The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew
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Causeway Query

The Federal Department of Public Works "is not in a position as yet to make any definite announcement" with regard to the results of investigations to determine the feasibility of the Northumberland Strait Causeway scheme. This was the reply given to Mr. Heath Macquarrie, M.P. for Queens, on November 12. We trust, however, that Mr. Macquarrie will keep repeating his question until a more satisfactory answer is forthcoming.

The query posed by Mr. Macquarrie was this: What have been the findings of the investigations with respect to (a) the estimated cost of the project; (b) the time likely to be required for construction of such a causeway. In the reply tabled by the Assistant Minister, Mr. Hodgson, it is stated that (1) the Department has undertaken a drilling program to examine the type of rock which could be obtained from Cape Tormentine close to the existing ferry terminal, and (2) a second investigation has been made to determine the cost of providing the present ferry transportation between Borden and Tormentine.

One would imagine that the latter inquiry would be quite unnecessary at this late date. At any rate it has nothing to do with Mr. Macquarrie's question, or with the feasibility of the causeway. It is a long time now since the drilling program was started, and that piece of information too is quite superfluous. Unofficially we understand that the boring results have been very satisfactory, but it is idle to comment on this report until it is officially confirmed.

The Government has many things on its mind at the present time, and due allowance must be made for the delay in supplying information on the the causeway investigations. Nevertheless, it is a subject of major importance to Prince Edward Island and to our neighboring Provinces as well, and it is to be hoped that no further time will be lost in giving the facts. The project has become all the more important in view of the power projects which are being launched in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with Federal assistance, and in which we hope to benefit through the extension of power lines to this Province. The sooner we learn officially where we stand on the causeway scheme, the better it will be for all concerned.

Mr. Pickersgill's Fears

The irrepressible John W. Pickersgill, former Immigration Minister, is worrying about the coming Federal-Provincial conference on fiscal matters. "There is growing fear among the poorer provinces", he told the Commons, "that they will get less from the Progressive Conservatives than they did from the Liberals under Federal-Provincial tax sharing". He added that the Prime Minister "apparently plans to short-change nine Provinces so that the fiscal demands of Premier Frost of Ontario can be met".

Just what will come out of the conference is a question which no one is in a position to answer at the moment. But, contrary to Mr. Pickersgill's fears, the consensus among Maritimers, including the two Liberal Governments of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, seems to be that the region will get a better deal, not a worse one, than the take-it-or-leave-it proposition to which the Liberal Government adhered for many years. The Prime Minister has stated time and time again that there will be opportunity for full and frank discussion, which even Mr. Pickersgill must admit was not the practice in other years. One suspects that Mr. Pickersgill's real worry is that the representatives of the the 'poorer Provinces" might come out of the conference pretty well satisfied with Federal concessions, a fact which would naturally reduce Liberal chances of making a comeback. Clearly, if the new Government can do better than the Liberals did, Maritimers are not going to turn against it. Even Mr. Pickersgill's own seat in Twillingate-Bonavista might be placed in jeopardy!

As for the charge that Ontario's demands will force the Government to "short-change" the rest of Canada, it had no apparent effect on public thinking in the election campaign; nor will it scare anybody now. If only from the standpoint of political strategy—to say nothing of the national interest—it is a puerile observation. Whatever other qualities Mr. Diefenbaker may possess, no one will deny that he has plenty of political shrewdness. He is too wise a man to cater to one area to the detriment of all the others.

In any case, it would be pretty hard to make a more complete job of "short-changing" any Province than in the deal Prince Edward Island received from the St. Laurent Government under the last iniquitous agreement.

Official Vandalism

A correspondent in Hunter River has drawn attention to the destruction of a beautiful hedge by highway maintenance crews on a property in New Glasgow, one of the beauty spots of the Province, ostensibly as a measure of protection against snow accumulation. "That which took much labour and many years to produce was rooted out and burned", reported the correspondent sadly.

This sort of thing is going on all over the Island. It seems that wherever there is a little tree near the road there is a man with an axe ready and eager to destroy it on the orders of highway officials.

