The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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PAGE 6 WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1962

Ministerial Visits

Two distinguished members of the Diefenbaker Government are visiting Prince Edward Island today, and they will both be warmly welcomed by our citizens. They are both, of course, on a campaigning mission; but that is to be expected at this time and we would feel aggrieved if they didn't include us in their itinerary. Hon. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. Leon Balcer, Minister of Transport, will have things to say with regard to their respective departments in which we are very much concerned, and we appreciate the opportunity of hearing them in person regardless of the preferences we may have in the way of party candidates.

Since taking over his present portfolio in October, 1960, Mr. Hamiton has had many probems to deal with, notably in the way of finding wider markets and in aiding in the stabilization of various branches of the farm industry. He has scored a success in his wheat sales policy, and his reputation stands high in the prairie provinces. One of his purposes in coming here at the present time is to sign an agreement on crop insurance, and it is expected that he will have some definite assurance for our potato farmers in meeting their present difficulties.

Mr. Balcer, it is expected, will have an announcement to make on the construction of the new car-ferry for the Wood Islands-Caribou route. It is to be hoped, also, that he will tell us frankly whether any consideration is being given to the provision of a new railway ice-breaker for the Borden-Tormentine route, pending construction of the promised causeway between this province and the mainland.

One other matter on which we should like some assurance from Mr. Balcer is with respect to his department's responsibility for maintaining the Borden service at all times. In the event of a railway strike tieup, where would we stand in this regard? This should not be a matter for the railway unions to determine. The service—as Hon. John Bracken assured us years ago when he was leader of the Conservative Party—is an interprovincial highway system and should be maintained as such by the federal authorities. Now that the MV Confederation is on the route, carrying no railway traffic whatsoever, it is all the more important that we get a clear statement from the Minister of Transport on this matter.

Chinese Refugees

Prime Minister Diefenbaker's announcement of the government's willingness to accept 100 Chinese refugee families from the thousands that have been pouring into the overcrowded colony of Hong Kong has been received with mixed feelings in this country. It is a gesture in the right direction, but the quota is pitifully small and there is certainly no ground for being morally complacent about it. On the other hand, there are practical problems in the way of accepting large numbers of these refugees. Those who are outspoken in criticism of the government should be prepared to show how these difficulties can be solved in the present circumstances.

There is no longer, in Canada, that iniquitous immigration policy of racial discrimination which bore with special severity on persons from Asiatic countries. This has been removed from the regulations. The essential tests today are economic; they involve standards of education, training or skills, and unfortunately these cannot be disregarded so easily.

Theoretically, there is no barrier to the sponsoring of immigrants from Hong Kong by Canadian employers who, for humanitarian and other reasons, desire to do so. But the immigration department must be satisfied that the offer from a Canadian sponsor comes from a responsible source. A written offer to provide employment, perhaps in construction or gardening for a six weeks period, is not sufficient if there is reason to believe that the immigrant will be cast loose at the end of that period. There must, in addition, be a guarantee that the immigrant will not be exploited in such matters as wages and working conditions.

A second difficulty arises from the fact that there is unemployment in Canada, and that the government's first responsibility is to see that the jobs being held for newcomers are not jobs which could readily be filled by our own citizens. This is a harsh way of putting it, but what would the critics suggest?

The jobs likely to be offered to Hong Kong refugees are, generally speaking, of a sort to require little skill or training. The openings available to peasants from Kwangtung could no doubt be filled many times by unemployed Canadians. Many of the refugees, according to the reports, are factory workers with some skills; but many of Canada's unemployed are also former factory workers and policy requires that they must be satisfied first.

As pointed out in a mainland exchange, the static theory of immigration—that there are just so many jobs to go around and that the job-creating potential of immigration must be ignored—is open to grave objection. It is evident, however, that it dominates Canadian practice. While it does, the outlook for sponsored immigration from China appears poor, despite the removal of any former principle of racial discrimination. There is no ground here, as we said, for complacency. But it does pose a problem which the government of the day—regardless of how it may feel in the matter—must deal with pragmatically as best it can.

