The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Hail To The Chief!

Him big chief now; and it is to be hoped that we shall hear no more subversive rumors about his "retirement" from public life because of advancing age, and that kind of thing! A man is as old as he looks, and feels; and in his new ceremonial headdress, and his new title conferred upon him by representatives of our earliest inhabitants, it can be said of Premier Shaw that he is growing younger with the years, and more and more capable of taking the political warpath when the time comes for another showdown with the Liberal palefaces.

Heap big laughs he must be getting out of the solicitous inquiries about his state of health these days, as he gives the high-sign to his braves, standing there four-square with beaming countenance beside a charming maiden of his tribe, in his capacity of Chief Minego, as pictured in our issue of yesterday! He looks brawer even than he did in the kilt!

It may be argued that being chief of the (Lennox) Island doesn't mean very much in these modern times; but it is an honor to which very few of our politicians have attained, and it is one in which the Premier has every right to take pride and satisfaction. His friends on both sides of the Legislature, too. Indeed, we should like to see him in full Micmac regalia when the House opens next spring. We fancy the Opposition would applaud as vigorously as his own supporters if he decided not to let such a colorful opportunity pass.

Meanwhile we hasten to salute him in his new role. It has behind it a wealth of tradition; a wealth of sentiment on the part of those who bestowed it, too, which has nothing to do with party politics but with the man himself. And all the more to be welcomed on that account.

A Backward Step

It would seem that the first public announcement concerning the planned decrease in rail freight assistance on feed grain shipments came from the Maritime Federation of Agriculture, through the chairman of the feed grain committee, Mr. J. Lincoln Dewar of Charlottetown. The Moncton Transcript, somewhat cynically, finds this not surprising. "It is not," it says, "the type of announcement that any government at Ottawa would feel constrained to make on its own behalf."

This revelation of impending increases in the cost of shipping western feed grains to the Maritimes has stirred up the Maritimes Transportation Commission as well. The executive manager of that body, Mr. Craig S. Dickson, has expressed fears that the new rate structure may have serious repercussions for Maritime agriculture, and this warning should carry weight.

It immediately raises the question, as our Moncton contemporary suggests, as to the validity of the pious promises of both our two main political parties that early action would be taken toward relieving the sad plight of the eastern segment of the Dominion's farming economy. This new policy would appear to be working in quite the opposite direction. Just whom is the increased emphasis on aid to waterborne shipments designed to assist? Can it be that the government has once again succumbed to pressure groups whose sole interest is the further expansion of St. Lawrence Seaway business?

The proposed rate changes are fraught with the possibility of serious consequences, not only to our Maritime farmers but also for the volume of railway freight traffic in these provinces, and this at a time when the Canadian National Railways has been making strenuous efforts to achieve a more satisfactory revenue picture. In the circumstances, it is to be hoped that the representations which the Agriculture Federation is planning to make to Ottawa in this matter will receive the full support of all Maritime Provinces MPs. This is one issue, at least, on which they will be expected to act in unison.

Restores Tory Morale

While public opinion polls in Britain still give the Labor party a lead over the Conservatives in the coming national election, the margin is said to be narrowing. London bookmakers report betting on Labor has been sluggish for two weeks. More money is turning up for the Conservatives, and odds on a Conservative victory have been cut. These odds still keep Labor as firm favorites, but the Tories are taking heart. They see a chance for victory if the tide flowing their way continues until October 15, the date generally expected for balloting.

With his party's five-year term of office running out, Prime Minister Douglas-Home can't wait beyond November 5. He was under pressure to go to the country in June, and his judgment in holding off appears to have been vindicated. Had he yielded to this pressure, it is believed the Laborites would have captured control of the 630-seat House of Commons by a margin of 80 to 100 seats. Present estimates are that the Labor party would still win, but only 15 to 30 seats. This is speculation, of course, but it is noted in an Associated Press dispatch from London as indicative of the changing trend.

For months it seemed that the Prime Minister was the only Conservative who believed his party had a chance to win. He went up and down the country "drinking gallons of tea" and assuring discouraged party workers that the Tories would score their fourth straight victory over Labor. His strategy worked to this extent at least: Win or lose, he has restored Conservative party morale. That in itself is something of a victory.