It is highly questionable whether this practice has any significant value in the task of keeping the roads open. But there is no question at all that it is harmful to conservation and destructive to the natural beauty of the countryside. Of what use is the plea for beautification when a man who spends time and money in tree and shrub planting is always in dread lest his esthetic sense be violated and his labour frustrated by someone who is paid to kill a thing of beauty for a dubious utilitarian advantage?

EDITORIAL NOTES

A dashboard-sticker legend distributed by a church organization in Rhode Island: Love your neighbour on the road. Drive as a Christian and not like the devil. The Rites you demand may be your last.

* * *

Great treasures are sometimes found in out of the way places. Recently in London a soldier found a musty old painting among his father's tools in a carpenter shop. It turned out to be a masterpiece by Rubens worth more than $16,000.

* * *

The United States Government has warned the states that Federal funds to health may have to be curtailed as expenditures for defence increase. This is one of the results of Russia's lead in the field of rocketry. And it is a sad commentary on modern "civilization" whichever way one looks at it.

* * *

Religious News Service reports that a gift shop offering totem poles, Eskimo dolls, place mats, carved animals and Indian jewelry has been opened in Philadelphia by the Presbyterian Board of Missions. The items are gathered in Alaska and other areas where the mission is at work. Proceeds will go to the mission stations which are co-operating in the enterprise.

* * *

A question important to our fishermen is the possible introduction in 1958 of compulsory inspection and grading of fresh and frozen fish. Replying to a question in the House of Commons the other day, Hon. Angus MacLean, Minister of Fisheries, stated that no decision had been taken with regard to amending the present regulations, nor is it contemplated that a committee of the House will deal with the matter. It has been the practice of the department to have full discussion with the industry through its association, the Fisheries Council of Canada, and with others on proposed amendments to regulations. Meetings with the industry and others interests will be convened before such proposals are presented to the government for consideration.

PICKING A WINNER

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

POTATO SUPPORT PRICE

Sir, — In last Friday's issue of The Guardian I read where Mr. Heath Macquarrie, member of Parliament for Queens, was asking for aid for the Island potato grower, which is very thoughtful on his part. But I don't think the Island farmers want or deserve help since they didn't have enough common sense to support their Marketing Board on the day of the plebiscite, which was as far as I could see the only support they had. I think it is useless for any Government to pay a support price on potatoes unless they find some means to control the amount of potatoes grown. But if it is to be paid I think it should be paid on just so many potatoes from each farmer.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JAMES MacCALLUM
Brackley Point.

THE PARKDALE PROBLEM

Sir, — A mainland paper headlines a correspondent's account of a meeting here in connection with the proposed amalgamation of Charlottetown and Parkdale areas with the words: "Merger Plan Bogs Down." The meeting was called in order that the terms of union could be explained. In this way it was not entirely successful. If the proposed amalgamation bogs down it will be as a result of the plebiscite vote.

Parkdale has been fortunate in having excellent management of its business since the Village was formed. However, can we successfully and economically build a complete and separate water and sewerage system? We are told that the Provincial Government will guarantee up to 15 per cent of the assessed value of the Village. At least an additional $170,000 would be necessary. Can the Village of Parkdale or any village borrow this amount of money? The urgency of a sewer and water system is well known to property holders. There is a real danger of our plans being bogged down by wishful thinking.

It does seem illogical that an area the size of Charlottetown-Parkdale-Spring Park should have three separate governments and three separate service systems. We must look forward to at least a generation in the future as well as appraise the immediate value of being a part of a larger unit.

We will be surrendering low cost and efficient management for something we know little about at City Hall. However, our representation, two from each new Ward, should safeguard our interests.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JOHN MUSTARD
Parkdale.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sir,—I am writing with reference to a statement made by Premier Matheson which appeared in a recent issue of this newspaper, with regard to the construction of rural electrification lines. In giving his report as to the number of lines erected, he mentioned the completion of four miles in the Albany area. This, in itself, has caused considerable concern to myself and others from the below mentioned district.