A Hard Break

The disastrous slump in the stock market is not due to the Diefenbaker Government, but we may expect that it will provide plenty of ammunition for Opposition speakers in the present election campaign. The heaviest repercussions are being felt in the United States, where for the past fourteen months the economy has been on the upgrade. The first quarter of this year, for example, saw record levels for gross national product, personal income and consumer spending, while unemployment dipped below four million. Auto manufacturers have already produced nearly as many 1962 cars as in the entire 1961 model year.

How account for it, then? We can't, and we shan't try. There are lots of theories, but they are contradictory. President Kennedy, among other observers, has noted that stock prices have been unduly inflated of late, amounting in many cases to 22 times corporate earnings. He also observed that on several past occasions—notably in the spring of 1956—the market had slumped while the economy continued to boom.

Why? He didn't say. But whatever the reasons, the situation is not helpful to any government in power; and that goes for Mr. Diefenbaker's as well as Mr. Kennedy's?

EDITORIAL NOTE

That space ride Commander Carpenter took around the world last week cost tens of millions of dollars, maybe hundreds of millions. Which prompts James Reston of the New York Times to recall that while he was spinning around the globe, President Kennedy was saying in Washington that there was more lasting benefit for the country in being the first to get cheap fresh water out of salt water than in being first in space. Yet the U.S. federal space budget is over $5,000,000,000 this year, and the federal desalinization budget is $7,500,000, or about the cost of Scott Carpenter's Atlas booster.

BLOCKING THE AISLE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

The Latest Poll & Its Error Margin

The Diefenbaker Government will be re-elected on June 18, according to the latest poll of public opinion, if that poll's error is the same as when it predicted the 1957 election.

This view was given to me by Miss Byrne Hope Sanders, who for the past ten years has been director of the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion which operates polls. Her team of cross-Canada interviewers will, for a fee, tell an enquirer what Canadians think on any subject. This method of sampling public opinion — so valuable to manufacturers planning new lines or model changes — is watched eagerly at election times by politicians, who hope to glean some preview of the way the public will vote.

Many "experts" have been writing about what the polls indicate: Miss Sanders expressed to me her pleasure that I chose to consult her first. She made it clear to me that it would be impossible to assure accuracy without going to the enormous expense of a complete nation-wide referendum. A poll can only "sample" public opinion, by questioning a very small cross-section of Canadians.

To be representative, this cross-section must be scientifically chosen to reflect the national proportion of Maritimers and millionaires, of farmers and French-Canadians, of Old Age pensioners and new immigrants, of young brides and aged fishermen of teachers and union members, and so on. Even then, the interviewers must find each at home, and willing to be questioned, and honest in answering —a pretty difficult task.

TWO FOR YOUR CITY

However, from interviews with just 690 carefully selected Canadians scattered across this broad land, Miss Sanders tries to produce an approximation of the thinking of ten million voters. This means that two voices reflect the average Canadian city, so the margin of error is obviously very wide. She told me that her results should be correct within an average of four percentage points for each group. Thus when Conservatives, Liberals, NDP, Socreds and "others" are listed separately, the errors in her poll might total up to twenty points. In fact her poll on the 1957 election was twelve points wrong, so in 1958 she increased her sample to 1274 interviews. The Liberal Party considers even this too small for a country with our population.

The latest poll showed that 21 per cent of Canadians have not yet decided how to vote. Of the remainder, 45 per cent would favour the Liberals, and 38 per cent the Conservatives, according to the poll.

"Would it be within your margin of error that actually 48 per cent of Canadians would vote Conservative, and the Liberal support fall by ten points to 35 per cent?" I asked Miss Sanders. "Yes, that would be within our 20-point margin of error," she replied, "but we would consider such an error very bad."

"Applying the error of 12 points, which you obtained in 1957; that could give the Conservatives a lead by 44 per cent to the Liberals 39 today?" I asked. "Yes, that could be so," she confirmed.

LIBERAL CLAIM WRONG

"What about Mr. Pearson's assertion that your latest figures show a swing to the Liberals?" "Oh no, we are not sure of that," she replied, "those figures are all within our margin of error."

