

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dow... Wallace Ward... Managing Editor... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.

Brightening Prospects

Featured in special articles in today's issue are the brighter prospects which are opening for our fisheries industry, and the processing plants in connection therewith.

Who says that opportunity does not knock twice? We have before us an excerpt from an old English newspaper, the London Courier, of August 23, 1827, in which is envisaged a scheme for making Prince Edward Island the principal station of an English joint stock company carrying on an extensive Gulf cod fishery with the employment of steam vessels of 300 to 400 tons burthen.

These vessels, it was figured, could be built and equipped here at nearly half the cost of building them in the Old Country. And, as the article states, "the great accommodation they would offer on deck for catching, cleaning and splitting the fish, and saving the oil—their capacious stowage below—their easy draft of water—the facility with which they could be moved from one fishing station to another—the ease with which they ride at sea, and also with which they can approach their destined harbor when loaded, and again leave it even against adverse winds, by all which great dispatch would be ensured—are objects of serious magnitude opposed to the difficulties suffered by sailing vessels."

They would also offer "great advantages in the herring and mackerel fisheries—as their cargoes might be properly prepared, cured and stowed in bulk in their holds, by their crews, who would receive them from the small boats, and then carried to Halifax in a few hours, there barrelled, and shipped for the West Indies and other markets."

This project failed to materialize; but the fact that it was seriously planned, nearly a century and a half ago, and that this Island was regarded as the ideal centre for carrying on its activities, is not without interest today. It was a modest scheme by present-day standards, but far ahead of its time. The resources are still there to implement it on a scale undreamed of by its originators.

Curbing Credit Abuses

According to a leading article in the Financial Times of Canada, finance companies appear to have lost their long battle to prevent interest disclosure on credit and small loan contracts. Disclosure, it says, will be a major recommendation of parliamentary committees at Ottawa and in the Ontario Legislature when they report within a few weeks. It is also provided for in new legislation in Nova Scotia and Alberta.

The door to a legislative attack on credit was opened in December 1963 when the Supreme Court upheld Ontario's Unconscionable Transactions Act. This act gave borrowers redress in the courts against usurious rates of interest. By upholding it, the court also confirmed provincial jurisdiction over credit contracts.

Ottawa retains control over interest rates, but this may change once the amending formula to the Constitution is passed. This would allow Ottawa to delegate its powers over interest rates to the provinces, which, it is claimed, have better machinery for control and are closer to local problems.

Senator Croll, co-chairman of the Senate-House committee, is known to favor such a transfer. His committee died with the last session of Par-

liament, but is being reconstituted with the same membership. It is expected to report by the end of May or the beginning of June. A major recommendation will require that in conditional sales contracts and small cash loans the over-all costs to the consumer be expressed in terms of annual rates of simple interest.

Other possible recommendations include interest limits on sales contracts, an increase in the present ceiling of \$1,500 for loans regulated under the Small Loans Act, and regulation and policing of advertising in the consumer credit field.

Nova Scotia is credited with taking the most radical approach to the subject, in temporary credit control legislation passed last month. The new act requires spelling out of all terms and conditions on lending of money or granting of credit, and outlays concealed charges. It also sets maximum terms for lending and credit, and requires complete disclosure of credit costs in simple annual interest. This act expires July 1, 1966, but next spring is expected to be replaced by more permanent controls.

Finance companies are reportedly puzzled about how the interest disclosure formula will work. They say it is not successfully applied anywhere in the world, that it will inhibit the movement of goods far more than the legislators contemplate, and may also raise the cost of credit because of added administrative expense.

But the need for curbing credit abuses is undoubtedly gaining wider recognition. We shall watch with special interest how it works out in Nova Scotia.

Alberta's Happy Lot

The province of Alberta had at its inception a public revenue of \$1,425,059, which grew by 1947 to \$4,626,000. The gross public bonded debt, nil in 1905, had reached \$139,350,000 by that time. The province was in hard financial straits. The "funny money" issued by the Aberhart government, which had come into power in 1935, hadn't improved matters. When Mr. Manning took over the government in 1943, he too found the going tough. His attempt to take over the banks was foiled by Ottawa, and the province's credit on the money market was at a low ebb.

But something happened in 1947 that changed the whole picture. Oil was discovered in large quantities, and with this discovery Premier Manning decided that the need for Social Credit, whatever its form, was no longer imperative for Alberta. While the government of neighboring Saskatchewan clung to its socialistic ways, Alberta switched to free enterprise. It attracted the big oil companies, and Mr. Manning picked lieutenants with a knack of driving hard bargains.

