The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

W.J. Hancox, Publisher

Burton Lewis, Executive Editor — Frank Walker, Editor

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Futile Reaction

It was a strange reaction on the part of the Legislature to vote for the immediate collection and destruction of copies of an article from an American publication which had been placed on the members' desks for their attention by the Minister of Agriculture.

The article, entitled "U.S. Finds Poison on Idaho Potatoes," may have been the "trash" which Health Minister MacNeill called it. It may have been written for propaganda purposes, or for any number of other reasons, and have contained not a word of truth. Certainly the Police Gazette, in which it appeared, is not highly regarded as a responsible publication. But the matter was too important to have been swept under the rug in this manner.

According to Hon. Mr. MacRae, the authorities quoted in this case were "o.k." If the House disbelieved the responsible minister, it was its duty to have checked the story's authenticity. A telegram to the Idaho authorities would have settled the matter promptly.

One member was afraid that if the story "gets into the press" it might have serious consequences. How naive can our custodians of the Province's interests be? The story was already in one of the most widely circulated publications on the continent. Did they think that by destroying a few stencilled copies, and registering their disapproval of having the matter called to their attention, they could dispose of its consequences?

The gist of the story is the allegation that a recent raid by Idaho investigators found potatoes so contaminated by chemical sprays that they constituted a cancer threat to American consumers. If this be true, our potato growers must be prepared to grapple with its implications. If false, it should be exposed on the highest available authority. No purpose is served by shunning the obligation to take action one way or the other.

The issue is one on which the Government itself appears to be divided. All the more reason why the House should insist on getting at the truth. The ostrich-like attitude it adopted on Wednesday—which has already gotten into the press across the country—is as futile as it is harmful to our interests at home and abroad.

Welcome Visitation

The city and province is extending a hearty welcome this evening to Canada's top curlers, who will compete in the Brier matches here next week. This is indeed an occasion, and a special crossing of the Borden ferry has been arranged to handle some of the extra traffic.

As noted in our news columns yesterday, the signing of the big Canadian curling championships for Charlottetown has taken years of effort on the part of the City Council, culminating in the acceptance of Mayor Gaudet's invitation at Brandon, Manitoba, last year, to have our Cradle of Confederation the scene of this year's matches.

Our Centennial Year celebrations just wouldn't be complete without them; and we can only regret that the Confederation Fathers didn't live long enough to be able to participate—at least as spectators—in the doings which will start in the Charlottetown Forum on Monday. They would have revelled in activities of this kind, enjoying the fun as well as the sport; and there is no doubt that they would have appreciated the advantage thus offered of cementing interprovincial relations and building more firmly the foundations of the great work in which they were engaged.

All this talk about disunity nowadays, we imagine, would be dissipated if we could only get the contending factions here for a big bonspiel! Why don't our politicians think up something practical like this, instead of making long speeches and appointing commissions on you know what? Where better than at the "roaring game" could such problems be aired and brushed off, and dealt with in the appropriate spirit, or spirits?

The Briar matches have become a truly Canadian institution, followed everywhere by sport lovers with enthusiasm. Communities across the country vie with each other for the privilege of playing host to such visitations, and enshrine the event in their halls of fame. It is our turn now, and our citizens mean to make the most of it in the hospitality of their welcome.

We venture to speak for all of them in expressing hope that this gathering will be the best in the organization's honored history, and that it will prompt the desire on the part of all concerned to stage another one here at the earliest opportunity.

Welland Canal Tolls

Pressure has been mounting from Western grain organizations against the decision of the Federal Government to restore the tolls on the Welland Canal. Now Premier Robarts of Ontario has come out with the demand that the canal remain toll-free. The Ottawa Citizen, which more than once has shown itself to be aware of the problems of Atlantic ports in competition with the St. Lawrence Seaway, has this to say on the subject:

"Other parts of the country deserve consideration besides Central and Western Canada, and transportation policy must at all times have the national interest in mind. The Maritime Provinces are particularly sensitive on this score, and while they have accepted the Seaway in a spirit of resignation, they are warranted in objecting to the inland waterway over the Atlantic seaports."

