

Leadership Sadly Lacking

In their letter to the City Council, replying to a Council request of three months ago to install the necessary equipment for water fluoridation, the Water Commissioners stated their decision to hold a plebiscite "because of the controversial nature of the subject, the many requests from individual citizens not to fluoridate the water and the many cautions to proceed carefully."

Certainly the Commissioners cannot be accused of acting hastily! They have allegedly been pondering this question for three years and more—ever since they first vetoed a Council resolution in its favor. Evidence has been presented to them of the sound health value of the measure from every qualified source. If they have heard argument to the contrary we have yet to know whence it came, or on what grounds it was based.

Now we find that their plebiscite announcement was made without consulting their solicitor, who states that the Water Commission has no authority to take such a ballot. Sanction must first be obtained from the Legislature. This will involve a further delay of several months, even if prompt action is taken in preparing the necessary application. In the meantime, of course, there is nothing to prevent action on the Council's resolution without a plebiscite, except the Commission's determination to shirk responsibility. The excuses given for this dereliction are, to say the least, flimsy and misleading.

We note that in their letter to the Council the Commissioners state that "only twenty-three communities are fluoridating their water supply at the present time." The latest statement we have seen lists twenty-eight communities, representing nearly a million Canadians who are enjoying the benefits of this treatment. The Commissioners also state that "Toronto Township and Renfrew abandoned fluoridation after its adoption"; but they do not explain that this was due to a technicality in the wording of the Ontario statute and not to dissatisfaction with fluoridation. Why this omission? and why the omission of any reference to the requests received from responsible organizations in this city, backed by the City Health Officer, the Provincial Health Department, and our medical and dental bodies? Why the emphasis on anonymous opponents of the scheme, whose qualifications to act as advisors on a vital health issue we can only judge by the fact that they prefer to remain anonymous?

Surely the public is entitled to all the information the Commissioners profess to have gathered on this subject, rather than the distorted picture given in their letter to the City Council. The tenor of their letter, and indeed of their whole course of action, is open to serious criticism. We believe that they, or their successors in office, will eventually have to take action in this matter. But in the meantime the younger generation is being penalized; and the tragedy is that it is the families of our poorer citizens who are being penalized the most. It is they who find it hardest to meet the cost of adequate dental treatment for their children, which fluoridation would reduce to such a great extent.

Great Potentialities

In the "New Commonwealth" Robert Jamieson gives an interesting and informative account of the British Newfoundland Corporation. BRINCO was established about five years ago, mainly with British capital. It has three main interests: timber, mining and water power. Its timber concessions amount to 1450 square miles of black spruce. The potentialities of this reserve are now being investigated by Crown Zellerbach Corporation which has an agreement with the Newfoundland Government, whereby it will decide within a specified time whether it is prepared to build new paper mills in Labrador and Newfoundland. Exploration is now under way. Mining activities are being conducted in the Makkovik belt in Lab-

rador, the Halls Bay region on Newfoundland's North East coast and the Bay of Islands on the West coast. A new uranium deposit in the Makkovik area is said to be the richest discovered since the Eldorado mine at Great Slave Lake.

BRINCO has completed surveys for a 350,000 h.p. development at Bay d'Espoir on the South coast of the Province. It appears likely that one of the new paper mills, should the projects be found feasible, will be located there. A bigger development—2 million h.p.—is planned for Hamilton Falls, Labrador. Negotiations are now proceeding with prospective customers for this vast reservoir of power.

All this is further indication of the great industrial development in store for our sister Province.

"Recognition" Again

External Affairs Minister Smith has let it be known that diplomatic recognition of Communist China is under consideration in Ottawa. At the same time, he declared that there is no "divergence of opinion" on the matter between himself and Prime Minister Diefenbaker. That's strange. It was only two or three weeks ago that Mr. Smith intimated that he was in favour of recognition. At about the same time and on another occasion since Mr. Diefenbaker stated that he was not in favour of it "at this time"

Mr. Smith's latest statement would seem to imply one of two things; either he has come around to the Prime Minister's view or the Prime Minister has come around to his. If the former, there will be no recognition of China; for it is inconceivable that the Cabinet would go against the wishes of the Prime Minister and the Minister for External Affairs; in fact, it would be quite impossible for the Cabinet so to act. If the latter, we may expect a decision in favour of recognition any day now. It would seem to be a reasonable thing to do. It could not make the Chinese Communists any more intractable than they are; and it might possibly make them less so, especially if in due course they were given a seat in the United Nations. Only the United States, of all the nations of the world—not counting Nationalist China—is really opposed to that now.

