The Guardian

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Legislature Prorogues

The Legislature has prorogued without any definite indication as to whether a general election will be called before it meets again. In the speeches on both sides there was a strong pre-election flavor, but that could mean that on both sides there was a good deal of uncertainty. The Premier, and those in his confidence, made no commitments one way or the other, though dropping hints now and then that the plunge might be taken "sooner than you expect." That is the kind of strategy one would expect from the Government until it is prepared to show its hand. It wants to retain the advantage of surprise in manoeuvering for position, and perhaps even the Premier is still undecided. We have a strong feeling that an election is not far off; but we have been wrong before in our political prognostications.

On the whole, the Opposition made a good showing with the material at their disposal, and were conscientious in their attendance and application to their duties. While suggesting a sales tax in preference to premium payments to cover the hospital insurance scheme, they offered no amendment on this point and left the issue pretty much as it was—that is, clouded in uncertainty. Fears were expressed on both sides that the voluntary plan may prove unworkable, or be turned down at Ottawa. The passing of the Act in its present form certainly does not insure the widespread coverage that was anticipated when the House met, and that is a pity.

A good example of co-operation was shown in pressing for transportation improvements, and it is to be hoped that the session in this regard at least will be productive of good results. The Federal Transport Minister has intimated that "urgent attention" is being given to our needs. The Provincial Government and our federal members now have the unanimous support of the House in seeing that this assurance means what it says. They will be expected to forget politics in this matter and work closely together in the common interest.

Finland Faces West

Beset by economic problems born of the Second World War, Finland sturdily maintains its independence as the last survivor of the Baltic republics established after World War I. Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, all former Czarist provinces—have been reabsorbed by the Soviet Union. Finland was obliged to surrender important land areas to Russia in 1944 after the collapse of efforts to recapture territory seized by Red troops in the Russo-Finnish war of 1939-40. Today it remains the only European country having an extensive common border with the Soviet Union but not a Communist government. The Russians, nevertheless, exert powerful economic influences on Finland's affairs, as reflected in several recent Finnish cabinet crises.

Despite present conditions and long association with Russia as a nearly autonomous grand duchy under the Czars, Finland considers itself primarily a European nation. Its culture has a Western orientation, and its traditional friendships have been centered in the West. For nearly 500 years before it came under Russian rule in 1809, Finland was a province of Sweden. A whim of history might have made the country an English protectorate; in 1810, Russia seriously considered exchanging it for trade facilities in England.

Thrust like a great thumb into the Baltic Sea, it is a land of vast forests, peopled by a fighting race whose origins are lost to history. Finnish soldiers, fighting first for Sweden and later for Russia, were among Europe's finest warriors. Today, Finland's skills are devoted to cultivation of its forests and fields. There are about 13 acres of forest for each of Finland's four million people, and the country ranks as one of the world's great producers of lumber and wood products.

Although Swedish is one of Finland's two official languages and is spoken by about nine per cent of the population, Finns of Swedish descent are becoming more and more assimilated and Swedish usage is declining. The Finnish language is not Scandinavian, but related to Estonian and Hungarian, possibly indicative of some common ancient background. In far northern Finland, some 2,500 nomadic Lapps speak a language of their own.

U.S. Oil Restrictions

Starting on April 1 the United States will replace its present voluntary restrictions on oil imports with mandatory controls. Apparently no exceptions will be made. The restrictions will apply to Canadian oil as well as to oil from the Middle East and South America. The reason given is national security, which makes no sense at all when applied to Canadian oil. In a war, surely, oil from Alberta and Saskatchewan would be just as available to the United States as oil from any of its own domestic fields. The argument also makes mockery of U. S. insistence that the defence of North America is a continental, not a national matter.

The Canadian Government has protested this matter strongly, and there has been some perfunctory talk about making a "cordinated approach to the problem." What that means nobody knows. The matter was last brought up in the House of Commons on March 18, when Mr. Pearson asked Trade Minister Churchill if he could confirm a Washington report that Canada was to be exempted from the restrictions. The Minister was obliged to say that he had no confirmation of the report.