The validity of these objections, observes the Halifax Mail-Star, are expected be underscored in the study being made by the Atlantic Development Board. Last month it was announced that this would be completed by the middle of February but for some reason not explained would not be released at that time. Surely it is time this matter was given a full airing, before the issue of winter navigation of the St. Lawrence will have receded into the background.

Soon To Open

Ready for use in the next few weeks, it is announced, is an American link across the mouth of Chesapeake Bay which should prove of considerable interest to the designers of our Northumberland Strait causeway. This crossing, of approximately eighteen miles between Cape Charles and Virginia Beach, runs over a series of four manmade islands and is a composite of bridges, causeways and tunnels. It has a minimum height of thirty feet above sea-level, as a safety margin for storms which can be very rough in the hurricane season.

The centre pair of islands serves to anchor the portals of the tunnel section, approximately one mile in length. The tunnel itself is not bored, but was laid in sections in a dredged ditch. The massive, double-walled sections of 100 yards each were built in Texas and floated seventeen hundred miles to their destination. Here, they were sunk in position by pouring concrete between the double walls, and were joined together by divers like a submarine pipeline.

The advantage of this scheme, notes an exchange, is that instead of having to take the heavily congested route from Wilmington through Baltimore and Washington, it will now be possible to drive south through the state of Delaware and across the Bay direct to the neighborhood of Norfolk, Virginia, whence several routes run south.

THE OTTAWA BEATLES

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Spate Of Time-Wasting Oral Questions

Discussion of the nation's business in the House of Commons was delayed until after 3.45 p.m. on "leaders' day", the first day of open debate in the session when party leaders speak. This hold - up was caused by what has recently been permitted to become a daily avalanche of oral questions fired at cabinet ministers by — in almost every case — opposition MPs.

The number of questions so asked on leaders' day totalled 56. The immense growth of this recent practice is shown up by contrast with previous years. On the corresponding day last year there were 46 questions; in 1956 there were 15 questions; in 1953 there were 5; in 1951 there were 5; in 1946—and I quote these years haphazardly, not by deliberate selection — there were only 2 such questions.

This exuberant spate of verbosity, this often puerile exhibitionism, this unjustified waste of the time of the nation's parliament, is thus a recent corruption of parliamentary toleration.

PRACTICE FROWNED UPON

The standing orders of the House of Commons are compiled by members themselves, to provide for the better handling of legislative business.

These orders stipulate that "questions may be placed upon the order paper (i.e. submitted in writing) seeking information from Ministers of the Crown relating to public affairs." Such written questions receive, normally within a week or ten days, a considered written reply, incorporating the detail available within government offices. This ensures a negligible amount of parliament's time.

However the practice has become sanctified by usage of permitting MPs to ask orally any question considered so important that it merits quicker response than that obtained by a written question. Canada's great authority on parliamentary procedure, the late Dr. Arthur Beauchesne points out that "such questions may be either permitted or disallowed by the Speaker, who must judge each case on its merits." Standing orders do not provide for oral questions; hurled, often without prior notice, at ministers thus deprived of consulting their officials, they obviously elicit no detailed or considered reply. Beauchesne comments: "It seems manifestly unfair to compel ministers to answer questions on important matters without an opportunity to consult their chief officers."

INFECTIOUS CURIOSITY

It is clearly apparent now that every day MPs are wrongly asking, and improperly being permitted to ask, questions which violate the Beauchesne precept: "a question which could be inserted on the order paper if not allowed to be asked orally) on the Orders of the Day being called."

Last week, Conservative MPs asked 35 questions on leaders' day; New Democrats asked 12; assorted Socreds asked 8; and one Liberal M.P. asked a single question. A very few of these questions were properly posed orally; three were properly ruled out of order by Mr. Speaker — perhaps another 40 should have been treated the same way, either because they were not immediately urgent or because their significance was nationally trivial. On either grounds, they should have been put on the order paper in writing.

But when questioners are popping up at the rate of once every 75 seconds for over an hour, many young or immature MPs evidently find the sport infectious, and dredge their heads for any topic.

With "question period" now averaging over 75 minutes daily, this practice now costs the House the equivalent of over 4 weeks sitting time, and costs the taxpayer over $1 million in parliamentary time, during the year.