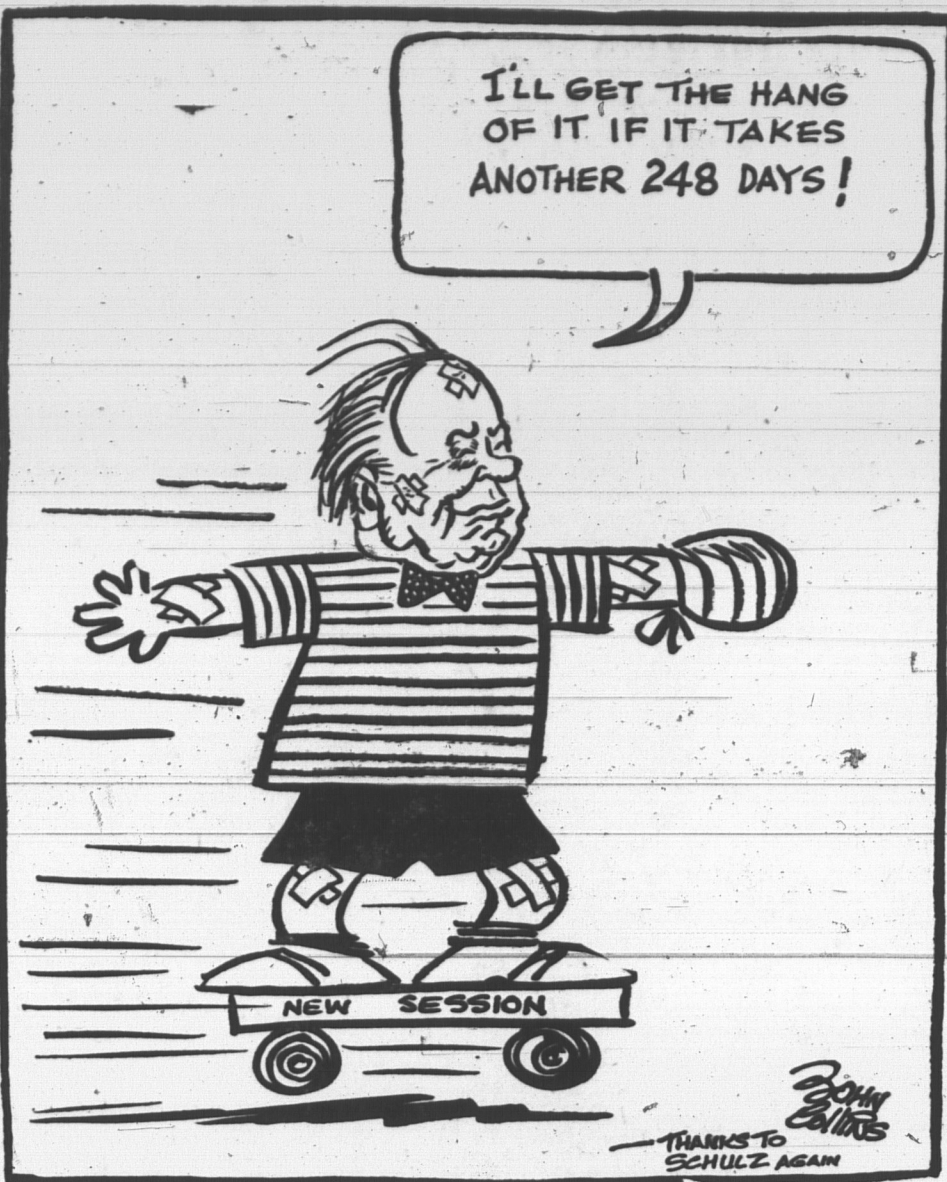
Today look at the results! The Alberta Legislature has just ended its winter meeting after enacting a record \$494 million budget and ordering a new railway to be built in the bushland of the Rocky Mountain foothills to open new coal, timber and pulp resources. The CNR will build the tracks, but Alberta will advance the \$40 million for them. Mr. Manning's party—still Social Credit in name—holds 59 of the 63 seats in the House, and his treasury holds nearly \$500 million in cash reserves. The increased funds he needs for health and education services and public works will come, for the most part, out of current revenues.

The new budget estimates royalties from oil and natural gas in the coming year at \$180 million—about 37 per cent of the total expenditures. Agriculture and industry will furnish the rest. Taxes are lower in Alberta than in most other provinces. There is no sales tax, and the gasoline tax is 12 cents a gallon.