It is really beginning to look as though the Canadian Government is at last convinced that it is unrealistic to refuse to recognize the existence of a Government that controls a nation of 600 million people and is hesitant about saying so frankly out of deference to U.S. Secretary of State Dulles.

EDITORIAL NOTES

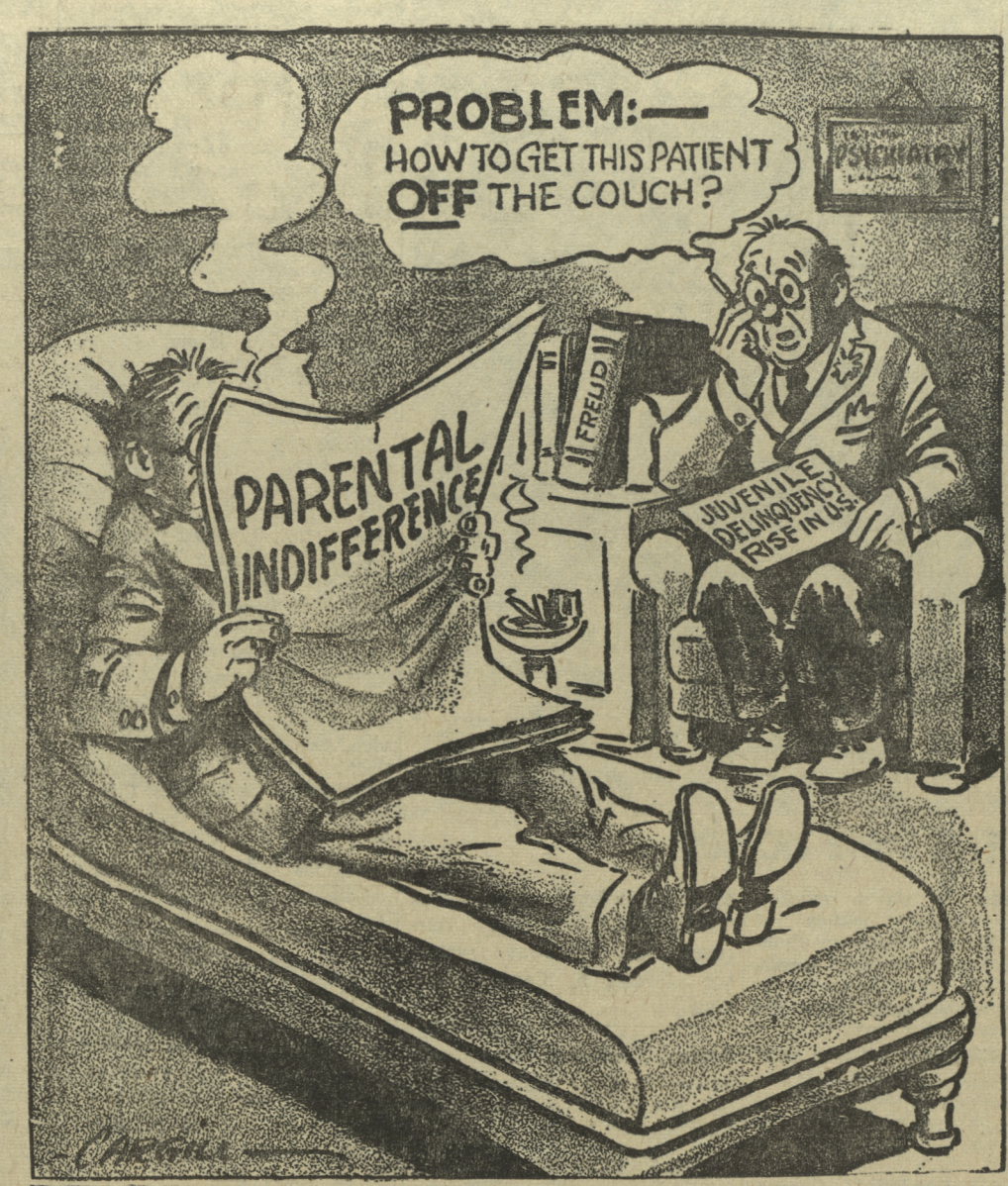
65 inches of snow have fallen in upper New York State since late November. So, all things considered, we in this region have very little to complain about, as far as the weather is concerned.

After months of bickering over cold-war issues, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution calling on nations to "live in neighbourly relations." Nothing very specific about that; but on the other hand no country can very well take exception to the wording.