Her poll calls for other reservations too, Miss Sanders warned me. First, a poll measures the total vote, but cannot predict how that will be translated into parliamentary seats. For example, 398,000 voters in Saskatchewan in 1958 returned as many M.Ps as 605,000 voters in the city of Montreal; yet in a poll their opinion would be outweighted in proportion to their numbers. Then there is the problem of the undecided voter; possible change of mind between the poll interview and election day;and the accidental or deliberate wrong answer to the interviewer ("but that is negligible" claims Miss Sanders.)

For all those reasons, a poll may often be proved wrong if an election is close. For example, in 1957 the poll said John Diefenbaker could not win, yet he did. A broad voting pattern may be reflected by a poll—except of course in the recent cases of presidential candidates Truman, Stevenson, Dewey and Nixon in U.S.A., all of whom were at one time incorrectly estimated by the public opinion polls.

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.

CONQUEST OF SPACE

Sir, — I have read your splendid comments on Lieut. Commander Carpenter's achievement in orbiting the earth three times, and we rejoice, and thank God for his safe return to earth.

We have no desire, nor intention of detracting in the least, from that wonderful achievement.

Those two men, Colonel Glenn, and Leiut. Commander Carpenter were willing to make the supreme sacrifice, for scientific purposes. They did not have absolute assurance that they would return to earth alive, let alone being hale and hearty when they returned. They have made history, and a lasting name for themselves.

Now, what next? O ye Nations! A race to plant — more properly speaking, to land—a man on the moon. What is there to hinder us? In so far as human ingenuity is concerned, I presume there is nothing. For man has already in his possession, the tools and the means to blow this old earth into atoms.

I have lived through over eight decades, I have witnessed many changes. But I am compelled to say, that the last two decades have brought the greatest changes. These changes have had a tremendous effect on all mankind. What fears they have brought! What distress of mind and frayed and wrecked nerves they have brought to millions and millions of people.

You made mention of the $20 to $40 billion which it will cost to put a man on the moon. Who is he supposed to meet there? Will he be welcome there? What will he do when he gets there? Now for a selfish question or two? Will it bring prosperity and happiness to us earth dwellers? Will it feed and clothe the suffering, and hungry, and naked millions of earth's peoples?

There is plenty for us to do in this sphere of activity. Remember Psalm 115, Verses 15 and 16. God is more concerned about the salvation and welfare of the human race, than He is about man making excursions to the moon. Scientific research is valuable. No one will deny that. But, as you pointed out, let it be along the lines, and in the avenues suggested by Dr. Wilder Penfield of Montreal.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. D. JOHNSTON,
Montague, P.E.I.

Tax On Brains?

Toronto Telegram

Premier Robarts has told the Legislature that someday the Province may have to impose a special form of income tax on university graduates to recoup the public share of the costs of university education.

The Premier's statement was made in the heat of debate and no doubt, on second thought, he will realize that such a move would be a retrograde step.

At present, Mr. Robarts said, the cost to the Province for each student in university runs about $674 a year. It is going up. This is, unquestionably, a perennial problem for the tax gatherers, but the answer is not a tax on Doctorates of Philosophy.

In the first place, there is no specific relationship between education and ability to pay. Generally, educated people earn more than the uneducated. But it's possible for a Master of Science to make less money than a man who can't sign his own name.

In the second place, the public authorities are in the education business in the public interest—not to give specific benefits to specific individuals. Some would argue that the public interest would best be served by making education free at all levels on a merit basis. This is the direction in which the education system has been moving.

Then again, logic would suggest that if graduates should repay the state at one level, they should repay all costs of education from kindergarten up.

Laughter On Wings

New York Times

For sheer poetry of flight the barn swallows unquestionably deserve the laurel. Their mastery of the air is absolute and there isn't one motion of their wings and long, forked tail that lacks perfection. Theirs is a kind of lyric flight that makes one understand the meaning of exquisite grace. They give ultimate meaning to the feathered wing.

But for laughter in the air, for lilting song of motion that makes the heart rejoice, watch the swallows' cousins, the chimney swifts. The swifts are neither as beautiful nor as graceful as the swallows. Some have described them as "cigars on wings", and they are a kind of sooty - olive color, looking almost brown in the air. Their tails are short and rounded, their wings long and slim. But they fairly twinkle in flight, swooping, dodging, racing. And they often chitter as they fly, almost as though laughing at their astonishing performance.