The Tools For 'Big Brother'

Milwaukee Journal

"Asleep or awake, working or eating, indoors or out of doors, in the bath or bed—no escape. Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimeters inside your skull." The words are from George Orwell's novel, "1984," written 15 years ago. They tell of a frightened and frightening world in which "Big Brother" snooped on his subjects via television and microphone.

In 1964, the electronic tools a available to bring Orwell's nightmare prophecy to life— electronic marvels with eyes to see you when you think yourself unseen, ears to hear your most remote whisper, a "memory" to recall the most trivial details of your past.

In the current Atlantic, Vance Packard describes some of these devices for invading individual privacy. There are radio transmitters which can be fitted in a lipstick, a ballpoint pen, even in a martini olive (the toothpick serves as an antenna).

There are tiny tape recorders, readily concealed. There are closed circuit TV cameras which may spy on you in bank or department store. There are supersensitive microphones capable of picking up your conversation at a distance.

Less spectacular but far more methodical invaders of privacy are the computers, the giant "memory ornithologist" which accumulate masses of information about millions of private persons and disgorge any desired detail at the push of a button. Equally innocent appearing are the "personality tests" often used by employers, counselors and school systems to probe your most personal attitudes and beliefs.

Most of the time, this privacy is invaded for honest, laudable, socially acceptable reasons — checking for income tax fraud, weeding out poor job prospects, helping a child adjust to school life, catching check forgers or shoplifters. But whatever the goal, the potential invaders of individual privacy have never been more numerous or more powerful.

Trumpeter Swans Win

National Geographic Society

The trumpeter swan is winging back from the brink of extinction.

More than 800 trumpeters were counted recently in the United States south of Alaska by the Interior Department. An additional 1,500 live in Alaska and Canada. Fifty years ago, the big white bird with a hornlike, deep, resonant call was thought extinct.

The trumpeter swan (Olor buccinator) was a fairly common bird in colonial times. It nested over much of the Great Plains north to British Columbia and wintered as far south as California and the Gulf of Mexico.

During the 19th century, the low—and slow- flying bird was slaughtered for food, sport, and profit. Between 1833 and 1877, the Hudson's Bay Company marketed more than 17,000 swan skins to provide down and feathers for bedding and clothes, powder puffs, and quill pens. Farm development and swamp drainage cut down breeding areas.

PREDICTED EXTINCTION

Edward Howe Forbush, an eminent ornithologist, predicted in 1912 that "the trumpeter has succumbed to incessant persecution in all parts of its range, and its total extinction is now only a matter of years."

By 1931, only 35 trumpeter swans were seen in the United States.

The great birds were making their final stand in the remote marshes of the Yellowstone plateau and surrounding wilderness lakes. In southwest Montana, the 40,000-acre Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 to protect the remnant flocks.

The rare birds have thrived under protection. Thanks to warm spring-fed ponds which remain partly unfrozen despite 40-below-zero winters, the normally migratory swans live in a year-round haven. Also, Fish and Wildlife Service personnel put out about a thousand bushels of wheat and barley in the winter to supplement natural food.

LARGEST WATERFOWL

The trumpeter swan is the world's largest waterfowl. This North American bird stands four feet high at maturity, weighs 30 pounds, and has an eight - foot wingspan. Trumpeters have broken a man's arm with a single blow of the wing.

Trumpeters are monogamous and seem to mate for life, the National Geographic says. Breeding begins at about five years. The swan builds its large nest with a five- foot-wide base, often atop a muskrat house or deserted beaver lodge. Water vegetation is the favorite food.

The snowy giant was apparently named by some of the West's first settlers and soldiers. The deep-throated honking can be heard two miles.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(February 28, 1939)

A Supreme Court grand jury at Georgetown today found a "true bill" against Captain Isreal Illington of Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland, skipper owner of the 35-foot auxiliary schooner Nellie J. Banks, charged under the Customs Act with improperly marked papers.

Mr. Edwin Johnstone, Charlottetown, was elected president of the P.E.I. Life Underwriters Association at the annual meeting held this evening. Mr. T.W. Bentley was named vice-president and Mr. B.H. Hughes was re-elected secretary- treasurer. Both are from Charlottetown.

TEN YEARS AGO
(February 28, 1954)

In a brief but impressive ceremony, held this afternoon, Lieut. Col. W.C. Cook, Mr. Harry Hyde and Mr. Ambrose Rodd, three veterans of the Boer War, placed a memorial token at the base of the monument, recalling those who died in battle and those who since have passed away.

