

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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Set Fine Example

The death yesterday of Councillor W.R. MacNeill has been a shock to all our citizens, for he seemed to enjoying excellent health, with many more years of useful activity before him. Certainly few men have set a finer example of zeal and devotion to the duties he assumed on his election to the City Council six years ago, and particularly in late years since taking over the heavy responsibilities of chairman of the finance committee, and of the labor relations board in which he was engaged, at the time of his death, in seeking to reach an agreement with the local union of civic employees in a contract dispute. He served in many other capacities, notably as deputy mayor for two years, and always with credit to himself and to the council.

An energetic and successful business man, Mr. MacNeill also found time for participation in a wide range of other activities, bringing him into contact with all classes of our people. He was popular everywhere, for he was invariably courteous and considerate. His genial smile and warm handshake were something which his many friends will long treasure in their memories. They bespoke a nature that was open and above-board, and that set a high value on the amenities of life as well as on its more onerous responsibilities.

"A man of his calibre," says Mayor Cox in his tribute to Mr. MacNeill on this occasion, "is always difficult to replace." His death indeed is a reminder that public office nowadays is no sinecure, and that those who labor in it conscientiously, and perhaps to the detriment of their health, do so for reasons quite apart from any monetary reward. Civic office, certainly, holds out no great inducement in that regard. It does present opportunities for service to one's community, however; and it could be said of Mr. MacNeill that his energies were unfailingly directed to this end. His replacement at City Hall will indeed be difficult, but his example, we are sure, will be helpful not only to his successor on the finance committee, but to all his colleagues.

With them and with our citizens generally The Guardian joins in extending sympathy to Mrs. MacNeill and family in their sore bereavement.

Chance For Alberta

An omission noted in the Throne Speech at Ottawa this year was any reference to providing for an Ombudsman—that "citizens' defender," about the need for whom there was much talk before the November general election. Some of the provinces have been toying with the idea of establishing such an office on their own account. Now a legislative committee in Alberta has tabled a report recommending action in the matter, and the statements set forth are of interest to all who have been concerned about the encroachments of bureaucracy on a free society.

The report warns that inadequate attention has been paid to individual rights in setting up administrative agencies in the province. If finds only one statute in which the Legislature has given clear recognition that a fair and reasonable balance is to be maintained between private rights and public advantage according to "the real needs of society." It agrees that boards and tribunals have a role in expediting public business, but outlines the kind of protection needed to safeguard against their abuses.

Several areas of controversy the committee declared beyond its jurisdiction, but it recommended that an Administrative Procedures Act be passed—an act that would compel all tribunals to adhere to certain basic procedures. And it made three main proposals for reform. A committee of the Legislature, it

suggested, should examine all regulations made each year by all boards and tribunals, with power to recommend to the House the amendment or deletion of regulations offending fairness or good procedure. There should be appeal to the courts from decisions of boards and agencies, on questions of both law and jurisdiction, but not of fact, with full appeal to the courts on all matters affecting compensation. And, most importantly, a Commissioner of the Legislature (an Ombudsman) should be appointed. It being found during the course of the committee hearings that such an official "could lend a needed helping hand" in many cases.

The Manning government has been talking of the need for legislation of this kind for some time. It now has the ball in its court and should relish the opportunity of putting its precepts into practice. The Edmonton Journal says that the draft Ombudsman Act submitted by the committee is quite adequate on most points. But it urges, as well, the need for bringing within the jurisdiction of an Ombudsman the acts of local government, also the setting of his pay—and his approximate qualifications for the position—at the level of a Supreme Court Justice; and—above all—the importance "of not weakening his position by unnecessarily curtailing his powers of jurisdiction, and of establishing his absolute independence."

This latter proviso is indeed the crux of the whole matter. It will require a high grade of politicians to give in their loyal support. Alberta now has a chance of show what it can do in this regard, and we wish it luck.

