The Guardian

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

Big Press Conference

It used to be said of the shoemaker's children that they were the worst shod ones in the neighborhood. He was too busy attending to the requirements of his customers to bother much with them. Newspapers would fall into the same fault if they neglected to give their own activities due publicity now and then. It being their job to toot the horn for the brain-children of every other good organization in their community, they shouldn't allow modesty to prevent them doing the same for themselves. So, taking a big breath and without further apology, here's a hearty blast in salutation to our visiting colleagues and fellow ink-slingers, news supervisors and opinion-shapers across the continent, who are now getting set to hold their 18th annual Canadian Managing Editors' Conference in Charlottetown.

Where else would they hold it, this year of our Big Centennial? That's just what they said when the idea was popped to them. Seems they were just waiting for the invitation, and probably would have come anyway! But we can assure them on behalf of every Prince Edward Islander that they couldn't possibly be more welcome—that we regard their visitation as one of the most important of the events for which we have been preparing at this time.

FROM ALL PARTS—Representing as they do nearly 70 per cent of all the daily newspapers in Canada, with a total daily circulation in excess of 2,890,000 and with every province represented, perhaps we should call their conference "the" most important in its possibilities for creating a better understanding of the problems that threaten to divide us as Canadians today, and of putting in truer perspective the ideals of nationhood to which we all subscribe.

It would be carrying coals to Newcastle to lecture our colleagues on their duties in this regard. But we might remind them that the Press has been a potent factor in this Province from early years, with a crusading tradition second to none. Many of our ablest participants in the disputes over Confederation were active journalists, well equipped with verbal artillery and the ability to use it. When not admonishing the public or castigating political incompetents, they were fighting vigorously among themselves; and we don't know in which capacity to admire them most.

JUST AN INTERLUDE—The most famous of them locally was the Hon. Edward Whelan, editor of The Examiner and a Confederation Father himself, who a few years before the Charlottetown Conference was embroiled in a dispute with an equally vociferous colleague, the editor of The Islander. He was sued by the latter for libel, and a verdict was rendered for the plaintiff—in the amount of one farthing. Mr. Whelan consoled himself, publicly, with the reflection that in two suits of a similar nature, the united damages amounted to a shilling, "while all that can be claimed from us is the forty-eighth part of that small coin." Whereupon he started the war all over again.

Editors had to risk libel charges even in reporting the debates in the Legislature in those days, so it was pretty hard going. But they stuck to their guns, and their free-wheeling comments and arguments can still be read with interest, entertainment and profit. Certainly if we left out their contribution to the public life of their time, it would be a pretty dull record. They supplied not only the fireworks but the slogans and a good many of the ideas that we associate with Confederation's early history.

This is as good a time as any to pay tribute to their fiery independence and the part they played in shaping the big events of their day. How they would have enjoyed mixing with their present-day confreres in Charlottetown—preferably over a convivial glass—and bestowing their blessing on this weekend's conference objectives!

We take the liberty of doing it for them, and of expressing our best wishes along with what we are sure would bé theirs, for a most profitable and enjoyable gathering.

Jordan Diversion

Hatred and jealousy of Israel are being put above progress by the Arabs under President Nasser. This is made painfully evident by the fact that they will have nothing to do with the American plan whereby the Jordan river waters that flow into the Sea of Galilee and the surrounding water system would be tapped for the mutual benefit of Israel and Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

But Israel is going ahead, nevertheless. It has built its own network of pumps, conduits, and canals to bring the sweet waters of Galilee to the barren Negev far to the south, and the system is now ready. Last week the Israelis began drawing the first water through it in the start of a testing period. At first water will be taken at the rate of 40 billion gallons a year; but later it will reach 85 billion gallons a year—a figure that does not exceed the figure allowed under the original plan.

Jordan has been taking water down-stream and Syria and Lebanon up-stream. But the projects are un-coordinated and the entire area does not benefit as it could. The Arab states at one time threatened military action; later they said they would divert the Jordan waters above the Israel frontiers. Such action, however, would involve several years of work and a construction project too costly to be practical.

What the Israelis fear most is sabotage. But they need the water desperately and may be expected to go to extreme lengths to guarantee getting it.

Here was another touchy point in Middle East relations that Soviet Premier Khrushchev seized upon in his junketing this week with President Nasser in Cairo. In an hour-long speech in the Egyptian legislature, he denounced, along with British "imperialism," the Israeli project as a scheme to "rob Arabs of their own water."

