

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 4 FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1966

All A Variorum

"Life," said Bobbie Burns, "is all a variorum, we regard not how it goes." He was voicing the attitude of the jolly beggars in Poosie-Nancy's tavern, with no thought about any political goings-on, least of all in this day and age and in Canada—of all places.

As Canadian Press reports the show at Ottawa, "the furious fandangos the Commons had been dancing into a stately waltz in the turned into a stately waltz in the Commons" after the Spencer affair had been disposed of by Mr. Pearson waving the white flag of capitulation while his justice minister, Mr. Cardin, was still trumpeting his defiance and announcing his determination never to budge an inch.

He was "rather upset," Mr. Cardin conceded, by his leader's action in making a nonentity of him. But his party came before national security interests—that is what he maintained was at stake in this issue—and like a staunch party man he towed the line. And, of course, he got rounds of applause from his Liberal colleagues for being such a good fellow. It was felt that his noble gesture would do much to erase from memory the bumbling of a government that stigmatized a man as a traitor without a trial and then only consented to investigate the case after ceaseless pressure from a united opposition.

Abie's Peace Mission

To Abraham S. Nathan, a promise is a promise—and that includes the vow he made last November when he sought election to the Israeli Parliament as "Abie-the-Peacemaker." His campaign pledge to the voters—that he would personally fly to Egypt and seek peace between Israel and the Arab world—was never taken seriously. And few Israelis were surprised when the 38-year old Air Force veteran lost the election and went back to serving patrons in a restaurant he owns in Tel Aviv.

Last week, the doubters had to eat their words. The New York Times describes what happened with gusto, and we quote therefrom. Armed only with a Bible, a parachute and a petition carrying 60,000 signatures, Mr. Nathan flew an ancient rented biplane named "Shalom I" (Peace I) from Israel to Port Said, climbed out of the cockpit and told startled Egyptian authorities: "I want to see President Nasser and offer peace with Israel."

The request for an audience with President Nasser was refused; but Port Said officials, apparently taken by Mr. Nathan's daring, treated him to a fancy non-kosher dinner, showed him some of the local sights and put him up for the night in jail where he played cards with his guards. The next day, his rickety old plane was repaired and refueled and he was sent back to Tel Aviv.

The Egyptian press ridiculed the incident as "a comic act which failed to catch any laughs." But in Israel at least—and it was suspected, in some private quarters in Egypt—there seemed a kind of wistful enchantment with the flight as a release from the grim tensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict and an expression of the desire for peace. Mr. Nathan was nearly mobbed by a cheering crowd when he landed on Israeli soil and the government made only a half-hearted attempt to punish him for violation of

security laws. After being arrested, he was released on \$33 bail. History takes some strange turnings. It could be that future historians will see more of significance in this little incident than in much of the palaver that goes on in higher diplomatic circles. At any rate it was a gesture that caught the attention of the world, if only for a moment. The Egyptian press to the contrary, it did catch some laughs, and some sighs as well after the laughter had subsided.

Don't Bet Against It

There is speculation that the provincial budget will be ready for presentation in the Legislature late next week. Then we shall have a better idea as to whether or not an election is in the offing. Government spokesmen have pooh-hoed this notion, but the Throne Speech gave every indication of it, and Opposition leader Campbell may be right in his prediction that it will come sooner than most of us expect.

We recall a former incident, under a Liberal administration, in which the Premier was at pains during the session to point out how ridiculous it was to imagine that the government, with a safe majority, would be thinking of going to the country with almost two years of its term unexpired. He chided the Opposition for being so nervous and suspicious on the subject, and lulled a good many of them to sleep. But the House had hardly pronged before it was dissolved and the election was held in the minimum time allowed under the act.

After all, it's not a government leader's duty to tip his hand in such matters. It is for the Opposition to keep on the alert. We have yet to hear of any definite pledge that an election will NOT be called in the near future, and falling that we see nothing in the omens to prevent it. Why, we keep wondering, should all those goodies in the Throne Speech be wasted on a no-election year?

Seeking A Breakthrough

With all the progress that science has been making in recent years, it hasn't yet gotten round to finding a cure for the common cold. But Britain's Common Cold Research Centre near Salisbury (in the vicinity of the plains where Canada's 1st Contingent in the First World War was encamped in the winter of 1914-15) a valiant effort is being made to reach this desirable goal. Up to the present, 80,000 volunteers have acted as "guinea pigs" at the centre, spending 10-day "holidays" there after getting inoculated with fluid carrying cold germs.

People of all sorts of occupations are participating in the experiment. They live in twos and threes in centrally heated flats and the only real restriction is that they must not get within 20 yards of anyone other than the doctors or their flatmates.