The real pressure, doubtless, comes from U. S. oil interests which feel that imports from any source are harming the expansion of the domestic industry and should, therefore, be reduced. It was these same interests that put the screws on Washington when the Suez crisis broke, and Britain's oil supplies were vitally threatened.

Good Friday

The darkest hours are just before the dawn; and the universal observance of Good Friday in Christian communities brings this familiar saying to mind. As the instrument of torture of slaves and baser criminals, the Cross was the most shameful thing in the ancient world; it was transformed by Christ's Passion into the symbol of our highest hopes. It proclaims that out of death emerges life renewed, and out of sacrifice, triumph. Above it towers the Resurrection.

It was not easy for the disciples to believe that this was so. Christ for them was the sun and His crucifixion the setting. It was as though thick darkness had enveloped the earth. But the sun also rises. They knew in their hearts that the blackness of the night would not continue forever. And from their refusal to believe in what seemed an incontrovertible fact—a scientific certainty, as we would say today—came faith and hope; both sorely needed in this troubled world of ours.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister Macmillan has something more than his undoubted skill in diplomacy to make him cheerful as he plans for the next election. A report presented in the House of Commons last week showed that Britain's unemployment figures had taken the sharpest drop last month since June 1947.

* * *

"I am not against science. I always dislike it when people assume that because I am a poet I must be against science. But in taking us deeper and deeper into matter, science has left all of us with this great misgiving, this fear that we won't be able to substantiate the spirit."—Robert Frost, distinguished American poet who recently observed his 85th birthday anniversary.

* * *

Mr. Charles W. McInnes, president of the Ontario Hog Producers Association, estimates farmers get only 45 cents of every consumers' dollar spent on pork. Yet hog raisers have six times as much capital invested as have the packing firms. Farmers have to feed a hog five or six months. It takes less than three weeks to get the meat from the farm to consumers. As the Windsor Star remarks, anyone who thinks it's fun feeding hogs, cleaning out pig sties, etc., just to get 45 cents out of the consumers' dollar doesn't know pigs, or pig raising.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH--

OTTAWA REPORT

Art And The Taxpayers

By Patrick Nicholson

Our National Gallery of Art, which has been under several spotlights recently, came under the glare of Parliamentary attention on various occasions again this month.

C. C. F. leader Hazen Argue started a series of probing questions by asking how much the Gallery has cost the taxpayer in each of the past twenty years; the answer showed that next year's budget will be twenty times the annual cost between 1940 and 1948. That is not necessarily a bad thing, but Mr. Argue, perhaps prompted by a recent magazine article asking "Is Jarvis mis-spending our Art millions?", sought to know what qualifications Alan Jarvis possesses to fit him for the post of director of the Gallery; the answer did not disclose that he has had any previous experience in curatorship or management of an art gallery.

Sarnia's M.P., Mr. J. W. Murphy, continued his survey of the sky-rocketing staff costs at the Gallery. And on two days Liberal spokesmen charged the Government with repudiating a contract to buy a certain painting for the Gallery; but the Government proved that there was no such contract.

That widely-reported episode centred round painting "Christ appearing to the Apostles," by the 16th. century Dutch artist, Pieter Breughel the Elder. Its owner, Baron von Poelnitz, had valued the picture at $500,000; as long ago as January 1957, Jarvis had discussed with the Baron's agent it's possible purchase for our Gallery.

WORLD HA-HA

After the change of government, Jarvis sought Cabinet approval to continue his enquiries, but at first permission was not given. Then last May, Justice Minister Davie Fulton told Parliament, Jarvis reopened the subject, seeking authority to find out if this picture could be bought for $350,000; and if so, whether another painting, "Madona" by Lorenzo Monaco, could be bought for $90,000. He told Cabinet that $441,000 had been appropriated by the previous government, and was available to be used for this purpose.

