris Exposition of 1889. Since then, more than 100 million tourists have visited it.

It is conceivable that the tower to be built in Montreal will become almost as great a tourist attraction as New York's Empire State Building. Commanding a magnificent view of the mighty St. Lawrence and the metropolis, it should attract welcome tourist dollars.

As for Winnipeg, it will reap lasting benefits from the construction of the stadium that will be used for the Pan-American Games' main events. In addition, the thriving Western metropolis will benefit from the swimming pool, roads, and various buildings that are being constructed to take care of the competitors and the influx of visitors.

More than anything, a host city is rewarded with valuable publicity that pays rich dividends for years after the events have passed into mothballs. That is why cities spend millions of dollars pressing their claims for World's Fairs and Olympic Games.

Postal Peephole Ended

Fort William Times — Journal

The battle against post office peepholes has been won. Canada's Postmaster-General Nicholson has announced that all of them in operation are suspended "indefinitely."

Fort William became the centre of the controversy when plans for peepholes were being installed. In their protest, postal workers received a vigorous assist from Fort William's member in the House, Hubert Badanai, and a great deal of publicity on the matter ensued.

With public attention focused on the questioned merit of a secret eye on the dishonest employee, the pendulum of opinion swung in favor of the protesting employees who disliked having their honesty questioned. The feeling grew general that to have an inspector watch a man in the privacy of a toilet was utterly distasteful.

Concerned primarily with the protection of public money entrusted to the care of the post office, officials at Ottawa were reluctant to alter the established method of detecting thievery. It has been suggested that in addition to the arguments presented by Hubert Badanai, the decision of the United States postal authorities to do away with peepholes had its influence on yesterday's announcement at Ottawa. Were this so, it would just be possible that the furore over the question in Fort William reached the ears of Washington and set a change in motion.

At any rate, the vast majority of Canadians will agree that we are well rid of the peepholes.

Mr. Wilson's Ruse

Montreal Gazette

Prime Minister Harold Wilson is a clever man. His Tory opponents might be inclined to say he is too clever by half. But the uproar he deliberately caused in the British House of Commons was a brilliant stroke.

Mr. Wilson launched a furious assault upon the idea that Britain has an independent nuclear deterrent. Giving what he regarded as facts and figures, he tore the concept to shreds. The direct result of course, was to infuriate the Tory Party, even to the extent of making it issue a public statement denying Mr. Wilson's claims. The indirect result was to unite the Labor Party behind Mr. Wilson on his nuclear policy.

It was undoubtedly the indirect result that Mr. Wilson wanted. He had pledged his party to abandon Britain's 'independent' deterrent. The left-wing of the Labor Party, strongly unilateralist in sentiment, might have risen in revolt if Wilson had simply reversed himself. So he put on a dramatic show that enraged the Tories, and united Labor behind him.

What is the reality? The Labor Party, including the left-wing has now supported Mr. Wilson's nuclear policy in a vote. And that policy does not include the scrapping of Britain's nuclear weapons. The largest portion of these weapons will go into an Atlantic Nuclear Force under NATO, if one is ever formed. In theory, they will be given to NATO for good; in practice, they could no doubt be withdrawn in a national emergency, since their crews will presumably be British, and will probably be under British operational command. Some will be kept out of NATO entirely, and will probably be based east of Suez to protect such countries as India against the Chinese nuclear threat.

Amsterdamers, because they live below sea level, can look up and see ships passing by.

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Revaluating Ulcer Freezing

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

The treatment of peptic ulcer by freezing the inner lining of the stomach was started in 1961 at the University of Minnesota. Three years and 15,000 patients laser we are not certain whether the method is worthwhile. Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen, pioneer of this technique, continues to have faith in it and believes further improvements will better the results.

The procedure requires a special freezing unit that circulates alcohol in and out of a balloon swallowed by the patient. The temperature of the alcohol is minus 20 degrees C. and the balloon remains in place 40 to 60 minutes.

The immediate results often are dramatic in that pain disappears and the ulcer crater starts to heal. Acid secretion is depressed but, within a short time, returns to the pre-freeze levels. With each passing month more and more encounter a return of ulcer and distress.

Dr. Wangensteen treated more than 600 ulcer victims. After a period varying from 12 to 30 months, only 14 per cent were free of discomfort. But he remains optimistic because all of these patients had an intractable ulcer that did not respond to diet, pills, powders, and equanimity.

They were candidates for surgical removal of part of the stomach or the bypass operation. Only 4 per cent of the group required surgery. Freezing was justified because it is safer than surgery.

On the other hand, the procedure has been abandoned temporarily in many institutions because more and more of the failures ultimately need operation. Freezing must do a better job than existing methods before it can be accepted as an effective remedy for recurring peptic ulcer.

OVERWEIGHT AFTER STROKE

S.S. writes I had a stroke 3½ years ago and can walk with a cane and have learned to write again. My problem is that I weigh almost 50 pounds too much, due to inactivity. Would it be safe for me to go on a diet?