Johnson's Warning

"The ease with which any person can acquire firearms," President Johnson told the U.S. Congress a year ago, is a "significant factor" in the national crime rate. He urged passage of legislation to curb the scandalous interstate flow of lethal firearms. Two administration bills were introduced, but they didn't get anywhere. They were smothered in criticism and vilification, mounted by such organizations as the National Rifle Association and abetted by thousands of letters from individuals and groups, often grossly misinformed as to what the legislation meant.

Perhaps some of those who objected will have second thoughts in the light of what happened in a South Los Angeles area this week, where negro rioting resulted in shooting, stabbing and looting before the police—several hundred strong—could clear the streets. At the height of the outbreak a white truck driver was shot to death. Those involved may have had just grievances, though they took the wrong way to demonstrate them. What was evident is that they had no difficulty in obtaining lethal weapons for their unlawful purposes.

Now President Johnson has again called on Congress to halt "blind, unquestioned mail order sales of guns," to check "the easy availability of deadly weapons to professionals (criminals), to delinquent youth and to the disturbed and deranged." It was his strongest statement yet on the matter. His plea is supported by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and by the American Bar Association, and should appeal to all who are concerned about this menace.

But the President still has an uphill battle on his hands. The assassination of President Kennedy by a fanatic with a mail-order rifle put the need for curbing the purchase of firearms in this manner in the most sensational light. The failure of that appalling warning to bring action on the legislative level can be taken as a measure of the effectiveness of the pressure groups that are working against it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The British election campaign is spawning a gigantic betting spree the like of which has never been seen before. Betting in Britain is heavily taxed so it is entirely possible the government will recover much of the cost of the election.

In Paris, it doesn't pay to be over-zealous in helping one's youngster to cheat at school. One man was given an eight-month suspended prison sentence for this offense, though it did rate high on grounds of originality. The prosecution told the court that a woman supervisor had seen a 22-year old youth mumbering into his sweater during the exam. His father, a dentist, was observed in a car outside the examination hall, speaking into a transistor radio. It was a clear case of inter-communication, and the youth, as well as the father, came to grief.



ASK THE MAN WHO OWNS ONE OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Who Says There Isn't A Santa Claus?

Much has been said and written in criticism of Prime Minister Pearson's appointment to the Senate of nine unusually young men, all Liberal activists, nearly all-failed politicians, and as a group very deficient in the background anticipated by the creators of the Senate as a chamber of sober second thought.

But little has been said about the value of the gift implicit in their appointment, which is at the expense of the taxpayers of Canada. This gift can be valued as the equivalent of \$1,325,275 for each new senator, on average. Thus those nine Liberals will receive, at the expense of the taxpayers of Canada of all parties, annuities which would have cost them \$11,927,475. That sum is enough to pay the government costs of our recent unnecessary general election in all 263 constituencies; it is enough to support our entire Royal-Canadian Mounted Police for seven weeks, or our National Film Board for 17 months.

Or to put it more vividly, \$11,927,475 is enough to give all the income tax payers in the large wealthy city of Sarnia a tax holiday for a whole year. So for the next 12 months, the good taxpayers of Sarnia might say to themselves that every cent they pay in income tax is going to finance Mr. Pearson's appointment of nine Crites to the Senate.

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. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

PROTESTS AMENDMENTS Sir,—I note that an amendment to the Election Act increases the number of Provincial House members to 32, allows Kings County to retain 10 and gives the Electoral District of Charlottetown and the Royalties 2 additional members. This is comedy at its best. It makes a farce of representation by population for the simple reason that the electoral district of Charlottetown and the Royalties has a greater population than the whole of Kings County. Yet Charlottetown and the Royalties are to have 4 members and Kings County 10.

Members of the House are there to represent people not things and open spaces. The learned and informed members of the present House can very readily check the available census figures and find that Kings County has something less than 20,000 people and Charlottetown and the Royalties well over 22,000. And the gap is widening each year. Charlottetown has more than 18,000 people and Sherwood and Parkdale each have more than 2,000 inhabitants. Also to be included is the population of West Royalty for which I have no figures.