Dr. O.H. Curtis and Dr. J. H. Shaw are leaving today for Ottawa. The purpose of the trip is the discussion of various aspects of the Federal health grants program with officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Diphtheria Epidemics

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Last year there were 294 cases of diptheria, compared with 463 in 1962. Small outbreaks occurred in several parts of the country, which were brought under control via immunization.

In one of these areas, 90 per cent of the pupils at a certain school had received, in the fall of the year, positive shots against diptheria, tetanus, and polio. Six of the children who developed diptheria attended this school and were among the 10 per cent not receiving this vaccine. Two of these victims were young girls and both died.

Epidemics rarely happen anywhere because it is natural to let down the bars when everything is going along smoothly. Years of vigilance on the part of our health departments have gone into protecting us from many infectious diseases. But most vaccines do not offer lifelong immunity and booster doses are needed from time to time.

Diptheria is highly contagious; it is transmitted through contact with an infected person or a carrier. Old-timers had to be careful of the milk, drinking water, and any object that might have been handled by a victim of the disease, because virulent organisms live outside the body temporarily. This is why the room which the sick person is quarantined is cleansed so thoroughly before being used again.

The disease causes a super sore throat with headache, fatigue, and fever ranging from 101 to 103 degrees F. The throat and tonsils are swollen and congested. Twenty-four hours later a group of small yellowish-white dots arise over the inflamed area. These spots coalesce into the telltale membrane so typical of diphtheria. A swab taken from the throat and cultured will reveal the causative bacilli.

But inflammation is only part of the disturbance. The bacteria give off a powerful toxin that is responsible for the toxemia and marked prostration. This is the rationale behind the use of anti-toxin in treatment. Penicillin is of value in eliminating secondary bacteria that deter recovery and encourage complications.

HIVES FROM EXCITEMENT

A. K. writes: Whenever my 7-year-old grandson gets nervous or excited, he breaks out in hives. Can anything be done to stop this?

REPLY

It is difficult to avoid stress and all forms of excitement. But the parents can assist by maintaining a quiet and calm household. A sedative may help if hives becomes a problem; otherwise it is better to disregard these bumps.

PILLS FOR PROSTATE

C. F. writes: Is it true that enlarged prostate can be cured with pills?

REPLY

An antibiotic or a sulfonamide is helpful when infection is responsible for swelling. But pills are of no value in the enlargement associated with the passing years.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Safety is a contribution to good living.

NOTES BY THE WAY

To protect his horses from deer hunters, an Abbyville, Kan. man posted this sign: "No trespassing. Violators will be shot at: if missed prosecuted."

Alimony is like paying installments on your car after it is wrecked.—Galt Reporter.

Now that the price of liquor has gone up all those people who have kept their New Year's resolution to go on the wagon are getting unbearably smug.— Sarnia Observer.

The Commonwealth Angle

By Alan Harvey
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Prospects of an early conference of Commonwealth prime ministers may be enhanced if Britain's Labor party wins the next election.

All of the indications are that party leader Harold Wilson, once installed as prime minister, would make the summoning of a Commonwealth summit one of his early objectives.

A possible topic for such a meeting, Labor sources feel, would be the constitutional crisis that seems to be looming in Southern Rhodesia.

Until recently, the Labor stand had seemed more enthusiastic than that of Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home's Conservative administration, which appeared lukewarm to the idea. Latest signs in Whitehall are that the idea of a Commonwealth conference is beginning to be more favorably viewed by the government.

The difference in emphasis may merely reflect the natural gap between a party in opposition and a government up of its administrative ears in pressing day-to-day problems. But the shading of view seems real enough.

PUSHING ANGLE

In fact, Wilson seems to be pushing the Commonwealth angle hard as the parties await the starting signal for an election campaign preceding the nation-wide vote expected in June or October.

Apart from his seeming willingness to bring the difficult Southern Rhodesia issue before a Commonwealth forum, Wilson also appears intent on putting a strong new emphasis on Commonwealth trade.

This is somewhat surprising. As a trained economist, Wilson is undoubtedly aware that a considerable section of official opinion in London remains cynical about the potentialities of Commonwealth trade expansion.