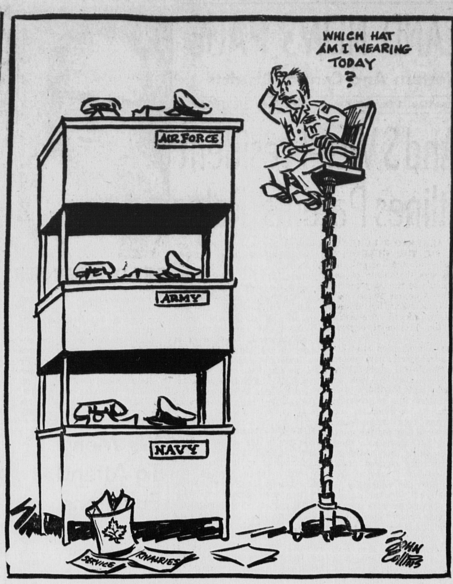
The tragedy of the whole affair is the credulity of the Arabs in falling for this puerile propaganda. There is enough water to make the desert bloom for all, if they had the gumption to cooperate in using it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Swedish supermarkets claim to have a gadget that makes groceterias on this continent look like the old country store. Beneath each item on the shelves is a stack of cards. The customer leaves the desired purchase where it is, takes a card and moves along to the next item on his list. At the checkout counter he (or she, more likely) feeds the cards into a computer which totals the bill, brings stock control record up to date and transmits the order to the stockroom. Byt the time the bill is paid, the order is delivered to the customer.

* * *

Concern about the future of the country's timber supplies led the British government to set up a forestry commission as long ago as 1919, and today the commission holds two million acres of land. One of the largest of these forests—reputed to be the largest man-made forest in Europe—follows the border between England and Scotland across the rolling Cheviot hills. Planting was begun in 1926 on 40 acres, and from this small beginning has grown a total area of 136,000 acres of woodland.



THE NEXT MILITARY PROBLEM

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Fall Noted In Parliamentary Prestige

Will the decline of Parliamentary proceedings result in the fall of our parliamentary system of government? No. But it has already caused an alarming fall in the prestige of parliament.

It is simply not true that the widespread criticism of Parliament's recent conduct is "cynical and misinformed", as Mr D. asserted. Much nearer the truth is the admission of Stanley Knowles, experienced New Democratic M.P., that "there is some justification for the general view that things are not as they ought to be in the House of Commons."

Parliament Hill, 1962-1964 vintage, falls sadly short of the golden age of legislatures when wisdom and oratory and gentlemanly behaviour and public spirit all seemed to flourish and to flourish together. Several factors have contributed to this: the weakness of certain Speakers; personal bitterness between certain party leaders; the treatment of our national legislature as a partisan hustings; the introduction into our national legislature of the undignified behaviour of the union hall.

NEW RULES BENEFIT

The daily shameful brawl into which Question Period had descended has now largely been corrected, by the introduction of new rules. This desirable step has been brought about through the initiative of the special committee on procedure and organization. But it is significant that these new rules are merely the spelling out in writing of what in the golden age had been understood and accepted tradition and precedent.

Much credit for this step must go to Stanley Knowles himself But his comment deserves attention: "I must say that rules alone, no matter how good they are, won't do the job of making Parliament all that it ought to be. There has to be mutual respect and give and take. We need a good government and a good opposition. What Parliament needs most is parties whose members know what they stand for."

In those well-chosen words, the experienced thinking man Stan has opened what in disrespectful language could be called "a can of worms."

It would be invidious to suggest all the personalities on Parliament Hill who are in the wrong place. This column has suggested some who should be elsewhere away from the hill!

But one glaring need is to give Parliament a strong Speaker. It has suffered through most of the past seven years from Speakers who are too nice, too anxious to be good fellows and kind. Roly Michener is charming, Alan Macnaughton is warm-hearted, both are outstandingly able — but neither of them has been a good Speaker in the sense that he maintained discipline with dignity.

The conduct of Parliamentary business and the administration of government would both benefit by the appointment of Speaker Macnaughton to a Cabinet portfolio, and the elevation of deputy-Speaker Lucien Lamoureaux to the Speakership. Mr Lamoureaux has a sharp awareness of the qualities needed in the Speaker's chair, and he has shown his ability to exercise them; Alan Macnaughton has so much success in the world of business behind him that his fine qualities should be utilized in running a tough department.