Colonel Davis, comptroller 64th (U.S.) Air Division at Peppercorn Base, near St. John's, paid a fine tribute to Newfoundland by asking his superiors to extend his period of service at the base. He said that Newfoundland hospitality was unequalled anywhere he had been and that it was impossible to exaggerate the beauty of the scenery.

While visiting the Khyber Pass on the Pakistan border, Prime Minister Diefenbaker was presented with three sheep by tribal chiefs. Following the custom in that part of the world, he returned the animals to the donors with many thanks. Thus the Prime Minister and his party were spared what might have been an annoying chore. No one likes to have to look after sheep when traveling.

The St. Lawrence Seaway may help rather than hinder port operations in the Atlantic region, D. V. Gonder, General Manager of the C.N.R. Atlantic area told a meeting in Halifax the other day. "I can visualize," he said, "that any general increase in seaborne traffic via the Seaway might result in established routes which will produce increased traffic in winter". That may be true. But no port can thrive on winter traffic alone. The only way that Halifax and St. John can be reasonably sure of their share of traffic is for the Government to set the toll's high enough to make traffic competitive.



DOCTOR'S DILEMMA

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.

TIME, TOURISTS, AND COUNTRY COUSINS "Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay. Princes and Lords may flourish and may fade, A breath can make them, as a breath can make them, But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, When once destroyed can never be supplied."

Sir—The above lines came forcibly to my mind on reading a letter entitled "Daylight Saving Time", written by J.A. MacDonald of Rice Point, and appearing in your issue of Nov. 27th.

In this letter Mr. MacDonald deals with several facts besides the much-mooted question of saving daylight—facts that all take together with this question would seem to show that the people of Charlottetown, City Fathers and leading business men included, care little or nothing for the welfare and comfort of their country cousins who visit their city daily for business or pleasure.

This writer points out very properly, too, the obvious fact that Charlottetown owes its very existence, commercially speaking, to the sturdy farmers and fishermen of our Province, and not, as some would have us believe, to the gay birds of passage, who visit us for a few overcrowded weeks of summer.

Notwithstanding this main dependence on our farmers and fishermen, one could hear all last summer continual expressions of regret from the City Fathers and leading businessmen of Charlottetown for the lack of proper accommodations for the gay birds, the summer tourists, but not a single expression of regret for the same lack in the case of their good old friends from the country.

Citizens of Charlottetown should surely be aware that a great change, complete and radical, has taken place in the accommodations once provided by the city folk for their friends and relatives from the country. Time was and not so very long ago, when every man and woman, and boy and girl, who visited Charlottetown for business or pleasure had a favorite resort to which they resorted for rest and sociability before, and in between the hours during which they transacted business. This resort was the good old-fashioned boarding house, or the equally homelike small hotel.

In these favorite resorts country people, young and old, found not only rest and a well-filled and sociable dinner table, but they found also access to public toilets, even enough in some cases, but infinitely better than none at all—and none at all seems to be the word for these days in Charlottetown. Equally congenial, too, as a friendly meeting place for farmers, were the comfortable stables provided for their most beloved horses of those days.

The old-fashioned boarding-house and home-like hotel and horse stable are past and gone, and what have we in Charlottetown to take their place? Restaurants galore, of course and there are some good ones in this city where men and women eat and drink, and of course, smoke—a naughty and habit, by the way, in the old horse and buggy days when no gentleman would think of smoking without permission in the close presence of a lady. But, O Tempora, O Mores! the best restaurant in Charlottetown falls far short of the solid comforts provided by the old boarding-house and the old hotel. But "the old order changeth giving place to new", and ill-advised regrets for the good old days are useless.

OTTAWA REPORT

Spotlight On Labor Unions

By Patrick Nicholson

The spotlight is being increasingly focussed on labor unions in Canada, as some embarrassing questions are being posed even by union members themselves. What is the function of a labor union? To whom does it owe responsibility? Is it a democratic institution? Is it fulfilling its function?

Some answers can be seen in recent polls of public opinion. 47 out of every 100 Canadians believe that the most important task of any union today is to strive for security of employment. In contrast, 33 in every 100 believe that the least important task is to obtain higher wages and 27 in every 100 believe that the least important task is to obtain shorter working hours.

In another poll, sampling members of non-union households, one Canadian in five feels that unions are too prone to strike and one in five feels they indulge in excessive agitation and demands. It is very significant that these figures are almost exactly matched by the opinion in union households too.

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS Some recent newspaper headlines tell the tale of an unwelcome trend. "Strong-arm union methods appear—remedies asked" says the Montreal Gazette, expressing "concern about the introduction of American union bare-knuckle methods in Canadian labor activities."