With the best will in the world, the view put simply is that the Commonwealth, granted its geographical dispersion and diversity of outlook, just isn't a particularly fruitful economic unit.

In beating the economic drum for the Commonwealth, Wilson appears to be going some way toward joining the ranks of dyed-in-the-wool empire boosters such as Lord Beaverbrook.

POLITICAL DIVIDENDS

A possible explanation is that Wilson is really more interested in political dividends than in trade aspects.

One expert on party affairs advanced the idea that Labor is looking increasingly for issues on which it can seems to be the "patriotic" party, rather than be constantly accused of taking the foreigner's side against the native-born in matters such as racial discrimination.

The Commonwealth, it is argued, is a safe theme on which to take a positive stand.

Asking the Commonwealth to "solve" Southern Rhodesia's seemingly hopeless deadlock, however, hardly seems a likely course. Countries with no strong feelings on the subject, such as Canada, would hardly relish being embroiled in a dead-end dispute.

And African Commonwealth members such as Ghana and Tanganyika would obviously throw all their weight behind the African majority in Southern Rhodesia, tilting the scales against the small white minority.

INTERRUPTION NOTICE

Mt. Herbert Area

There will be an interruption of electric power on our Mt. Herbert line on Tuesday, March 3rd. weather permitting, between the hours of 9:30 a.m.. and 11:30 a.m.

This interruption is necessary to permit us to replace a pole in the line.

The area affected will be from Robert Mutch's to Johnston's River.

MARITIME ELECTRIC Company Limited

Education Week Programmes

CFCY CHARLOTTETOWN

March 1 -- 7, 1964

SLOGAN

Education—Measure of a Nation

TELEVISION

Saturday, February 29th 5:15 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

Mr. James Pendergast—"Islander of the Year"

TOPIC—Reflections and Predictions

Interviewed by Mr. Hartwell Daley

Monday, March 2nd 6:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Introduction to Education Week

Honorable Dr. L. G. Dewar, M.D., Minister of Education

TOPIC—The New Look in Education

CHAIRMAN: Dr. J. H.. Maloney

PANEL: J. H. MacLellan, Principal, Provincial Vocational Institute;
Cameron MacDonald, Principal, Prince County Vocational High School
Col. Leo MacDonald, Principal, Birchwood High School.
Clarence Mercer, Superintendent of Summerside Schools.

Tuesday, March 3rd 4:30 p.m.—5::00 p.m.

TODAY AT HOME

Wilson Ross, Principal, Central Queens Regional High School

Impressions of Africa

Interviewed by Mrs. Helen Herring

Thursday, March 5th 4:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

TODAY AT HOME

Miss Anna Riley, General Secretary, P.E.I. Teacher's Federation

Composition of P.E.I. Teachers' Federation

Interviewed by Mrs. Helen Herring

Friday, March 6th 6:00 p.m—6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Department of Education

TOPIC—Vocational Education in Action

Cameron MacDonald, Principal, Prince County Vocational High School
J. H. MacLellan, Principal, Provincial Vocational School
John Paynter, Vice-Principal, Prince County Vocational High School
Film and commentary
Students interview.

RADIO

MONDAY, MARCH 2nd—10:05 a.m.—10:10 a.m.—Mr. David Boswall, Alcohol Education
MONDAY, MARCH 2nd—6:30 p.m.—6:35 p.m.—Mr Robert Donnelly, Seneca Education
TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd—6:30 p.m.—6:35 p.m.—Mrs. Claude Ives, I.O.D.E. Scholarships Bursaries

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th—10:05 a.m.—10:10 a.m.—Mrs. Reginald MacEwen, The Role of Women's Institutes—Adult Education
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th—6:30 p.m.—6:35 p.m.—Mr. Thomas Hall—Why Stay in School
THURSDAY, MARCH 5th—6:30—6:35 p.m.—Miss Roland—Health Education
FRIDAY, MARCH 6th—10:05 a.m.—10:10 a.m.—Miss Elinor MacDonald, P.E.I. Retarded Children's Association—Special Education
FRIDAY, MARCH 6th—6:30 p.m.—6:35 p.m.—Mrs. John Mufford—Oral Communication for the Deaf.