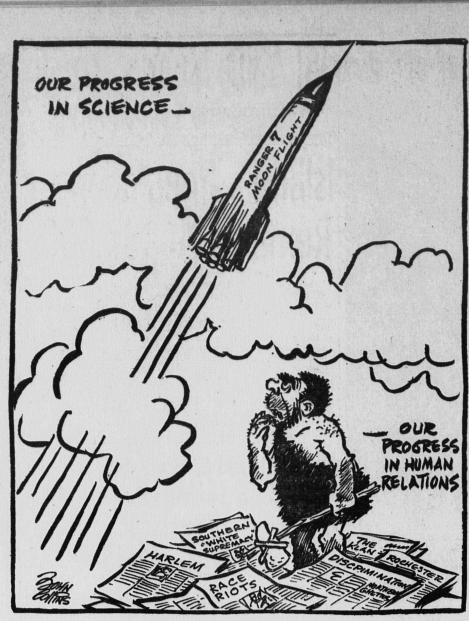
Change Badly Needed

One of the strange pieces of information that Canadians acquired about American law after President Kennedy's assassination was that the murder or attempted murder of a president or vice-president of the United States is not a federal offense. Had it been otherwise, and had the federal government and not the Dallas police force acquired custody of Lee Harvey Oswald, the probability is that he would have lived to face prosecution and to clear up the confusion that still enshrouds his actions and motivations.

Now an effort is being made to amend the law in this regard, but as it stands the slaying of a president is a federal offense only if committed on waters under federal jurisdiction or on federally owned land. In areas under state and local jurisdiction it is still a matter for state or local prosecution.

Another strange feature of this law is that it doesn't apply to the murder or attempted murder of a number of lesser officials. It is a federal offense, for instance, to murder a marshal, an FBI agent, a postal inspector, a prison guard, a game warden and similar federal employees, as well as a federal judge and a United States attorney. The aim now, as recommended by a house committee on un-American activities, is to extend this provision to the chief executive and his deputy. Surely not before time! Some congressmen are urging that it be extended to cover everyone in the line of succession to the presidency; and this, too, would seem to be both reasonable and necessary.

As the Milwaukee Journal observes in this connection, federal law would not prevent assassination. But it would undoubtedly improve the chances of apprehending the assassin and dealing with him properly.



"20TH CENTURY MAN"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Dignity, Farce Top Tourist Lures

The contrasting appeals of dignity and farce on Parliament Hill are attracting record crowds, and making Ottawa perhaps the top tourist Mecca in Canada.

It is predominantly a road-borne invasion. The densest parking of vehicles comes each morning, when the Guards and the bands in their scarlet tunics enact the ceremony of Changing the Guard; but the line-ups inside the Parliament Building are longest when the Speaker's procession marks the opening of the Commons, usually just after lunch.

The average man's sedan, the ostentatious finned mammoths, the mini - cars, the jalopies, the convertibles and especially the chartered busses, all come; as their licence plates proclaim, our visitors come from every province and state in North America and even from distant countries. Quite often we see the motor caravan of some "be prepared" tourist, who tortoise - like carries his roof with him; not the huge house trailers — these are not welcomed on Parliament Hill — but the smaller self - propelled "Mo-cabins".

EVERYMAN'S MOTOR HOME.

The mo - cabin in greatest favour with tourists this year is the ordinary half - ton truck with a caravan - cabin piggy backed onto it. This is especially handy and cheap for the many Canadians who have a half - ton truck for their farm or business. The cabin costs around $1,800 — with extras optional. It can be conveniently fitted onto or taken off the truck. One popular model has telescopic legs, on which the cabin can be jacked up so that the truck can be driven away or unloaded. They are surprisingly roomy and comfortable inside. A large bed, 48 inches wide and 7 feet or near that in length, fits snugly across the roof of the driver's cabin on the truck. The body of the cabin has a 4-seater dining nook and table which converts to make a double bed. Cooking stove and refrigerator may be gas-fired or electric. External connections enable the cabin to plug into electricity and water supplies at a camp site.

One tourist, who showed me over his cosy mo - cabin, agreed that its weight made the driving of his truck a little heavier and slower than usual, but he stressed the advantages of economy and mobility.

TOUR OF THOMSONLAND

There was one of these truck caravans parked on Parliament Hill this week which attracted everyone's attention, because it proudly wore a vivid multi-coloured dado of "Decals", from more than 50 Canadian communities, pasted neatly along each side.

BEST FROM P.E.I.

The owner, it seemed, had made a coast - to - coast tour. From Penticton in B.C. he had travelled eastwards through Moose Jaw, Port Arthur, Sudbury, Barrie, Sarnia, Chatham, Port Colborne, Oshawa, Cornwall and Quebec City to Charlottetown.