One of Mr. Manning's ministers remarked the other day that it was unfortunate now that the word "social" was in the party's name. "We are antisocialist," he said. "We have fought the welfare state." The voters, apparently, are unconcerned about what political doctrine the government espouses—so long as those oil wells keep producing.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Canada will be among the 29 countries represented at Europe's biggest heavy industry fair in Hannover, Germany, which runs April 24-May 2. There will be a total of 5,799 exhibitors, of which 1,411 are from countries other than Germany. Biggest foreign exhibitors are France, Britain and the U.S., followed by Switzerland, Austria and the Netherlands. The number of foreign exhibitors has more than quadrupled in the past decade.



OTTAWA SKATEBOARD

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Vote Proved Signal For MPs' Exodus

Parliamentarians have gone home for Easter, leaving unanswered behind them an intriguing question: who wants an election?

Many MPs take the ethical stand that they should forget partisan jockeying, and get on with their job. Practically, few of them want to lay their \$18,000 per year jobs on the line, and face a chancey and exhausting campaign with a personal bill of anything up to \$20,000 (non-deductible) at the end of it.

If anyone doubts the stay-out sentiment among MPs, just look back at the scene in the House of Commons at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, 9th April.

Mr. Speaker Macnaughton ordered "call in the Members", and the Clerk of the House counted their heads as they stood up to vote on Mr. Diefenbaker's amendment. This carefully worded motion steered away from the controversial field of party policy; it simply criticized "the government's bungling failure to 'clean a house'", as demanded during the Christmas holiday by Social Credit leader Bob Thompson and other prominent opposition politicians.

It was a motion carefully designed and skillfully worded to line up all Opposition groups against the government; and this it succeeded in doing, for the first time since the Pearson administration was sworn into office one hundred and two weeks previously.

STAGE SET FOR DEFEAT

This, probably the most important vote of the session, should have seen the minority Liberal government, defeated; but instead, we witnessed one of the most remarkable votes ever held in our House of Commons. The minority Liberal government won by 106 votes to 93.

Thus the five Opposition groups, with a total elected strength of 136 MPs, found 41 of their number, or nearly one-third, not participating in this significant vote: the Liberal

whip, with the life of his minority government threatened, could only muster 104 of his 129 MPs to vote. The Liberals were reinforced by both the ex-Conservative "independent" MPs from Quebec, Leon Balcer and Remi Paul, who voted against their former leader Diefenbaker; others voted solidly against the Liberals.

Four MPs were in the House but did not vote: Liberal Ralph Cowan and two Social Credits were paired with absent MPs of other parties, while Mr. Speaker Macnaughton was presiding in the chair.

Thus the attendance in the Chamber at the time of the vote was 106 out of 129 Liberals; 66 out of 94 Tories; 10 out of 18 New Democrats; 11 out of 13 Creditists; eight out of nine Social Credits; and two independents. Would any business tolerate that degree of absenteeism of its \$18,000 per year white collar workers on an important job?

WHO WASN'T HERE? Nine Cabinet Ministers and four Parliamentary Secretaries or junior ministers were absent. Other Liberal absentees included the stay-away twins, Foy of

Sarnia and Forgie of Pembroke; plus of course the two Grits under a cloud Dupuis and Roudeur, Tory absentees, included those believed to be leading anti-Diefenbaker such as Gordon Fairweather, Sig Enns, Jean Waddis and Heber Smith, and equally those staunch pro-Dief men such as Pigeon, Neilson and Monteith. At least five other Tories were ill. So perhaps other MPs of all parties were sick, or were paired without declaring the pair.

This many MPs apparently absented themselves, so that their party could appear to be voting against the government without actually overthrowing it. But the most remarkable event of that very remarkable vote was that equally some top Liberals, even Ministers if it was said, were urging their supporters to absent themselves so that the government would be beaten and an election follow.

Will the division bells become the signal for an exodus, with MPs of all parties seeking to avoid voting? Politics have indeed descended to a shameful level.

Fosters Voting Deadlock

London Free Press

In spite of the fact that he emerged with an overall majority—although it was just a single seat—Premier Sean Lemass of the Republic of Ireland has voiced criticism of the electoral system.