On that understanding, Jarvis was given authority just to negotiate the prices, but not, so Hon. Ellen Fairclough assured Parliament, authority to make a firm offer.

Then the Cabinet found out that in fact there was not $441,000 available from the previous government's appropriations. It decided not to ask Parliament for money for such costly paintings in this difficult year.

But meanwhile, intentionally or otherwise, Jarvis had exceeded his authority in his negotiations. in such manner that Poelnitz's agent claimed that he had understood that Jarvis was making him a firm offer of $350,000 for the Breughel.

No matter what Jarvis might have said to him, the taxpayers of Canada were not committed to a contract to buy the painting, because Jarvis had not been given authority to enter into a contract on behalf of Canada, and because the Cabinet lacked Parliament's authority to spend that money. Nevertheless, when it was announced that Canada did not propose to buy that painting, there was an uproar in the art world of two continents, and Poelnitz's lawyer called on Cabinet Ministers, and the Baron came to Ottawa himself in an attempt to talk to the Prime Minister.

BREAD BEFORE BREUGHELS

This imbroglio over the Breughel all stemmed from Jarvis telling the Cabinet something which was not true, and then exceeding his authority as explained above, according to explanations given to Parliament by two Cabinet Ministers, Mrs. Ellen Fairclough and Mr. Davie Fulton.

Some people associated with the world of art have completely unpractical minds, incapable of understanding business matters. Such people would be unable to grasp the need for Parliament to go through the ordained procedure of appropriating money before the Cabinet can spend out of the taxpayers' pockets. But the director of the Gallery is evidently not an unpractical artist. Ontario-born Jarvis, in the course of his varied career, has been employed in the aircraft industry and in the film industry, where he presumably became familiar with basic business practice. He also served as private secretary to the socialist politician, Sir Stafford Cripps, when he was Minister of Trade in the British Government. As a Cabinet Minister's aide, Jarvis would have had the opportunity to make himself familiar with the basic parliamentary processes at Westminster, which are not dissimilar from those at Ottawa.

Most taxpayers will approve of the decision taken by the Government in this case, namely that under present conditions of widespread unemployment, the taxpayers' money should be spent on bread, not on Breughels. As Prime Minister John Diefenbaker declared three months ago, the Government is of the opinion that, with many pressing calls, the expenditure of $500,000 of the taxpayers' money on two paintings would not be justified.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

FARMERS' TAXES

Sir,—In reply to a recent letter that appeared in The Guardian stating that the farmers of this Province are paying a very small income tax, I would like to say that I agree with the writer fully. I am sure all farmers on the Island would be more than pleased if their income tax bill for last year was very much higher.

However, there are more forms of taxation than income tax. We have also indirect and hidden taxes that apply particularly to the farmers, such as the manufacturers' tax on trucks and station wagons and farm machinery that are needed for farm operations. There are also tariffs, which are a form of taxation that hit the farmers' pocket books.

I believe there are many others, and if they were added up by an expert on tax matters the total sum would prove that the farmers of this Province are paying their full share of taxes, —enough, I think, to pave miles and miles of roads.

Letters such as the one I refer to do not help to pour oil on troubled waters; and the only object of this letter is to try and correct any false impression that may have been formed in some quarters that the farmers are getting off scott free.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ISLAND FARMER
Montague, P.E.I.

EASTER TIME

Sir,—With the coming of Easter it might be well for us to look back through the year since last Easter and see what we have done; in a word, look at our stewardship and see if we did the things we said we would do. Did we write a new leaf in the book of our fading life, or did we go deeper and deeper into the rut of wrongdoings?