REPLY

Yes, even though it may be difficult to lose weight because of inactivity.

INFECTION WITH AMEBAS

B.P. writes I have been under treatment for three months for amebic dysentery. Is this condition curable?

REPLY

Yes. In stubborn cases, it may be necessary to use several different remedies at varying intervals to eliminate these parasites.

YOU CAN DONATE

R.S. writes: Recently a relative asked me to donate blood. I refused because I'm taking treatment for high blood pressure. Do you think this is a good reason?

REPLY

No, because loss of blood may help lower a high pressure. If your blood count is normal, removal of a pint of blood should not disturb your equanimity.

SALVES ARE BETTER

Mrs. D.M. writes: Is there a pill for psoriasis? I'd rather take something internally than fool around with messy salves.

REPLY

No. Cortisone helps, but the side reactions are not worth the risk in this skin condition.

FINDING POLYPS

H.L. writes: How are intestinal polyps diagnosed?

REPLY

By means of a sigmoidoscope and X-rays.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT —

Hoarseness from a common cold seldom lasts more than a week.

(Note: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Lobster Quadrille

Christian Science Monitor

"When the sands are all dry, he is gay as a wench,
And will talk in contemptuous tones of the French:
But, when the tide rises and Frenchmen abound,
His voice has a timid and tremulous sound."

That, says Alice, is how she might have responded to the Gryphon if, instead of coming fresh from the Lobster-Quadrille, she had just read last week's newspapers. They carried confirmation that France and Brazil had ended their lobster war. And if the lobsters of the South Atlantic had thought that the continental shelf was going to save them from Breton lobstermen— well, they're going to be disappointed.

Brazil had kept the French lobster-boats at bay by arguing that since the continental shelf was Brazilian territory and lobsters walked on it, lobsters there were inalienably Brazilian and French fishermen were violating sovereignty by coming in and catching them.

But the respite was shortlived—and it looks as if President de Gaulle's recent goodwill visit to Brazil had something to do with it.

Recalling Pierre Loti more than Lewis Carroll, an agreement has been signed in a Breton fishing port whereby 26 boats from Douarnenez and Camaret will be leased to a Brazilian company, and thereafter be allowed to come in over the continental shelf off Brazil to scoop up those lobsters who, perhaps prematurely, had been turning out their toes.

Only 15 percent of the catch will have to be ceded to the Brazilian company.

We do not know which prevails over what: our sympathy with the lobsters or our gentle satisfaction at a typically Latin compromise with honor saved on both sides.

The Mustache Cup

Wall Street Journal

A calamity is predicted by a British trade magazine called Tailor and Cutter. So we should all be on guard. The forecast could be the work of vested interest, of course. Nevertheless, when such a setback to civilization seems possible to anyone, everyone should be informed: the mustache is going out.

The rising generation — even its currently bearded sector — is eschewing the mustache where, we are told in novels of a more romantic age, its forebears merely chewed it. The British paper says the mustache today is "invariably" an adornment for men over 40. It may be seen again after its present droop toward oblivion.

The wax industry is duly warned to turn its attention entirely to floors and automobile bodies. Potteries should revise any plans they may have made for reviving the old mustache cup.

But where else are the economic implications of what if after all the prognostication of a business magazine? They are there all right. And they bear on the future of men's clothes.

This is an era of innovation in young men's dress (in case you hadn't noticed). In periods of sartorial innovation the mustache is an unnecessary display of vanity, the magazine declares, perhaps preferring the kind of vanity that makes profits for tailors instead of barbers.

Post Changes Hands

London Press Press

PRESIDENT Johnson was no doubt entirely sincere in his tribute to his departing Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges. The former North Carolina governor, in an exacting post, and in difficult years, had worked toward the "prudence and progress" which has come to be the hallmark of the Johnson administration.

Mr. Hodges is only the second of the Kennedy cabinet to resign since Mr. Johnson entered the White House. He had previously indicated a desire to leave the position on personal grounds since he will soon be 67.

Mr. Hodges during his tenure was faced with numerous problems of delicacy, among them the U.S. balance of payments position, the Russian wheat deal, and the groundwork for the "Kennedy Round" of tariff negotiations.

Mr. Hodges was not always in tune with Canadian trade aspirations. He opposed Canada's automotive export incentive plan, but later had a leading part in seeking a compromise which may now take the form of freer trade.

The new secretary - designate, John T. Connor, is a leading New Jersey industrialist. He was among the businessmen who was active in the support of Johnson during the presidential campaign and is no doubt prepared to endorse the President's stand against high - pressure tactics at home and abroad.

PLAN STEEL PLANT

HYDERABAD (Reuters)—Sahiya Reddy, India's minister for steel and mines, said Saturday an agreement with Russia for a steel plant at Bokaro will be signed before the end of the year.

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