Personally I am not acquainted with any newly-erected line within the Albany area. I am, however, a resident of the Mt. Tryon district which is to have a section of the road (commencing at North Tryon Corner and extending over said road for a distance similar to that mentioned by Hon. Mr. Matheson) supplied with electricity.

In fact, during the initial part of the summer representatives of the Maritime Electric Company drove from Charlottetown and gave estimates of costs of having the line connected with the dwellings of the residents of this area, also giving a certain date on which this money was to be sent to the office in Charlottetown, where, it was understood that immediately following approval by the Board of Utilities, construction of the line would commence.

However, after sending the requested money to the office, where it apparently still remains, no further word with reference to this matter has ever occurred and with the approach of winter, we, here, in Mt. Tryon still remain "in the dark" with regard to electricity.

I also had the privilege, as did others, on the night of the Liberal nomination held in the Baptist Hall, Summerside, of hearing the Premier in a brief radio broadcast. Here too, he discussed the progress of electricity and at the close of his address said, "If there are any here in the audience from a district which was to receive wiring but has not obtained such, I will appreciate hearing from them at the close of the meeting."

Therefore, I would like to bring this matter to his attention, wondering if the four miles, which in his statement was mentioned as being completed, are instead that portion of the Mt. Tryon district apparently forgotten about.

I am, Sir, etc.,
"STILL WAITING"
Mt. Tryon, P. E. I.

(We understand that four applications to the mile are required for a line in any area before construction is considered and that this condition has not been met in Mount Tryon. Money forwarded to the company under these circumstances can at any time be recovered on request.—Ed.G.)

MARITIME AID

Sir, — On November 14th, Rt. Hon.John Diefenbaker announced in the House of Commons that in order to give the Maritime Provinces a fair opportunity for industrial growth, the Federal Government proposes to give loans amounting to many millions of dollars at reduced rates of interest, to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for the establishment of Power Plants etcetera.

At once Hon. J. W. Pickerskill, who represents a constituency in Newfoundland was on his feet speaking on behalf of his Province and the Province of Prince Edward Island, neither of which Mr. Diefenbaker had mentioned while discussing the problems of the Maritimes; and all of the four Tory Members for Prince Edward Island remained silent in their seats.

This does not coincide with what Mr. Diefenbaker said at a meeting in Charlottetown before the Federal election. On that occasion he referred to Prince Edward Island as "the poorest of the poor relations" and then he said, "You people of Prince Edward Island want action" and pointing to his four Tory disciples, sitting behind him he declared: "Send these four Conservative candidates to the House of Commons and we'll give you action."

In Summerside Diefenbaker made use of the "old timer" used by cheap political speakers before Confederation, in stating that the Liberal Members from Prince Edward Island make their greatest contribution in Parliament by the silence they preserved.

After all, one should hardly blame but rather pity the Island's Tory Members for the abject silence they preserved on the the occasion referred to in this letter.

I am, Sir, etc.,
THOS V. GRANT
Senate Chamber, Ottawa

OTTAWA REPORT

The Liberal Convention

By Patrick Nicholson
Special Correspondent for The Guardian

Ottawa: The fourth National Liberal Convention will be held in Ottawa on January 14th, 15th and 16th next year. Its purpose will be to select a new leader in succession to the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, and also to redefine the doctrine of Liberalism.

No less than two thousand four hundred and fifty two delegates and alternate delegates are expected to gather in Ottawa's Coliseum on those days. They will represent Liberal associations in every province and every constituency, in numbers ranging from 57 Prince Edward Islanders to 704 Ontarians.

It is a very noteworthy point that this will be only the fourth national convention ever held by the Liberal party. Three leaders have together spanned no less than 65 years since the late Sir Wilfred Laurier was selected to lead the party, at the first convention held in 1893.

After 26 years of Laurier, in 1919 W. L. Mackenzie King was elected leader in 1919. His leadership outlasted Laurier's by three years, and in 1948 Louis St. Laurent, then already 66 years old, was chosen leader. Now, after nine years, Mr. St. Laurent plans to hand over to a younger man.

WHITHER LIBERALISM?