When we look across the partly snow-covered fields and see the red clay heaped on the many resting places we may recall the many who were here last Easter Day. No doubt some of these were your friends and mine. The book of their stewardship is closed forever, and in many cases closed very quickly; and it will close for many more of us before Easter Day comes again in 1960. Too many of us laugh at the thought of our stewardship, too many of us think the business world would stop rolling if we were called, therefore we can't go. Too many think the grass would stop growing if we had daylight time on this million acre farm for a few months. Too many business heads think those working under them are only the crumbs while too many of the working crews see their employers as nothing but swindlers and roobbers who are beating them at every turn. Too many crooks in business places watch and wait for a chance to pin the tail on one of their fellow men working beside them, so as to make him the donkey to ride to the big dome on; but in most cases big dome is not looking for fellows to do this, he seeks more honest help in his business.

Let this Easter be the turning point in our stewardship. Let us not make it a time to sport our new style and go to church only to see who has the best Spring hat. Let it be not a time of drunkenness and fighting. Rather let it be a time for us to rise from our many bad ways of life, to think of our many friends who have gone since last Easter, to clean our hearts and our record. Let it be a time for employers and employees to come to better understanding, better relations, better living; a time for burning the book of bitterness. Let it be a white Easter for us all, the starting of a better way of living, a time to make our peace with our fellow man and our Master while we have time. Next Easter we may be looking back from the shore of no return.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. A. O'BRIEN
Charlottetown.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

(From the Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 26, 1934)

Major-General J. H. MacBrien, Ottawa, Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrived in the City by air from Moncton on a periodical tour of inspection. Following his inspection here, the Commissioner will leave by plane for Moncton, thence he will go to Fredericton.

A most pleasing event was observed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Bruce, Valleyfield, when their children, grand-children and other friends gathered to celebrate with them their Golden Wedding Anniversary. To the bride and groom of fifty years, an address was read, while a gift of gold was presented by two of the grandchildren.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 25, 1949)

A deficit of $1,840 was budgeted for by Councillor N. W. Lowther, Chairman of the Finance Committee at a special meeting of the City Council held last night during which the estimates for the coming year were passed. Total revenue for the year was estimated at $484,978.00, while estimated expenditures were placed at $486,818.00.

The many friends of Miss Dorothy Croken, formerly of Norboro and Charlottetown will be interested to learn of her recent transfer with the Maritime Blue Cross. Miss Croken, who has been on the Administrative Staff of the Association in Moncton for the past three years has been transferred to the enrollment Department and will be in charge of the local office in Halifax.

In Bronchial Asthma Attacks

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

HERE'S what every asthmatic should know.

While some unthinking persons may joke about your fellow sufferers who have hay fever, nobody jokes about asthma any more.

Fortunately, uncomplicated asthma seldom is fatal. However, bronchial asthma, the most common type, is the most serious of the usual allergic diseases. At least 1,500,000 Americans have it.

HARD TO FORGET

Anyone who witnesses an acute asthmatic attack doesn't forget it easily.

Asthma occurs when anyone develops a specific sensitivity to allergens which evoke bronchial response. This occurs in the bronchial tubes when the bronchial muscles tighten in spasm. The lining of the membranes becomes thick and swollen. Mucus pours out into the tubes. And breathing, both inhaling and exhaling, becomes labored.

During an attack it generally is better to sit up than to lie down, since this makes breathing somewhat easier.

Don't eat much during an acute attack. As long as it persits, keep your diet confined to liquids and semi-solids.

DRUGS PROVIDE RELIEF

There are many drugs such as epinephrine, ephedrine, cortisone, hydrocortisone and others which are generally effective in providing relief. Sedatives, tranquilizers and antihistamines have their place in treating asthma, too. Antibiotics are useful when an infection has led to an attack or when an attack is complicated by an acute infection.

Inhaling the vapor from epinephrine or some other prescribed drug from a nebulizer at the start of an attack might head it off. Generally, four or five deep inhalations are enough to stop the attack.

Certain breathing exercises also are helpful, especially for children and young adults. I suggest that these younger asthmatics take time to exhale from ten to 12 times as slowly and as completely as possible every morning.