Decals are the status symbols of today's car traveller, just as metal plaques nailed onto his spiked mountain stick are the joy of the Alpine walker and coloured labels mark the suitcase of the world traveller. These all depict some typical scene, as Penticton's decal shows water - skiers, Sudbury's pictures a Mountie, Barrie shows the angler's prize hooked, Quebec City is represented by the civic coat of arms — and Charlottetown strangely shows that familiar fish from Barrie — or its twin. From nearby came the most artistic of this collection of decals: Cavendish, P.E.I., showing the house so familiar to readers — Green Gables.

Decals as often seen on car windows, especially the back window — appear dangerous and vulgar; but this big group was charming.

"Silent Spring" Recalled

Fredericton Gleaner

The sprayers are out in force. The length and breadth of New Brunswick they go; and in their wake they leave a swath of destruction.

Their intentions may be good. They are trying to rid woodsides and cleared sections of woods and bushes; they are trying to obliterate harmful insects.

But the price the province is paying for it is a fearful one. It is being paid in ruined crops, ugly roadsides, wildlife destruction and, above all, apprehension that human life may be endangered.

Ask the farmers in the Maugerville- Sheffield area what drifting spray has done to their oncoming vegetable crop. Their answer is a shocking one, as reported on Saturday. Or ask the tourists or residents who have cause to take Route 41 in Charlotte County. Their answer is summed up by that county's deputy warden, Mr. James G. Little: roadside spraying on Route 41, he says, results in an unsightly appearance. "We want to beautify our countryside, and this is a step in the wrong direction."

Spraying undoubtedly has a part in agriculture, but uncontrolled spraying is a serious menace to the human race. And obviously spraying today is out of control.

Today in New Brunswick everyone seems to have the carte blanche. The Provincial Government, which advertises profusely for tourists to come here and enjoy the long scenic drives on our highways, allows its district highway divisions to spray the roadsides as they please, with disastrous result.

If there must be spraying, let it be controlled. It is madness to allow all and sundry to pollute the land on which we live, the water which we drink, and the air which we breatne. To continue this suicidal course is to make Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" a reality.

The Poets Corner

MIDSUMMER THOUGHTS

Now is the wish of winter days
Transmuted into golden haze.
Tall trees are proudly clad in green
Like sovereigns o'er the sunlit scene.

Is summer just a lazy dream
That nestles near a quiet stream
And lolls beneath a bright blue sky
To watch soft clouds of white drift by?

Or, just a living memory
Of happy days that used to be
Wherein the aged stifle tears,
Their constant tie with yesteryears?

The copper sunsets paint the sea
With silent, lavish ecstasy.
Warm wind in summer softly brings
Sweet thoughts of half- forgotten things

May you who seek eternity
Still find a continuity
In nature's beauty ev'ry season,
Defying science and cynic's reason.

—Bert Foster

Charlottetown

Where To Start

Globe and Mail, Toronto

A study of 500 alcoholics by a prominent neuro-psychiatrist in the United States has produced information of value to anyone contemplating a career of heavy drinking, but puzzled as to where to start.

Dr. E.Y. Williams told the American Medical Association that he found definite trends indicating that various alcoholic beverages produce different symptoms when taken to excess. These are in addition to the blind staggers, headaches and hallucinations common to most categories of heavy drinkers.

Beer, for instance, cuts the appetite, whets the thirst and produces restlessness. Rum causes lower lips to go red and make one squint. Almost all whisky drinkers report stomach upsets and many suffer diseases of the pancreas.

Wine drinkers are marked by strong sadistic tendencies and a bent toward larceny— and 26, or 87 per cent, of 30 wines polled were either separated or divorced.

Gin drinkers, although afflicted with low back pain, hearing murmurs, blackouts, a peculiar high- stepping gait and fear of becoming homosexual, tend to hold on grimly to their marriages.

What'll it be?

The Tickle Reflex Noted

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

The tickle reflex may be looked upon as an occupational hazard of the medical profession. In examining the abdomen, for example, the squirming patient may laugh and laugh as he pushes away the physician's hand. It is comforting to know that this ticklish situation can be overcome.

Dr. Robert A. Gerisch offers a professional tip along this line. He suggests the patient place his hand on his abdomen and then have the physician place his hand over it, with only light pressure. In this position, both hands are moved over each section of the abdomen. Since no tickle is felt, relaxation is induced. Then the patient takes the physician's hand and places it on his abdomen, keeping his hand on top. In this way the examination can be completed in comfort.