The 1948 Convention went through all the customary motions without an apparent ruffle on the surface. But the discerning delegates noticed a straw in the very compelling wind. An ex-Cabinet Minister, who was and indeed who still is one of the greatest Liberals of all time, allowed his name to go forward for the leadership although he knew everyone else knew that he did not have even an outside chance of heading the ballot. But he chose that dramatic opportunity as the setting for what was perhaps the most passionate and most convinced appeal which he ever made from a platform. His subject: it was time for Liberalism to get back into the rails. The speaker of course was Hon. Charles Cavan Power of Quebec City, who is now an elder statesman of the Liberal Party gracing the Senate.

This question, "Whither Liberalism?", will be the theme underlying many of the resolutions which delegates will bring from the grass roots to the floor of the convention in January.

What those resolutions will be, it is too early even to speculate. Provincial associations and constituency associations are holding their meetings for the purpose of selecting their delegates and framing suggested resolutions. The latter will be forwarded to Ottawa within the next month or two, where they will be studied and made ready for consideration by the big resolutions committee of the convention, which will be under the chairmanship of George Marler of Montreal.

PROBLEM SUBJECTS

These resolutions will certainly embrace such topics as the cost of living, the employment situation, international trade, farm prices and the fear of job insecurity through the introduction of automation.

All that is the working side of the Convention. The glamour and the human interest of course centres around the choice of the new leader.

Here there is a serious risk that the Convention may prove to be the least significant of those held by the Liberal Party. Some people feel that Hon. Lester B. ("Mike") Pearson is so far out in front already in the leadership race that there will be no interest in a foregone conclusion.

It is probable, but by no means certain at the present time, that Hon. Paul Martin will repeat his 1948 venture, when a substantial body of supporters on the Convention floor were "all for Paul". There are no other obvious candidates, since Walter Harris, Bob Winters, Doug Abbott and Brooks Claxton have all dropped out; and there is little chance of a serious dark horse emerging.

Yet to stimulate interest in the Convention, in the Party and in the forthcoming general election, it is important that the leadership contest should be open. In this report, the 1958 Convention is likely to be very different from the 1948 Convention. At that former one, the retiring leader virtually nominated his successor, and the "Crass" vest home feeling that they had been dominated by the "Brass." Next year the "Crass" will certainly find that it is the shoe pinching, while the "Brass", the big shots in Ottawa, play their parts very muted. This in itself will go a long way to assist the Chubby Power drive to put Liberalism back on the rails.

RUSS WAR ON DRUNKS

LONDON (Reuters) — Moscow Communists have "declared war" on Hooligans, drunkards and youthful delinquents. Moscow Radio said Friday. The broadcast said "youth teams" have been set up in an effort to reform the hooligans. Those who do not behave "will be publicly exposed and ridiculed in the local press."

IS MIDEAST ARMY BOSS

LONDON (AP)—Lt. - Gen. Sir Roger Bower, a 6-foot-2 paratrooper who until recently commanded British troops in Malaya, has been appointed commander of Middle East land forces, the war office announced Thursday. He takes up his new appointment in January, succeeding Gen. Sir Geoffrey Bourne.

May Constitute Threat To Health

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

I DON'T think any informed person will question the fact that many new chemicals, such as DDT and others with which you are familiar, have made life a good deal easier and more pleasant.

At the same time, however, they have complicated the overall health picture. As more and more chemicals are brought into everyday use around the home, in the factory and on the farm, the number of potentially harmful exposures to chemicals increases, too.

SERIOUS PROBLEM

Actually, a recent discussion on the problem by the American Medical Association's Committee on Toxicology and Committee on Pesticides reported that the problem is more serious than the average person realizes.

Many of us, for example, have very small amounts of DDT stored in the fat in our bodies. There appears, however, to be virtually no danger in such a situation even though it is so widespread.

LIMITED STORAGE

Studies indicate that we can store DDT in additional quantities only for about a year. After that, our bodies store no more, no matter how much we take in. One particular survey failed to yield a single case of an illness related to DDT.

Other chemicals, however, do present a certain amount of danger. We can breathe into our lungs such substances as vapors, fumes, dust, gases and mists. We can swallow other substances along with water and food. And we can absorb still others through the skin, eyes and ears.