BLOW A FEATHER

They can assist the exhalation by pressing inward on the lower anterior ribs with both hands. They can measure the effectiveness of the exhaling by blowing a ping-pong ball or a feather across a table.

Keep up your general health and nutrition and avoid trying emotional circumstances which might precipitate an attack.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

W.S.: What are brown spots on the skin and what can be done for them?

Answer: Brown spots are due to excessive pigmentation. Often these spots may be bleached out by the use of such ointments as ammoniated mercury. However, this should be done by a physician, since there is danger in the use of bleaching ointments.

The Age Old Story

Christ hath given Himself for us, a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

NOTES BY THE WAY

An overweight man can easily be living beyond his seams.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

The trouble with finding a dime in an old pair of pants is that it's only worth about a nickel these days. — London Free Press

Hamilton Spectator: In the depression years of the thirties there were many long marches by the unemployed. It is a sign of our times that 550 farmers from Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba who will protest deficiency payments for wheat in Ottawa next month will "march" by special train.—Hamilton Spectator

France now grows just about all the rice it consumes. Since the war production has increased 140 times to a total 70,000 tons a year. Some 40,000 acres of formerly uncultivated land have been reclaimed for this crop, and average yield per acre has more than quadrupled.—France Actuelle

The Welsh language is known for the tremendous length of some of its words, with consonants bristling up like lance-points. At the same time, it has to extend itself to beat the Canadian Indian tongue with such words as "Kisapowatukinumoowepesim" —which means the month of January.—Ottawa Journal

Canadians are economic hypochondriacs. We are continually taking our national temperature, feeling our pulse, seeing a recession looming here, an inflationary trend there. One danger is that we'll think of the economic ills as affecting all parts of the country to the same degree.—Winnipeg Tribune

MAXIMS

There exist limitless opportunities in every industry. Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier.

Summit Conference Sites

By George Kitchen
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The closing of the Eisenhower-Macmillan talks opens the way for speculation as to the site of the big four summit conference that now seems certain to take place this summer.

Prime Minister Macmillan is reported to have indicated a preference for some sort of secluded spot such as Camp David, in the wooded hills of Maryland, where he and President Eisenhower spent three days discussing the Berlin situation and related sources of East-West tension. One report said he suggested Inverness, Scotland.

Whether he will get his wish depends on the other three participants in the summer meeting —Eisenhower, Russia's Premier Khrushchev and France's President de Gaulle. They may have other ideas.

Canada's Prime Minister Diefenbaker already is on record with a proposal that the big four meet in Quebec's 18th-century Citadel. Quebec City was the site of two wartime conferences involving the late President Roosevelt, former prime minister Churchill and the late prime minister Mackenzie King.

But Quebec, however acceptable it may have been as a meeting place for the Allied leaders of the Second World War, seems to be ruled out as a site for a 1959 summit conference for one basic reason—Canada's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

It is regarded as extremely unlikely that Khrushchev, already at loggerheads with the NATO powers over Berlin, would agree to a meeting in a NATO country. Inverness seems to be out of the running for the same reason. And the Western leaders, by the same token, probably would shun any Warsaw-pact site behind the Iron Curtain.

That leaves only neutral ground as a logical meeting place.

Geneva, the traditional site for international conferences, ranks high in speculation, but the fact that it was the locale of the ill-fated 1955 summit conference might persuade the participants to meet elsewhere. They may, for example, decide on any one of a number of other Swiss resort areas.

Vienna is considered a logical spot because of its association with the first and virtually only post-war agreement between the Soviet Union and the Western powers on a major issue. It was there that they signed the Austrian peace treaty.

Stockholm also is favored by some observers, but its link with the Communist-sponsored Stockholm peace appeal of a few years back may make it unacceptable to the West.

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TIME: 9.30 - 12.00 ADM.: 50c

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1 Walter Roberts—Winsloe.
2 Daniel Coles—Winsloe.
Also 1 from Drake Brothers—Vernon

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1 Elmer Clow—Earnscliffe.
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