There is some virtue in this. The proportional representation system under which Irish elections are held are certainly democratic. But it does make it difficult to secure a strong government. In this election the government secured 46 per cent of the first choices. In single-member constituency votes on a straight majority basis, without preferences, it would probably have scored a sweeping majority, owing to the existence

of at least three major parties. Countries with proportional representation have relatively stable governments, because there are few major shifts in voting big enough to disturb the results.

It is ironic that the fate of the government might have hinged on the degree of sanity of a handful of voters. Yet the main opposition party is protesting the government victory in Longford-Westmeath because it challenges the validity of votes cast by mental hospital patients at Mullingar.

However, if Mr. Lemass thinks that the proportional representation system provides a built-in deadlock, he might look at Canada or Great Britain where the electors also failed to make up their minds in any decisive fashion.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO (April 21, 1946)

Charles Sumner Tainter, 85, physicist and inventor once associated with Alexander Graham Bell died last Saturday night. With his wax disc record, Tainter was credited with having made phonographs commercially possible. He was the inventor of the dictograph and he was the first to transmit sound through the agency of light. He was also known as the "Father of the Talks."

German troops occupying Trondheim are encircled by Allied forces which have landed north and south of them, and the British-French troops are closing in swiftly on that vital port.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 21, 1955)

Queen Elizabeth is 29-years-old today, celebrating her birthday with a family tea party, including the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, at Windsor Castle.

Mayor J.D. Stewart of Charlottetown presented to Mayor Charlotte Whitton of Ottawa the key to the City of Charlottetown. Attending the civic dinner where the presentation took place were Dr. and Mrs. Frank MacKinnon, His Excellency Bishop MacEachern, Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. T.W.L. Prowse, Mrs. J.D. Stewart, Col. Frank and Mrs. Stewart and Hon. Douglas MacKinnon.

Young People And Alcohol

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen There is a possibility we might have less alcoholism if teen-agers were told the facts about liquor. David W. Northrup, Ph.D., believes the temperance lecture is old-fashioned, and the scarce technique is passing. There is no advantage in overemphasizing the serious aspects of chronic alcoholism which are the exceptions rather than the rule. He believes in telling them the truth because eventually the child sees moderate users of alcohol who are in perfect health and who live in happy homes. The youngster concludes that his parents lied and rejects everything told him on the subject.

The child should be told that it is used by some to "unwind" and by others for relaxation and rest. It also is helpful at social events to promote congeniality. It is not used to get drunk or to escape reality. The youngster should know that its use is accompanied by certain dangers. It depresses the nervous system and will interfere with the performance of skilled acts and with the exercise of proper judgment.

A person is not as good as he was before he took a drink, even small amounts.

These features should be stressed again and again, because teen-agers have not developed mature judgment and skills.

The greatest danger in drinking is the possibility of becoming an alcoholic. The chance is perhaps one in 25 and higher in certain races, occupations, and personalities. The young person should be taught to recognize the danger signs: (1) dependence upon alcohol for psychological aid; (2) disappointment at not getting an expected drink; (3) a tendency to drink more than anyone else at a party.

These are the early signs of alcoholism and a signal to quit drinking. Late warnings are belated when intoxicated, drinking alone, blackouts, and the use of alcohol as a hangover cure in the morning.

HEPATITIS A reader writes: Is hepatitis contagious after a person is cured of it?

REPLY Yes, in that the causative viruses remain in the blood for at least a year after the disease subsides. On the other hand, it is not easily passed from one person to another at this stage except by transfusion or direct contact with the blood. This occurs, for example, to dentists, laboratory technicians, and physicians.

ANESTHESIA M. Y. writes: Could too much anesthesia given during an operation damage the brain?

REPLY Yes, in that serious circulatory disturbances may result from anesthesia. Lack of oxygen leads to changes in pulse rate, muscular spasms, and rigidity followed by convulsions. Respiratory paralysis also occurs. These complications are rare.

KIDNEY FUNCTION M. W. writes: Does drinking large quantities of liquid help get rid of pus in the kidneys?

REPLY It helps keep the structures well irrigated. The ideal treatment is a combination of adequate fluid intake and a suitable renal antiseptic such as Gantrisin or penicillin or one of the other antibiotics.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Don't neglect skin irritations.

Pearson Proposal Supported

Prime Minister Pearson's proposals for a measured pause in United States air strikes against Communist North Vietnam at "the right time" continue to draw some support. Democratic Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the influential U.S. Senate committee on foreign affairs, echoed the idea Sunday in an interview. George F. Kennan, former senior U.S. career diplomat now continuing his appraisals of the Communist world at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton, termed the idea constructive at Montreal. He said he hoped the U.S. would implement it soon.