It will be seen, therefore, that both Parkdale and Sherwood have greater populations than Souris and Montague. So while Charlottetown people look on with apparent indifference their democratic rights are being completely ignored and they will go on being half represented in a House which is supposed to uphold no taxation without representation, and the sanctity of the ballot.

If the proposed amendments go through, a ballot cast in Kings County will be worth 2 1/2 for everyone cast in the Charlottetown-Royalty District. Truly the work of a genius. I am, Sir, etc JOHN B. MURLEY Charlottetown.

Ontario Hospital Study

Disturbing indeed is the report of a study into the control of infections in Ontario hospitals, undertaken by a Toronto doctor, a nurse and a statistician, which indicates that most of them maintain inadequate aseptic standards. The authors, while acknowledging that the yardstick they used in their survey was rigorous, insisted it was realistic. Surely none other than the most scrupulous could be countenanced by hospital administration, medical profession and public at large if patients are to be accorded the maximum protection.

Gold In Arthritis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Arthritis still is a problem despite the many good remedies. Many people do not realize that the more potent products cannot be taken indefinitely because of side reactions. The victim improves but may have a recurrence when the medicine is discontinued. Those not benefited are discouraged and become emotionally disturbed.

Mental and physical rest is the basic treatment of arthritis. Physiotherapy and a nourishing diet also are important. Aspirin, one of the most commonly used drugs, relieves pain, reduces inflammation and swelling, and affects the immune mechanism of the body. It is safe, except for the rare person who is overly sensitive to salicylates. Best results are obtained when 10 to 15 grains are taken three or four times a day.

Gastric irritation can be minimized by taking the drug with food or with a full glass of milk or water. Many arthritides develop flare-ups when the drug is discontinued. Salicylates are continued even though other drugs are added to the plan of treatment.

The steroids, such as cortisone, often work wonders, but are not advisable for long-term therapy because of serious side reactions. Arthritis is a chronic disorder and any remedy will be needed for many months. As a result, the steroids are not employed initially.

The pendulum is swinging back to the use of gold salts in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. The effectiveness and safety of this product is debatable but there is considerable evidence that it is valuable when used properly. The drug is safer than the steroids, the phenylbutazones, and the anti-malarials, such as chloroquine, especially when used over long periods of time. Side effects must be watched for and the medication is discontinued when they develop.

Indomethacin may be safer than gold salts. The early reports on this new member have been encouraging but time will tell whether the good results will continue.

BINGO AND THE HEART E. B. writes: I have a bad case of angina pectoris with nerve complications. Do you think it is harmful for me to play bingo two or three times a week and come home at midnight? I am 45 years old.

REPLY Any activity that brings on chest pain, palpitation, or shortness of breath is not advisable, regardless of age.

COD LIVER OIL M. writes: Will cod liver oil help an elderly arthritic?

REPLY It won't do any harm, but I doubt that it will do any good. Cod liver oil is an old remedy for arthritis and was discontinued because too few were helped.

NOT MUCH CHANCE P. A. writes: Could a person who visits a relative in the tuberculosis hospital carry the germs home to other members of the family?

REPLY Acquiring tuberculosis second-hand is a remote possibility.

OVIULATION TIME A reader writes: Can a woman become pregnant during ovulation?

REPLY Yes, and a few days before and after is the best time.

ACID AND ULCER Mrs. W.A. writes: Do persons with ulcer have too much hydrochloric acid in the stomach or too little?

REPLY Usually too much.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Chew your food well. (NOTE: All correspondence addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian-Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 18, 1941) Highlighting a sensational racing card, Wellington MacNeill's three-year-old Raymond Budlong won the first quarter of the colt race in 31 seconds flat to cap a great day of racing. The colt's performance was the most outstanding one ever witnessed by local horsemen and placed him as one of the best colts ever bred in the province.

While busy Bristol, England, cleared up the debris of a heavy air raid staged by the Nazi air force on the previous night, it became apparent that casualties would be much higher than first expected.