"Royal Commission charges Teamsters Union with intimidation," says the Ottawa Journal. "Union Head seeks ouster of U.S. power" says another paper, reporting that "a labor official says the time has arrived for the Canadian Government to pass laws prohibiting foreign unions from operating in Canada." Management of course have very decided views in this subject.

"Urges curb on powers of Un- tive must be planned and done in Charlottetown to compensate for the loss of certain good old things; and personally, I feel sure that something will be done in the near future.

I have little doubt that when the City Fathers erect a new building on the site of the recently destroyed Market Building, they will provide, among other things, in it, a suitable meeting and resting place for visitors to the city, and especially for visitors from the country.

Let the whole building, in fact, be designed primarily for the people of Prince Edward Island, and if it proves good enough for them, it should surely prove good enough for the tourist from Boston and Missouri too.

I am reminded again in concluding this letter, that Mr. MacDonald's letter which inspired mine, was entitled "Daylight Saving Time", although he dealt, briefly, and only in his closing paragraph with this subject, in which paragraph he described his daylight saving device as the "height of nonsense". With this description I agree.

Enthusiastic advocates of Daylight Saving Time should be reminded that daylight time is controlled by the sun, and not by the town clock. The folly of trying to lengthen it by changing the clock was aptly described some years ago on the floor of our House of Assembly by a witty M.L.A. from Summerside. He compared the attempt to save daylight by putting forward the clock, to the Irishman who tried to lengthen his blanket by cutting off a foot from the head of it and sewing it on to the foot of it.

The vast majority of Prince Edward Islanders stubbornly maintain that a blanket cannot be lengthened in this way. But "can this darn little Island be right, and all the world wrong?" I am, Sir, etc.

M. MacKENZIE Argyle Shore

Ways To Tell If Alcoholic

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

GENERALLY I try to write something of interest to all of my readers. This one, however, is a column exclusively for heavy drinkers and their families. I'm not going to point an accusing finger, but I am going to give you some guides to help you determine just how close you may be to becoming an alcoholic.

ON WATER WAGON Even alcoholics can go on the water wagon. In fact, many of them feel that they have to, for a while at least, to prove to others that they don't really need alcohol.

So don't be lulled into a false sense of security simply because you know you can "lay off the stuff" temporarily.

BEER EQUALLY RISKY And don't labor under the delusion that you can't become an alcoholic because you drink only beer. There are alcoholics who have managed to drink their way into an almost habitual state of intoxication on beer alone.

There are many changes in your drinking pattern which should tell you whether you have become an alcoholic. An alcoholic is distinguished from a frequent or steady drinker by his attitude.

MUST HAVE DRINK Generally we concede that a person is an alcoholic when it is not merely a matter of wanting a drink, but of absolutely needing one.

If you right along feel that you simply must have a drink for your nerves then you probably are an alcoholic. If you feel that you just must have a drink or two before going to a party where you know you will get alcoholic beverages, then you probably are at least close to an alcoholic.

REGULAR INTERVALS If you feel that a drink is always essential at regular intervals, then you probably are at least close to becoming an alcoholic.

If you find yourself lying about your drinking and making promises about it which you never keep, chances are you are an alcoholic.

FOREIGN BONDAGE There must inevitably be considerable doubts raised as to the merits of workers belonging to unions whose headquarters are located in a foreign country whose policy is largely inspired in that foreign country and equated to conditions in that country rather than in Canada. An example of this is the demand expressed in some industries for "wage parity" with the U.S.A. This disregards differences in the purchasing power of the dollar in the two countries, differences in production costs, and differences in productivity, all of which should have a bearing upon wages.

It is unsatisfactory for foreign management to dictate the policy of Canadian companies; it is just as unsatisfactory for foreign leadership to dictate the policy of Canadian labor.

QUESTION AND ANSWER C. Y.: Is non-traumatic neuritis a form of neurasthenia and what causes it? Answer: Non-traumatic neuritis is an inflammation of a nerve not caused by an injury. It may often be caused by infection, dietary deficiencies and rheumatic conditions, and it is

ion, says member "which is becoming so popular and which all Canadian workers, desirous of belonging to true Canadian unions, welcome and congratulate." It is certainly a strange pass we have reached when workers attempting to form a Canadian union, in place of a foreign union, are charged with launching an undemocratic splinter organization. This new trend of thought among union members deserves every sympathy and encouragement. It would be a great day for Canada if foreign directors of companies and foreign officials of unions could be outlawed simultaneously.