I can't begin to describe all the possible dangerous elements. There are more than 500 of them in household use alone.

CONSTANT EXPOSURE

All along the line, from industrial workers to processors, to distributors, to agricultural or household users, persons are continually exposed to them. It's almost impossible to avoid them.

So the best way of protecting yourself is to read labels and instructions carefully. Whether you are processing food or cleaning the house, follow instructions provided by your boss or the manufacturer of the chemical you are using.

In other words, follow the age-old advice: "Use according to directions."

QUESTION AND ANSWER

E.D.: My 10-month-old daughter sweats profusely on the soles of her feet. What do you advise?

Answer: The sweating may be due to some instability of her sympathetic nervous system. No cure is known for this, but it is a matter for great concern, for it will not cause permanent disability in the child.

The Poet's Corner

COAL FIRE

Dead, and dead - black, yet
strangely more alive
Than surface stone, we bring
the earth's black gold
Here to the hearth's antique and
stiff-legged altar
And sacrifice it to the gods of
cold.
See, with what simple grandeur
we have come
Full cycle to a purpose not our
own
Restoring, by the alchemy of
flame,
Lost blue of skies and leaves'
clear copper tone.
The writhing, purple adders' -
tongues of fire
Which pierced cold chaos when
the world began
And lit the planet's morning
with a light
More terrible than ever shone on
man.

—H. Grenville,
in the New York Times.

The Age Old Story

Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth. But mine eyes are unto thee, O God the Lord; in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Too many people move away from their home town before bragging about it.—St. Catharines Standard

In Preston, in Western Ontario, seven teenage drinkers were directed by the court to attend each week for six months the meeting of the local Alcoholics Anonymous. An unusual punishment, but it could be more effective than jail or a fine: these youths will learn at first hand the tragic aspects of excessive drinking.—Ottawa Journal

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Nov. 20, 1932)

Official notice has been received of the appointment of Mr. A. V. Saunders, Charlottetown, to the position of Inspector of Postal Service for the Province. The Appointment becomes effective on March 1, 1933. Mr. Saunders entered the Postal Service in 1912, and was transferred to the Postal Inspector's Office in 1919.

Pilot Fowler of the Canadian Airways who is in charge of the plane which has been placed on the Charlottetown, Summerside, Moncton air route reported Friday that unless the landing field at Summerside is licensed it is expected that it will have to be abandoned as an airport.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Nov. 20, 1947)

The Charlottetown Kiwanis Club received their Charter into the Kiwanis International under the sponsorship of the Kiwanis Club of St. John, N.B. at a dinner held last evening at the Charlottetown Hotel. Guests from other Kiwanis Clubs in Canada were present and brought greetings from their home clubs. Also present was Lieut. Governor J. A. Bernard and Premier J. Walter Jones.

Dr. Harvey Doney, M.B.E., National Director of First Aid for the Red Cross was the guest speaker at a meeting held in the High School Auditorium last night. Dr. Doney, who is making every effort to arouse interest in First Aid training in the home, gave an interesting and instructive address on First Aid.

A hitch-hiker was robbed by a motorist and that sounds sort of backwards.—London Free Press

A hushed silence has greeted the news that 18 doctors in Vancouver had received $325,000 in kickbacks from certain Toronto optical companies; it is a type of silence which is not in the public interest. Does anyone doubt this sort of thing go on, and if so, where?— Peterborough Examiner

The other day a heedless bird pick d up a lighted cigarette butt, carried it to its nest beside the awning of a Brooklyn library, and got burned out of house and home in addition to $50 damage to the awning. Naug y bird! It might have contracted lung cancer. —Woodstock Sentinel - Review

Elephants are smart, but are hardly the mental giants pictured by the talltale fraternity. One zoo director, after an exhaustive study of animal behavior, placed the Indian elephant third in a list of 10 most intelligent animals, the National Geographic Magazine says. It was outranked by chimpanzee and orangutan, but led horse, beaver, lion, grizzly bear, pack rat, mountain goat and dog.—Owen Sound Sun Times

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