The malaise in every party caucus, the disintegration of some parties through defection or retirement, the continuing talk of realignment, the incessant speculation about certain party leaderships — all these are symptoms of the trouble on Parliament Hill. Meanwhile, like Lucien Lamoureaux, there are great abilities being misemployed or under-employed in the wrong niches.

And don't think that very high on this list we should not place the name of Hon. Paul Martin.

Worth Second Thoughts

Fort William Times-Journal

The Canadian Highway Safety Council favors the introduction of a new law which would make it an offence to be a passenger in a motor car driven by one who is impaired. The suggestion for the new proposal came from the floor of the Council's annual conference, and was hastily applauded and supported by the delegates who were present.

Any plan which may help to cut down on the number of cases where drivers operate their cars while under the influence of liquor deserves earnest consideration. However, in their anxiety to cope with the irresponsible motorist. Council members may not have given due consideration to all aspects of the new law they sponsor.

Police officers sometimes find it very difficult to determine whether a driver is impaired. How much more difficult it might be for Aunt Mary or cousin Tom to recognize that Bill was drinking before he called around to drive them home. There are some individuals whose outward appearance does not betray the fact that they have had nothing to drink or have had enough to create a blood alcohol content of .05 per cent or .18 per cent.

The general intent of such a law may be commendable. On the other hand, it could be unfair to place the onus of proof of a driver's condition on an innocent passenger.

Rook For A Pawn?

Montreal Gazette

The exchange of the convicted Russian spy Gordon Lonsdale for British businessman Grenville Wynne has raised an important question. Could this set a precedent, by which the Russians will be able to exchange an unimportant and perhaps innocent Westerner for a valuable Soviet spy?

This is not the first time an unequal exchange has taken place. When Francis Powers, the U-2 pilot, was traded for Rudolph Abel, it was the Soviet Union which benefited. A master spy was bartered for a man who was only a pilot and technician. In both cases, as the London Times has put it, "the Russians get a rook for a pawn."

There is even some question as to whether Wynne was a spy at all. At worst, he seems to have been on the very fringes of the world of espionage, picking up bits of economic information here and there. It is possible that he was completely innocent and was seized so that he might later be exchanged.

The British Government has said it agreed to this particular deal for humanitarian reasons. Apparently, if Wynne had been in good health he would have been left to serve his term in prison. It would seem obvious that if the Russians wish to put a prisoner in poor health in order to take advantage of humanitarian considerations, they would not find this difficult. As Wynne said after his return, "they treated me according to how they felt at the moment."

The Russians must not be allowed to think that any time they wish to rescue one of their spies from a Western jail, all they need to do is arrest some Western citizen, starve him into illness, and then arrange a trade for humanitarian reasons.

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 corrrespondence regarding letters submitted.

LANDLORDS' TAXES

Sir,—I as a taxpayer and property owner am greatly annoyed after reading Tuesday's Guardian where a Councillor remarked there was no need to raise rents after properties being assessed over double and garbage disposal added on to the landlord's taxes. We have no other choice.

If it were not for the extravagance at City Hall this would not be necessary. When you think of two archways saying "Welcome to Charlottetown" costing $20,000 when any intelligent person knows where they are and that they would be welcome on centennial year, it is time for the people who are paying for this extravagance to demand that their hard earned money not to be wasted for such nonsense.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HELEN MacKINNON
Charlottetown.

Conciliation Ignored

Cape Breton Post

Each day's instalment of the dreary, continuing story in Cyprus serves to fortify the pertinence of a recent observation by The Times in London.

The Times said: "Somewhere in Cyprus, lost among the clash of arms, is a conciliator. His presence is accepted by everybody and ignored by everybody."

The reference was to the amiable Finnish diplomat named by U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to arbitrate the differences between the Turk and Greek Cypriots. Presumably, he is doing his level best, but it isn't enough to keep him in the news. The impression is that he is lost, strayed or stolen.

As apart from Greece and Turkey, in the world at large, there's little or no sympathy for either side in the Cypriot bloodshed. A chronic, endless feud finally bores everybody except the participants.

In any neighborhood that aims at respectability the other residents finally have heard more than they can endure from a couple of households that keep everybody awake by brawling every night. A time comes when there is an overwhelming demand that the police put a stop to it.