Khrushchev's Berlin Note

By W. N. Ewer United Kingdom Information Service

It is difficult to believe that Mr. Khrushchev's proposal that West Berlin shall become "an independent political entity, a free city" is seriously intended. It is impossible that he should have believed that it could be acceptable either to West Berliners (who understandably regard their city as being already "free") in the sense of the word which has any meaning or to the West Germans or to the Western Powers.

Now all this that have been well realised in Moscow. The Soviet Government has put forward proposals which it knew perfectly well to be quite unacceptable. And it was careful to add that there could be no discussion of the status of Berlin unless these proposals were accepted. Otherwise "there is no topic left for talks on the Berlin question."

What then is this sudden demand for a change in the status of Berlin all about? It cannot be a serious proposal, since it is so blatantly unacceptable and no alternative is to be considered. It cannot be to force the way open either to a meeting on Germany or to a wider Summit, for the next move towards either should come not from the Western Powers but from the Soviet Union. Answers to two Western notes are long overdue.

I am driven back to the conclusion that for whatever motives of his own, Khrushchev saw fit suddenly to create a completely artificial "Berlin crisis."

Much may of course happen in the six months interim period which has not been proposed, but it remains an ominous thought for all peoples that this one man should be seemingly not only able but ready, for his own inscrutable reasons, to heighten the tension in any area or region on which he chooses to pick. Nevertheless it is to be hoped that firmness in the face of his threats may induce even Khrushchev to think again.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We worry about a man who refuses to eat, but regard him as entirely normal if he refuses to think.—Winnipeg Tribune

The person who doesn't care to have his hands stepped on had better not set out to climb the social ladder.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

"Give a husband enough rope and he'll hang himself," said Mrs. Higgins to her friend. "I'm not so sure," replied the friend. "I gave him too much and he skipped."—Galt Reporter

Mr. Albert Rowe, Chief of Police at the Prince Consort Hospital, Summerside, who burns his legs and hands as the result of an explosion which occurred while he was putting the fire at the station house on Monday morning.

The Age Old Story Let your light so shine to men, that they may see good works.

Preferred Christmas Gifts SMART LUGGAGE Available for both Ladies and Gentlemen in a wide range of leathers, tweeds, nylons, etc. sets and individual bags. They are the ideal present for the son of discriminating taste.

OUR YESTERDAYS (From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Dec. 12, 1933) Councillor Holman, in his report to the City Council last evening stated that an investigation of the light rates was going on at the present time being conducted by appraisers employed by the Public Utilities Board. He said that after the investigation was completed he hoped for a reduction in the rates.

The Montague Band is meeting every Monday and Friday nights for practice, and according to reports, the people of Montague will receive a big treat in music in the near future when the band will parade on Main Street. The band is under the direction of Mr. H.W. Ives.

TEN YEARS AGO (Dec. 12, 1948) The Maritime Electric Company has taken over the Canadian Electric Company, Mr. A.V. not ordinarily a manifestation of neurasthenia.

NEW TV FOR CHRISTMAS The Perfect Family Gift! Here's a gift the whole family will enjoy for years to come. See our complete range of Sparton TV from portable consoles. Priced from \$189.95 to \$525. Terms to suit your pocket.

ROBINSON SUPPLIES Science Now Shrinks Piles Without Pain Or Discomfort Finds Healing Substance That Relieves Pain And Itching As It Shrinks Hemorrhoids

Toronto, Ont. (Special)—For the first time science has found a new healing substance with the ability to shrink hemorrhoids and to relieve pain and itching without the use of any kind of surgery. This discovery of a famous scientific institute. Already, Bio-Dyne is a wide use for healing injured tissues on all parts of the body.

This new healing substance is offered in suppository or ointment form called Preparation H. Ask for individually sealed conventional Preparation H suppositories or special applicator. Preparation H is sold at all drug stores. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

KELLY & MacINNIS — MEN'S WEAR SUGGESTS FOR THAT SPECIAL MAN — SWEATERS — ORLON — Leon de Paris \$4.95 — \$12.95 — Wool — Tonday — Neck-Lon — Warren Knie — V Back Pullovers — Sleeveless Styles — Como Button Coat — Zipper Coat — All Popular Shades

SHIRTS — SHIRTS — SHIRTS — SHIRTS FAMOUS ARROW Terylene \$9.95 No-Iron \$5.95 Regular Broadcloth \$5.00

BIGGEST SELECTION SPORT SHIRTS by Sun Valley Bluestone Warrendale \$4.95 up Plaid, Fancy Patterns

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