A flight of chimney swifts is like a crowd of children, gay with freedom and dancing in delight. They make flight seem like a fresh discovery, a talent never before known. You can predict the patterns of the swallows, like a perfect ballet; but the swifts improvise from moment to moment as though too exuberant to be confined by patterns. They make up their flight-songs as they go along, exultant, racticalply jubilant at being alive and a-wing. They celebrate the miracle of flight.

Spare Organs Are Handicaps

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

MANY persons wish they had an extra stomach or a spare heart. It sounds like a good idea but persons with duplicated organs are handicapped because the standby usually is defective. The exception is an extra toe or finger, which may be regarded as a prized possession.

Some children are born with a duplication of various parts of the gastrointestinal tract. Something goes wrong when the esophagus, stomach, or intestine is being formed long before birth. The youngster comes into the world with a double stomach, a second small intestine, or two colons. This sounds harmless but creates problems that become serious and often require surgery.

Dr. Chris T. Oeconomopoulos and Dr. Orvar Swenson, Chicago surgeons, recently reported their experiences with 13 children bothered along this line. One was a seven year old girl with abdominal distention and anemia caused by bleeding. The usual tests failed to explain the cause and an exploratory operation was performed.

The child had an extra stomach that was connected to the real McCoy. The surgeons removed the duplicate and the child recovered rapidly. It was a useless appendage that was not digesting food; in addition, it was a source of bleeding.

A one month old infant was sent to the hospital because of wheezing and difficulty in feeding. The boy had an extra esophagus (gullet) that occupied almost three-fourths of the chest and crowded the lungs and blood vessels.

Another youngster had an extra small intestine. Surgery cured these children as well as others with comparable spare parts.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

BOTULINUS TOXIN

E. H. writes: Several persons died on a TV program and the cause was traced to botulism from home canned apricots. I always thought that this infection applied only to vegetables and not to fruit. Please straighten me out.

REPLY

Today most outbreaks of botulism occur from the use of home canned foods, including fruits. The causative bacilli are found in a great variety of foodstuffs, both of plant and animal origin, and generate a powerful toxin or poison in the food, often before being cooked. The micro-organisms and the poison are resistant to heat and it is the toxin that produces the symptoms.

ITCHING ARM

A. M. writes: For more than a year I have had an itch on my right arm from the elbow down to almost the beginning of the wrist. At times it gets better and then returns. Otherwise I have had but little sickness. I'm 68. Can you, from the above, indicate the nature of the trouble and the remedy for same?

REPLY

Dryness of the skin is the most common cause of itching at age 68. Apply cold cream or lanolin.

EXERCISE AND ARTHRITIS

R. S. writes: Will dancing and bowling help or harm a person with osteoarthritis?

REPLY

This depends upon the joints involved. Dancing and bowling are painful when the knees are affected. Arthritis of the elbows or fingers must be a handicap when bowling. But these activities are advisable when they do not aggravate distress.

Today's Health Hint—

A warm climate seems to have a favorable influence on rheumatoid arthritis.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(May 30, 1937)

Dr. J.A. Clark, president of the Charlottetown YMCA and Mrs. Clark was presented with a beautiful gift at the 81st annual meeting of the association last night. A letter was read from Mr. Alfred Pickard, vice-president, Judge H.L. Palmer J.W. Boulter, W.A. Stewart, W. M. Rowe, Norville E. Luck and James E. Harris, members and directors, congratulated Mr. Clark on having completed 25 years continuous service, as a director, and for the greater part, as president.

In keeping with previous efforts to provide an up-to - date Bus Service, Island Motor Transport Ltd., will commence its summer schedule this weekend with two round trips daily (except Sunday) between Charlottetown and Summerside by way of Victoria-Borden. A Summerside to Borden service will also begin at this time to connect with boats at Borden.

TEN YEARS AGO
(May 30, 1952)

Greater protection for the consuming public is the aim of regulations under the Marketing Act where in all vegetables exposed for retail sale must be properly graded. The regulations apply to all such sale in any city or incorporated town in the province. Ten men have been appointed as inspectors, at points from Souris to Alberton.