In this instance, the United Nations surely has the capacity to do effective police work, and having the capacity must exercise it. Peace sometimes, under severe circumstances, must be enforced.

Loans amounting to $10,762,000 were made to service businesses in Canada in 1963 under the Small Businesses Loans Act,

Lincoln's Long Bones

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

A Terre Haute, Ind., nurse has written us concerning a news item she read about "a disease researchers believe Abraham Lincoln had; I think it is called Marfan's syndrome. I would like more information on this condition."

Interest was renewed in this hereditary disorder, first described in 1896, when it was found in a male descendant of Lincoln's great - great - grandfather (going back nine generations). The suggestion was made that the unusual physical appearance of our 16th President was caused by this syndrome, which is due to a mismatching of the chromosomes.

It involves the connective tissue of bones, ligaments, eyes, heart and blood vessels. Excessive growth of the long bones leads to elongated arms, legs, fingers, and toes. The arm span of a normal individual is equal to his height but in Marfan's it is three inches longer.

Persons with this syndrome have little fat under the skin and the chest is caved in. The tendons and ligaments become weak and lax, leading to slouching, loose - jointedness, flat feet, hernais, cardiovascular defects, or malpositioned ears. Various eye abnormalities include dislocation of the lens, cross - eye, retinal detachment, and refractive errors.

Lincoln had many of these characteristics. His extremities were out of proportion to his overall height. In sitting down, he was no taller than the ordinary man from the chair seat to the top of his head. His fingers as well as his legs were long and he had unusually large feet.

His face was long and thin and he stooped slightly when standing. There have been reports of an intermittent squint of the left eye and farsightedness. He did not have a hernia and his heart and blood vessels probably were normal for his age at the time of his assassination.

If Lincoln had Marfan's, he was not handicapped by it. Up to now, he is the most famous of its victims.

ROUGH SPOTS

L. R. N. writes: What is the best treatment for a number of keratoses that have appeared on my back?

REPLY

They are easily removed via an electric current or surgery. But this may not be necessary unless the growths change in size or color or become a cosmetic eyesore.

INTERNAL DISORDERS

J. L. writes: Is acute gastroenteritis the same as spasms of the intestine?

REPLY

No, but spasm may accompany infection of the intestine. Acute gastroenteritis stems from food poisoning or viral infection and diarrhea is the most frequent manifestation.

EYE FATIGUE

G. I. writes: Is it natural for some persons to have tired - looking eyes?

REPLY

Yes — when tired. The eyes of the world - weary and cynics who have seen everything may look this way routinely.

NICOTINE STAINS

R. R. writes: I gave up smoking two weeks ago. Will the yellow stain between the index and next fingers disappear in time?

REPLY

Yes. Most ex-smokers who write us have greater problems.

MILK AND ULCER

W r. writes: Is skim milk as good as whole milk for an ulcer patient?

REPLY

No, but it is a good substitute if the cream in whole milk is creating a problem.

Today's Health Hint—

Coffee helps but is not an antidote for too much liquor.

(Note: All correspondence to Dr. VanDellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore VanDellen, care of Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

"The Age Old Story"

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

LEAVE FOR TRADE TALKS

VIENNA (Reuters) — A Romanian government delegation led by Gheorge Gaston Marin, deputy chairman of the council of ministers, left Bucharest Tuesday for wide-ranging trade and economic talks in the United States, the Romanian news agency Agerpress reported. The talks will begin in Washington May 18 and are expected to last about two weeks.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A local man says he doesn't want to take it with him, but he wouldn't mind having it around to say goodbye to. — Galt Reporter.

Laws to protect the sucker mostly fail because he'll co-operate with swindlers in breaking the law. —Hamilton Spectator.

Sign in a Hull, Que., restaurant — "Please pat the waitress when the meal is served." —Financial Post.

It's that time of the year again when the fisherman discovers it is impossible to describe a fish without using his hands.—Sparta Herald.

For some strange reason which we have never been able to comprehend many people think that the purchase of a cup of coffee has the fringe privilege of snarling at the waitress. — Regina Leader Post.

An efficiency expert is a guy who's smart enough to tell you how to run your business, but too smart to start one of his own.—Windsor Star.

It was the day after the heavy rain this week. Tommy came home from school soaking wet up to his thighs. "How did that happen?" his mother asked. "You have rubber boots right up to your knees." "I know," the boy replied, "But the boots were not high enough for the pond I was walking through." —Fort William Times-Journal.