OUR YESTERDAYS (March 18, 1956) A bitter attack on Joseph Stalin, accusing him of responsibility for massacre and torture during his 30 years as Russia's leader, was made by Nikita Khrushchev.

Humorist, Fred Allen, the dour and baggy-eyed fixture of radio and TV for a quarter of a century, died Allen, 61, collapsed yesterday on a midtown street during a nightly stroll, in New York City.

British Campaign Dragging

By Joseph MacSwiney Canadian Press Staff Writer So far the British election campaign has gone over like one of those old unexploded bombs found from time to time in the vicinity of St. Paul's, in London.

Political warhorses have dredged up the phrase "phony war" from the 1939-40 era, to describe the curious lack of heat in the international issues raised by the campaign. The implication is that things will come to life later—as it is only to be expected in Britain, where voters are generally regarded as the most politically alert in the world.

Newspaper columnists have been using terms like "great yawn" to describe the election fight and looking hopefully toward George Brown, the firebrand of the Labor party, and Quintin Hogg, who says all socialists are "bonkers," to put some spice in the affair.

NO LOSS OF A SPUR The issue of joining the European Common Market no longer seems to evoke the excitement of a few years ago.

Conservative Leader Edward Heath has declared flatly in favor of joining the market and so has Liberal Leader Jo Grimond. Now the word is that Prime Minister Wilson will be ready to conduct serious studies into joining the market if Labor is returned March 31. This was made known Wednesday after exchanges between Foreign Minister Michael Stew-

A Timely Protest

Sherbrooke Record Announcement by Prime Minister Pearson that the Queen will visit Canada during 1967, to help celebrate the centennial of Confederation has brought a protest from Wallace Nesbitt, Ontario Conservative MP for Oxford, Ontario, which most Canadians will support.

Mr. Wallace does not protest the Queen's visit. Rather he is strongly in favor of it. But he believes that Canada should stop "pushing poor Queen Elizabeth from pillar to post on those ghastly royal tours" and make her in fact, as well as in name, Queen of Canada.

Anyone who has studied a royal tour itinerary will agree with Mr. Nesbitt that such trips "amount to a rat race." The prime objective of the organizers of the tours seem to be to repay political debts of the party in power by permitting local officials who have rendered favors to the Government to monopolize her time in the brief time allotted to local visits.

A Luckless Pawn

Winnipeg Free Press Gerald Brooke, the London lecturer in Russian who was arrested in Moscow last year on charges of "Soviet activities" and sentenced to a five-year term, has appealed to the British government to get him out. He is due to be transferred to a labor camp in April and he is aware that Newcomb Mott, the 28-year-old American who received an 18-month sentence for crossing into the Soviet enclave on the Norwegian border (where frontier traffic is allowed for Norwegians) committed suicide on the way to the camp.

According to Mrs. Brooke and the British consul in Moscow, who saw him recently, Mr. Brooke is terrified.

Meanwhile, Mr. Brooke is being deliberately tortured by starvation, according to Sir Peter Rawlinson, the former British solicitor-general. His wife's visit to him was delayed by the Russians so that it should coincide with Prime Minister Wilson's visit to Moscow, and Mrs. Brooke was appalled when she saw her husband. He had lost 28 pounds, his diet consisting almost entirely of tea and a small ration of cereals.

The reason for this brutal treatment is to force the British to arrange an exchange on humanitarian grounds and hand over Russia's master spies, the American-born Peter and Helen Kroger, who are each serving a 20-year sentence for espionage in Britain.

Nobody knows whether Mr. Brooke was a an unexpected gift to Soviet security men or whether his arrest was planned and his trial faked to get a British hostage.

There are many unexplained facts in this strange affair, and many observers incline to the second possibility.

The Soviet Union thus continues to gamble ruthlessly with human life to achieve its end, tactics worthy of a Mongol khan but not of a civilized 20th century nation.

ANETDATES CHRISTMAS

The feast of Epiphany, first recorded in 194 AD, is an older Christian festival than Christmas.

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