The Medical Research Council thinks that there are at least 30 different types of cold virus. Not long ago scientists at the Centre discovered that they could grow a cold virus in the laboratory; this was a major advance and the result of 12 years' patient work. From this they were able to prepare a vaccine which produced "antibodies" to the cold—in other words sparked off the body's own defense mechanism—without producing any cold symptoms. But the vaccine did not give protection from other kinds of cold virus. The search goes on for a vaccine which might produce better results.

The team at Salisbury is now investigating the possibilities of a sort of "cocktail" vaccine which contains several strains of cold virus. Pharmaceutical firms are producing experimental quantities, and when they are ready there will be more work for the volunteers.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In Barnes, England, the other day, a policeman was so surprised to see a car driving slowly along a road that he stopped it in order to congratulate the driver on being so cautious. One whiff of the driver's breath, however, and the policeman arrested him for driving while intoxicated!

According to an American exchange, soundtracks at drive-in theatres are about to bleed in through car dashboards instead of windows. In the old-type drive-ins, automobiles stopped alongside a stanchion and hauled a speaker aboard. But the new systems require only that cars drive up on ramps and turn on their car radios or pocket transistors. The sound signal comes in via a transmitter operated by the drive-in. Several outdoor theatres in the C.S. have already installed the new system.



TAKES THE JOY OUT OF LIFE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Two-Tier Pension Plan In The Making

I recently described the hint dropped by Health and Welfare Minister Allan MacEachen, suggesting a coming new deal for our needy senior citizens. Talking to me in an exclusive interview in his office, Mr. MacEachen explained that this is no distant dream. He hopes and confidently expects that legislation will be passed quite soon to set up at least part of a plan for higher old age payments in cases of need; and the effective date may well be April 1, even if the legislation has to be made retroactive to achieve this.

The Cabinet, I understand is giving intense and urgent study to possible methods of augmenting the \$75 per month Old Age Pension, without imposing an intolerable burden upon the taxpayer. A two-tier plan appears to be in the making. First, the present universal \$75 per month would be supplemented by whatever sum might be required in any individual case, to bring the total income from all sources up to the agreed minimum desirable income. This is likely to be in the neighborhood of \$1,260 for a single person and \$2,220 for a married couple.

The second step would be supplementary allowances paid under the Canada Assistance Plan to those whose needs are adjudged to be higher through special circumstances. NEGATIVE INCOME TAX

In a reversal of the kind of talk we have heard from politicians, for so long, Mr. MacEachen very properly asserted "It would be a major blunder to place a stigma on the needs test concept. It has a well-accepted and useful role in the humane administration of public assistance programs."

The simplest and most equitable form of means test, he suggests, would be to use income tax procedure. This would also be more acceptable to the beneficiaries than any other method. It would work this way. Every senior citizen would make out an income return. If his total exceeds the permitted exemptions, he would, as now, pay the income tax due. But if his income is below the agreed minimum desirable income of say \$1,260, he would receive the difference from the federal government, spread over twelve months.

This novel idea is sometimes called "negative income tax." It is being widely debated, and generally acclaimed. It has been, especially lucidly explained, by Councillor D. B. Smith of Orillia, who is a chartered accountant. One obvious prerequisite of this suggestion is that the basic exemptions for tax purposes would have to be raised to the figure ultimately accepted as the minimum desirable income.

The socio-logical implications of this suggestion deserve serious study, and perhaps indicate an entirely new approach to all welfare payments. Our present "welfare state" is complicated and exceedingly wasteful in administration. The universal application of negative income tax could eliminate the anomaly of levying taxes to finance the payment of "windfall" welfare to persons who do not need such assistance. The effect of this is vividly illustrated by two figures accepted here to pay an additional \$25 per month to all old age pensioners would cost \$800 million a year; but to pay an additional \$30 per month only to those pensioners who have no other income would cost only about \$200 million a year.

A wide use of negative income tax could save the non-productive expense on civil service manpower to effect this redistribution of income, and the subsequent taxing away of much of it. The whole paraphernalia of assorted pensions, allowances, insurance payments and subsidies could be greatly simplified in administration by the NIT system. Thus the wasteful "windfall state" could more aptly be made a true "welfare state", and at great savings to all taxpayers.

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The chances are extremely slight and practically non-existent if strict sanitary precautions are observed. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

LONDON (Reuters)—Tourism became Britain's fourth largest export industry last year when 2,750,000 overseas visitors spent more than \$300,000,000 (\$300,000,000). L. J. Lickorish, general manager of the official British Travel Association, said Wednesday.

Inhumane Weapons

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
Physicians for Social Responsibility was founded "with the purpose of studying the dilemma in which the world now finds itself, and if possible helping to develop a responsible course of action." In a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine two of their members updated us on chemical (gas) and biologic (germ) warfare.

Most of the agents now available differ from those used in previous wars. Some are incapacitating, nonlethal, and relatively ineffective; others are lethal or crippling. During war, military leaders usually select the most effective—the lethal varieties. This type of war usually is aimed at the civilian population, because the more damage can be done by disabling millions of industrial workers in densely populated areas.