Boys and girls do not so much drop-out of school as they are discouraged out by parents who don't care, intimidated out by racial discrimination, bored out by failure of teachers to rouse their interest, sometimes even pushed out by schools that don't want them either.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Khrushchev In Egypt

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

By carefully cultivating and exploiting almost every Arabian dream, Soviet Premier Khrushchev appears to be scoring a major personal triumph in Egypt.

His presence there causes uneasiness in some parts of the Western camp, where officials fear that inflation of the Arabian ego may lead to new turmoil and bloodshed in clashes with Israelis.

Khrushchev is well aware how explosive the Middle East can be. He has loudly advocated peaceful co - existence between East and West and for a time, when he faced a grain crisis at home, he seemed bent on a program of tranquillity.

Now, apparently, his grain fields are in better shape and his eye once more is on distant horizons, particularly the Middle East and Africa where race hatred and diplomatic immaturity provide fertile ground for political and military upheaval.

COUNTERS CHINESE

Some American authorities suggest Khrushchev's current tour is essentially to counter the influence of the Red Chinese who had been there before; that he is merely trying to outbid the Chinese in seeking Arabian support.

Despite the embarrassment his statements have caused the U.S., the American government is comforted by the fact that so far the Soviet arms supply to the U.A.R. has been moderate. Egypt and Israel engaged in an arms race in the past. Any sudden move on one side to flood the area with arms would merely force the other side to outpace the enemy.

Aside from its acquisition of Soviet arms, the Nasser regime also has engaged a number of private German technicians to develop rockets which may or may not be of a nuclear nature. At the same time Israel has been getting some American missiles. The U.S. maintains this is nothing more than an attempt to balance the arms stockpile in that area.

ASK AND RECEIVE

In the current spirit of warm cordiality, it would appear that Nasser would merely have to ask to receive. If Khrushchev intends to heat up the cold war, the Middle East could provide plenty of room for exploration. The Arab world has about 40,000,000 people; Israel has about 2,000,000.

The Russians tend to be sharp realists. When former president Harry Truman remarked to the late Joseph Stalin the Pope would be angered if the Russians crushed Poland, Truman said Stalin remarked: "And how many divisions has the Pope got?"

It is highly unlikely, however, the U.S. would stand aside if Nasser, supported by the Kremlin, unleashed a new attack against tiny Israel. Aware of this, Khrushchev might be more inclined to exploit the Middle East by promising the Arabs a lot—and not fulfilling all his promises.

Ring Out, Bell Ringers

Winnipeg Free Press

Automation creeps into the most unexpected places these days. A form of automation-amplified recordings to be precise — has England's 40,000 bell ringers up in arms.

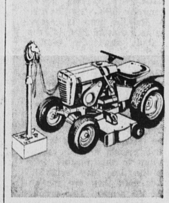
Elsewhere in the world, where bell ringing by hand is practically unknown, recordings of chimes can be a convenience and a money-saver. A church can build a slim, modernistic spire with just enough room at the top for an amplifier, and on Sunday morning can send out over the neighborhood the canned music of the greatest chimes in the world.

No one is taken in by this, of course; although it does lead to the thought that some day the organist and choir inside may be replaced by tapes of the world's greatest organs and choirs; or even that the sermon will be a recorded message from one of the church's most prominent preachers. The principle involved is no different.

However, anywhere but in England recorded chimes do not put bell ringers out of work. Naturally the English bell ringers, who take great pride in their skill and stamina, prefer the real thing to mechanical noises. Bell ringing goes back a long way in England, at least to the 13th century, although the art of scientific change-ringing (which most people know about only from reading Dorothy Sayers' The Nine Tailors) probably dates from the 17th century.

It is a tiring, complicated and difficult art, with its own jargon—Grandshire, Plain Bob Treble Bob, Stedman and so on. It calls for much skill (479 million "changes" are obtainable upon a ring of 12 bells), and strength (21,000 changes have been rung at one time—this took more than 12 hours of continuous ringing).

Just as actually listening to a symphony orchestra is better than listening to a record of it, no matter how fine the record may be, so is bell ringing in actuality better than recorded chimes. But with the advent of modern churches, some with no spires at all, some with towers that could not support a ring of bells, it looks as if the bell ringers are fighting a losing battle.



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