A wading pool for young children will definitely be built in Victoria Park this summer, according to information received from Lieut.-Col. A.W. Rogers, of the Kiwanis Club, yesterday

NOTES BY THE WAY

A bargain sale is a female scrimmage when a woman is willing to have one coat torn off in order to get into the rush and buy another.—Welland Tribune.

Will we soon look back in pity at the toiling housewife who had to prepare meals without an electric can opener? — Ottawa Journal.

This next election should set a lot of records. There is already the prospect of a record entry of candidates. The number of persons entitled to vote will add up to a new record. It is even possible that the number who actually go to the polls will hit a high mark. As for the campaign's length, it is a record, too, considering that, for all practical purposes, it had been on nearly a year before Prime Minister Diefenbaker picked the official date.—Brantford Examiner.

Now that both Russia and Red China have assured us that they will bury us, isn't it advisable that we let our burial insurance policies lapse? — Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

"Fighting is a natural and healthy activity in marital relations," says an orthopsychiatrist. May be so, but a person with a black eye doesn't look the picture of health. — Hamilton Spectator.

One would hardly think it possible to reproduce animals extinct for centuries. It seems like a turning back of the life clock. Yet Dr. Heinz Heck of the Munich Zoo already has bred a herd of aurochs, ancestors of domestic cattle. Previously no auroch had lived on earth since 1627, and Heck is busy trying to revive other ancient animal species. — Kitchener - Waterloo Record.

Year Of The Locust

National Geographic Society

Insects that went underground the year World War II ended are returning this year for a raucous last fling.

A far-flung brood of periodical cicadas, which are known to almost everyone but entomologists as 17-year locusts, will disturb the peace from Connecticut to North Carolina.

An old Greek wisecrack observes, "Happy be the cicadas' lives, for they have voiceless wives." But the musical males need no help. By millions they join in exuberant chorus, treating the hinterlands to an impressionist song suggestive of grindstones and buzz saws.

PILGRIM WOODS RANG

The first record of these all-American insects noted their overwhelming decibel power. Nathaniel Morton, a Cape Cod settler, wrote in 1633: "They came out of little holes in the ground — and made such a constant yelling noise as made all the woods ring of them and ready to deaf the hearers."

Periodical cicadas (Magicicada septendecim) occur only in the eastern United States. They are the Methuselahs of the insect world. After hiding out for 17 years, they emerge into the sun to wind up their extraordinary life cycles in a spree of mating, egg laying, and singing.

The insects, having spent so many years underground gorging on root juices, provide an orgy of feasing for birds.

People, not including entomologists, find it a strain to appreciate the cicada.

There's the ear-splitting din, of course. And though cicadas do little permanent damage to trees and shrubs, they cause intense anguish to owners of peach and apple orchards.

In feeding, the cicadas do no harm at all. They are sucking insects, not insatiably greedy chewers like locusts. It's the maternal urge among the quiet females that wreaks seeming havoc.

Going about her business like a merciless juggernaut, the lady is equipped with a formidable weapon. Sawtooth blades, sliding alternately along each side of her egg layer, cut rows of twin pockets into the bark of young twigs. The female lays 400 to 600 eggs in these woody cradles before she dies, exhausted.

The splintered twigs turn brown and break off in the wind. In the most heavily infested areas, which may number a million cicadas an acre, the result of their twig pruning often appears worse than it is.

30 BROODS

Nature has arranged that some cicadas complete their life cycles and emerge each year. In the North the cycle is 17 years; in the South, 13. Thus there are 30 different sets of cicadas, regarded as broods and numbered I through XXX. Brood X (1953), the largest, covers much of the northeastern United States. Brood II (1962) inhabits the Eastern Seaboard.

The big broods are few and far between, so systematic study of them is difficult. Many mysteries go unanswered. Why the remarkably long life cycle? What do nymphs do underground? What silent signal sends millions of solitary creatures tunneling to the surface in unison?

Cicada eggs hatch in six to seven weeks. The antlike grubs fall to the ground, scurry down into the earth, build a snug mud chamber, and tuck in.

While a new generation of Americans passes from birth and babyhood through adolescence, the 1962 nymphs will pursue dark, lonely lives. No prophet can say what will happen above ground before these cicadas next see the light of day — on a soft spring morning in 1979!

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