Chemical and biologic warfare is not new. The aborigines used poisoned arrows and the Spartans burned sulfur and pitch to form sulfur dioxide. Poisoning wine, food, and water is centuries old. Lethal gases were used in World War I. Smoke, flame, and incendiaries were used in World War II, but not chemicals. The atomic bomb was not only highly explosive, but killed through radiation. Irritating, nonlethal gases are being used against the Viet Cong, as well as chemicals toxic to plants.

The newer nerve gases are colorless and odorless organic phosphates; some are tasteless. Small amounts produce sneezing, tearing, and shortness of breath. Higher concentrations lead to vomiting, paralysis, and death. They are 30 times as toxic as phosgene and 14 times that of mustard gas. A single inhalation can kill.

Biologic warfare "employs living organisms or their toxic products. It is aimed at causing death, disability, or disease in man, animals, plants, or food supplies. Biologic weapons are excellent for sabotage. They have a delayed action and are difficult to detect. The best protective devices include filters, sanitary measures, immunization and medical treatment. Let us hope that we never get involved in such inhumane weaponry.

CHRONIC WORRIER
Mrs. R. writes: What makes a person worry all the time? I'm 32, happily married, and a mother. My life is ideal, but I always find something to worry about.

REPLY
Don't we all? It is normal to have some worries, but when they take over and control and influence our activities, the situation is considered abnormal.

X-RAYING CORNS
T. R. writes: Can corns on the toes be removed permanently by X-rays?

REPLY
X-ray therapy is effective but the remedy is too drastic. Moreover, corns are likely to return if pressure is not relieved. This means that shoes must fit properly.

LIVER DISORDER
R. B. writes: How is infectious hepatitis contracted?

REPLY
Through the ingestion of contaminated water, milk, or food. In some instances the disease is transmitted through a transfusion or injection of infected blood plasma (serum hepatitis).

IT'S SAFE
Mrs. D.C. writes: Could amebic dysentery be caught from doing the laundry of a victim of this disease?

REPLY
The chances are extremely slight and practically non-existent if strict sanitary precautions are observed. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Theodore Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

TOURIST INDUSTRY GROWS
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De Gaulle And NATO

By Arch MacKenzie
Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP)—President de Gaulle of France wants the spirit of NATO preserved without French participation in the military flesh of the alliance. The United States is determined to keep the body intact, with or without French muscle and at whatever cost, and appears to have Alliance support. The U.S. will proceed without encouraging any view that NATO is in crisis and will not talk to France about changes in NATO on a nation-to-nation basis.

This is the picture drawn here after what seems to be de Gaulle's first shot in carrying out his long-signalled intentions. He sought by letter to discuss NATO changes with President Johnson. Johnson said this is an Alliance affair, deserving serious consideration. De Gaulle in a terse statement Wednesday described any further discussion about revising NATO as useless.

Later Wednesday, spokesman Robert McCloskey of the U.S. state department said the U.S. knows of no plan for immediate convening of the 15 NATO foreign ministers and that the U.S. has no such plan. Consultations will proceed through normal diplomatic channels, including the NATO council. PREPARE FOR CRISIS

But American officials confirmed that the U.S. and its allies for some time have been drawing up plans to meet "any and all contingencies that might arise." This means that in the event France withdraws her own NATO forces and demands command of American, Canadian

The Best In The West

Victoria Colonist

The Royal Canadian Air Force—in spite of a lack of manpower resulting largely from defence department policy which required in the name of economy the compulsory retirement of so many men before their time—is still maintaining its high rate of performance in Europe and its reputation for daring as well as skill in airmanship.

Recent heretofore unpublicized disclosures in the House of Commons very clearly prove the efficiency and standards of Canadian pilots and reflect the equally high quality of the ground crews. Every year the NATO allies send representatives teams to competition in tactical weapons meet. On the last occasion Canadians were top team, as usual.

Among the strike pilots, Canadians took six of the top seven positions: first, second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh. On top of this the RCAF set a new record among NATO air forces by flying four perfect missions in a day.

The minister of defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer, spoke of these accomplishments with pardonable pride. Veterans of the RCAF will remember, also, that ever since Canadian squadrons went to France and Germany as part of the NATO defence organization they have consistently won the Guynemeyer trophy, emblematic of air combat superiority in competition with the crack pilots from allied countries, including the RAF and the USAF.

They have made these records flying Sabres and CF-100s, and it is to be hoped the new aircraft with which they will shortly be equipped, the Freedom Fighter (FC-5) will match with its capabilities the capacity of its pilots.

Unhappily, there is some doubt about the Freedom Fighter. Mr. Hellyer has been sharply questioned in the House of Commons on the performance of this aircraft which the United States government considers insufficiently effective to put into service. The RCAF, like it or not, appears to be stuck with it. Of one thing we can be certain the RCAF will get out of it the most it can deliver.

FARMS HOLD UP JOBS

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