But the three most senior government spokesmen in the U.S. on Viet Nam—President Johnson, Defence Secretary McNamara and State Secretary Rusk—have reiterated opposition to any air-strike pause.

Johnson spoke in a special Easter message from his Texas ranch. Rusk said in a special statement that an attack pause had been pondered but that it would "only encourage the aggressor and dishearten our friends who bear the brunt of battle."

McNamara, replying specifically to Fulbright, took a similar line and said the U.S. has "no indications that a cessation of the bombings would move the North Vietnamese to discussions leading to termination of the aggression against the south." Other Commonwealth leaders who have picked up the Pearson idea are Prime Minister Shastri of India and Foreign Min-

ister Ali Bhutto of Pakistan. During the weekend, on grounds of pressing domestic and Vietnamese problems, President Johnson postponed scheduled visits from Pakistani President Mohammed Ayub Khan and Shastri. The statements by Johnson, Rusk and McNamara also coincided with public demonstrations in the United States against the American presence in Viet Nam—conducted near the Johnson ranch in Texas and by an estimated 15,000 in front of the White House in Washington.

One speaker at the White House demonstration was Democratic Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska, who has been one of the few vocal congressional critics of U.S. Viet Nam policy.

MUTED CRITIC Fulbright while at odds with U.S. policy in several fields, has been comparatively muted on Viet Nam while not hiding his concern. He said Sunday that, while he hoped for a two-day cease-fire, "I believe there might be some value in stopping the bombings temporarily."

Kennan's chief fear, though, as he said again in Montreal while answering reporters' questions, is that there is a risk of "needless damage to Russia's relations with the U.S."

In other words, Kennan fears that the Soviet Union, while deeply embroiled in its ideological fight with China, will feel itself increasingly forced to take a harder line against the U.S. to keep from losing more ground in the Communist world.

Pearson made his proposal for an air-strike pause in a speech in New York April 2 and discussed Viet Nam with the president at a lunch the next day.

Readers For City Child

Milwaukee Journal

A new kind of primary school reader is beginning to replace the "look, look, see, see" books in many major cities. It is aimed particularly at catching the interest of the urban child, including the slum pup.

Reading ability has become critically important. A Cook county (Illinois) welfare official remarked recently that undetected illiteracy was the major enemy in the war on poverty. A study of Chicago welfare recipients showed that more than half fell below "the minimum literacy level necessary to function in modern society."

The growing demand for more realistic readers has put the textbook publishing industry in ferment. Sociologists, psychologists, teachers and anthropol-

ogists have worked with publishers to produce better books. Some, like the series developed through a Ford Foundation grant, already are in use in Milwaukee.

Specialists at the Bank Street College of Education in New York worked with one publisher to produce the latest series of primary readers. Illustrations show the big city with its parks, skyscrapers, red brick row houses, traffic supermarkets, corner grocery stores, even clotheslines hanging from the fire escapes. This is a familiar world to the city child, an imperfectly scrubbed world, not an alien suburb inhabited by white faces. It is an interesting world; literacy and learning begin with interest. In the campaign against poverty, literacy is a key word.

New Spy Bait

Toronto Star

There is something distressingly unromantic—quite non-James Bondish, in fact—about Britain's latest spy case. An engineer at the Ministry of Aviation is alleged to have passed classified documents to the Russians to get money to pay his mortgage.

Men have been drawn into the Soviet espionage apparatus in a variety of ways. Some have been inspired by ideological zeal or political ambition. Some have been led astray by Mata Hari or a reasonable facsimile thereof. Some have needed money to pay for gambling or high living. But this is the first time anyone has been accused of betraying state secrets to keep up the

payments on a mortgage. How utterly bourgeois!

Disclosures of this kind tend to upset the popular idea—not only of spies but of the shadowy figures who recruit spies. We had always pictured Comrade X lurking discreetly in the casino at Monte Carlo watching the hapdsome captain in the Guards get in too deep at the roulette table, and then offering to take up the deficit in return for a copy of Plan Z from the War Office.

But now it looks as though the Comrade must spend his duty days in the Land Titles office trying to find out which atomic scientist is in arrears with his split level.



From the bitter battleground in South Vietnam comes a front-line report by Peter Ward. In this, the first of three Weekend Magazine articles titled Southeast Asia, Ward describes a gunboat patrol in the Mekong delta where the war rages through dense jungle and over flooded rice fields.

The Evening Patriot

WITH

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