Of all the states in the Union Arizona has the highest death rate from chronic respiratory diseases. Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming come next. Only Vermont and Pennsylvania approach the mortality figures of these western states. The lowest death rates from this cause occur in Illinois, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

These statistics might suggest marked geographic variations in the incidence of this type of respiratory disease. This is not so. Many victims of chronic lung disorders move to the mountain states, hoping the clean dry air will help them. Furthermore, many retired persons migrate to the west and southwest for a variety of reasons.

Why is the combination of alcohol and sleeping pills lethal at times? Dr. Jack E. Wallace of the Lakeland air force base explains that barbituates interfere with an enzyme that controls the ability of the body to dissipate alcohol. The double depressant effect of both drugs makes a deadly mixture, especially when used in large amounts.

Many alcoholics are addicted to barbituates and take a few capsules on going to bed. A short time later, forgetting they had taken sleeping pills, they swallow a second dose. An alcoholic with suicidal tendencies might decide "this is the night" and a handful of barbituates proves fatal even though the dose might not be large enough to kill a sober person.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Don't become over confident and swim out too far.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, co Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

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NOTES BY THE WAY

It is not true, as is sometimes said, that no effort has been made to bring the Canadian constitution to Canada. Very strenuous efforts were made both by the St. Laurent and Diefenbaker governments, in a series of special federal - provincial conferences. These conferences failed because the provinces could not agree on a formula by which the constitution might be amended after it had been brought home. And so, in the absence of agreement, we have had no choice but to continue with the method of presenting a humble address to the Crown, following which the British Parliament automatically enacts the proposed amendment.— Ottawa Citizen.

Sir Winston entered the Commons when the Boer War was in progress and cavalry were important. He leaves it when intercontinental missiles and nuclear bombs set up an uneasy balance of terror. No long-serving member of the House can ever have witnessed such transformations in war, industry and social life. Parliament itself has not changed as rapidly as the world around it, but Sir Winston's membership covered the most eventful years of its history. Had he not been an inspiring war leader, Sir Winston would still be a distinguished parliamentarian. As it is, he has become the greatest commoner of them all.— The Scotsman, Edinburgh.

Appetites Of The Irish

Niagara Falls Review

A study is being made of Irish males who are between the ages of 30 and 60 years, have lived in the Boston area for 10 or more years, and who have a brother in Ireland who has never left the country.

This is being done in the interests of health and nutrition by Dr. Frederick Health, and already shows that a man in Ireland can consume an average of 300 calories more per day than his blood brother in Boston, and yet weigh less.

The result was not come by easily, but on a study of 600 Irishmen in Boston who had 400 blood brothers in Ireland.

Why the difference?

It could be that the Irishman in Ireland walks more and is more physically active than his brother in Boston.

The man in Ireland consumes more animal fats, with 94 per cent of the total fat intake including an average consumption of a pound of butter per week, and yet has a lower level of serum chloresterol than his brother in Boston.

He also has much less hypertension to contend with.

Thus the Irish are up-to- date guinea pigs in the study of obesity and as it affects health and shortens longevity; and since obesity shortens life, the fat Irish from Boston may well want to go back to Ireland, where they can eat all they want and stay lean.

More Work, Less Play

Hamilton Spectator

We are sure Gilles Gregoire, one of Real Caouette's MPs from Quebec, wasn't being facetious when he suggested that the Commons sit every week day from nine in the morning till midnight for the balance of the flag debate. The summer soon ends, and Mr. Gregoire wants a holiday.

There is much in favor of Mr. Gregoire's suggestion. The House now sits from 2 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a two- hour supper recess; from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, and from 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. without a luncheon break on Fridays. Sitting from 9 a.m. to 12 midnight for those five days might tax the energies of many MPs, to be sure, but it would make up for many hours they should have been working during the rest of the session.

As it is a well-known fact that sometimes as few as 20 of the 265 MPs are in their seats, even a 15-hour day, with the usual luncheon and dinner breaks, five days a week, shouldn't give any parliamentarian a case of nervous exhaustion. The party "whips" could surely arrange timetables that would make it unnecessary for any MP to spend more than five or six hours per day in the House.

What is of utmost importance is the settlement of as many of the nation's pressing problems as possible before the summer ends.

Perhaps the current parliament's image will forever be associated with a soggy potato, but it really is not too late to change it for the better. The public would be most impressed, in fact, if the Commons decided to work longer hours for the balance of the session. And taxpayers would turn a cartwheel if it did its work with a minimum of party politicking and a maximum of unselfish objectivity.

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