

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
W. J. Hancock, Publisher
Wallace Ward
Managing Editor
Frank Walker
Editor

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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink
PAGE 4 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1966

On The Threshold

This New Year's Eve promises to be one we'll be able to boast about to our grandchildren. Celebrations will start early, and will be nationwide in scope. At Ottawa at 7 p.m., thousands are expected to crowd Parliament Hill for the lighting of the national Centennial Flame and the half-hour ceremony accompanying it.

But the fireworks will be just a prelude to the impressive event which will take place at the Confederation Centre tomorrow, when thousands of our citizens will have the opportunity of participating in a Thanksgiving Service at which we should all be present in spirit, and which should give us a deep and abiding sense—not only of our common heritage as Canadians—but of the blessings we have enjoyed and the opportunity that is ours of building, in faith and vision, still more firmly on the foundations laid by our forebears a century ago.

It has been said that in a land as vast and relatively sparsely populated as Canada, and with regional and cultural rivalries to boot, it is not easy to develop a sense of national purpose and objective. A national flag will not achieve this; neither will a national anthem. It must rise from the spirit of our people, inspired and guided by imaginative leadership.

In his New Year's message which we were privileged to publish yesterday, His Honour Lieutenant-Governor Macdonald expressed the hope that in the many Centennial programs during the months ahead, the children and youth of the province will be encouraged to participate as much as possible. It is important indeed that they should do so.

The Dearest Ever?

It is not only the New Year's weekend that Canadian traffic authorities face with some concern. The Ottawa Journal cites, in this connection, the prediction of a Canadian Good Roads Association official to the effect that the celebration of Canada's Centennial will generate "more road traffic than any other event—or 12-month period—in Canadian history."

It is estimated that 85 per cent of Canadians and visitors will do their centennial travelling by car. Trips related to the centennial will account for an estimated 2.5 billion miles and the total of miles travelled may reach 70 billion, almost double the 37 billion of a decade ago.

with the volume of traffic—but they are high.

To those who study the causes of traffic accidents the phrase "inattentive driving" becomes so familiar that it acquires a meaning not suggested by its innocent sound. Holidays seem to increase the number of inattentive drivers who stray momentarily over the centre line or fail to notice a car stopping ahead or a pedestrian stepping off a sidewalk.

It's something that can be avoided. But only at the cost of keeping the need for doing so in mind at all times.

Spuds And Rocks

Like Prince-Edward Island, the State of Maine is famous for its potatoes. Unlike this province, it is also famous for its rocks. The rocks are great for scenery, as noted in the current issue of a farm publication of the Federal Reserve Board of Boston which acclaims them in these terms: "Rocks—good stout New England stones—universally acknowledged our soil's crowning productive achievement, capable of spontaneous generation... appearing each spring bigger and heavier in fields gleamed clean the fall before..."

Unfortunately, while fine in their place, rocks can be troublesome to farmers at potato-digging time. The machine they use cannot distinguish a stone from a potato and digs up both with equal diligence. Machinery specialists at the University of Maine are now seeking to cope with this problem, and their efforts get a well-deserved boost from the Christian Science Monitor.

Wisely, the specialists are not attempting to teach the digger to tell the stones from the tubers. Too difficult at present. Nor would they wholly eliminate stones which do their part to check runoff. What they are doing is to test a plan to dig up and windrow the rocks, placing them in lines down the field clear of the rows to be furrowed.

What future research may do for the Maine potato grower and his rock problem The Monitor doesn't attempt to predict. But it notes that a tractor has recently been designed at the University of Reading, England, with a computer-type "brain" that makes it possible for a farmer to program his plowing and then take off for town. If this is possible, it suggests, a potato digger "smart enough to tell rocks from spuds" is surely in the offing.

Insurance Galore

It used to be thought that the advent of social welfare schemes would spell the ruin of life insurance companies. Happily this was not the case. Indeed, the Canadian Life Insurance Association, in a year-end statement, predicts that Canadians—already the most heavily insured people in the world—will buy another \$11,000 million worth of life insurance in 1967. This would be \$700 million more than they bought in 1966.

As has been the pattern in previous years, states President A. T. Seedhouse, most of these payments will go to living policy holders in the form of dividends on policies, matured endowments, disability payments, cash values, health insurance payments and annuity payments. Of the total, it is estimated that death benefit payments may amount to some \$350 million. The trend toward increase-group insurance coverage is expected to continue in 1967.

EDITORIAL NOTES

As former Premier Shaw reminded former Premier Lesage on one memorable occasion here, bilingualism may be good, but trilingualism would be better. And so, to all our readers: Bliadhna Mhath Ur! Bonne et Heureuse Annee! A Happy New Year!

Schoolchildren in the London borough of Newham can borrow small pets from the local Passmore Edwards Museum. The museum has established a new system of "learning from life" to supplement natural history and biology lessons. The current lending list, which is to be expanded, already includes hedgehogs, toads, shrews, mice, guinea-pigs, rabbits, fish, tortoise and terrapins—all bred at the museum. They are lent out to children for not more than a few days at a time, after the museum has been satisfied that the animals will have adequate space and be looked after properly.



WINTER'S RULE SETS IN

INTO THE PAST

Modern Quest For Abraham's World

National Geographic News Bulletin

Ur Junction is a lonely little station in the Iraq delta. But it is the last living expression of ancient Ur—capital of the great Sumerian civilization.

At night, once the train from Baghdad has rumbled away toward Basra and the Persian Gulf, familiar sounds break the desert stillness. A nesting stork clatters its beak. A donkey brays, a bat shrills, a wolf howl, a sheep dog answers.

"The voices of the Mesopotamian night have not changed since Ur began, more than 5,000 years ago," writes Kenneth MacLeish, an assistant editor of National Geographic, in a December article entitled, "Abraham, the Friend of God."

Starting at Ur, Mr. MacLeish and photographer Dean Conger recently retraced the long wanderings of the Semitic herdsmen called Abram—destined to be known as Abraham—before he came down from the hill, and stood before us, ragged and wonderfully courteous, proud to act out the tradition of hospitality which Abram also honored.

When Abram was old and favored by God, he fathered two flat, green, well watered. Leaving there, he went by stages back to Bethel (modern Beitin), where he parted from his nephew Lot, because their herds and followers were becoming numerous.

On a solitary hilltop in the area, Mr. MacLeish "felt closer to the questioning wanderer than I had at any point along his trail."

After Sarah died, Abraham for the first time in his life purchased a piece of property—the cave of Machpelah at Hebron (present-day Al Khalil)—as a tomb in which to bury his dead. There, too, Abraham was put to rest. Their Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah.

"The case exists," Mr. MacLeish says. "One may believe that the mortal remains of the Patriarchs are there. Since no archeologist may enter the cavern, this claim cannot be confirmed, but neither need it be doubted."

To understand the election of Ronald Reagan as governor of California it is important to grasp the idea of that state as "paradise."

The Eden Image has led millions to move there; from the Okie migrations of the '30s to the present the state has swarmed with newcomers.

California has given us the first auto-dominated city, Los Angeles; and even within the "old and settled" city of San Francisco people move around as though in a frenzy.

change and increasing problems the people of California feel reality. Instead, they indulged in a ritual cleansing, and brought in a totally inexperienced man who campaigned on the basis of being a political innocent.

Brown, who campaigned on his experience, was failed to emphasize the very thing that people held against him; he reminded them that they were human, that they were part of a society and had responsibilities.

But now all is simple and wonderful in a land where "thinking makes it so." There is no need for government and, led by an innocent, the Californians can look forward to eternities of joy, while the rest of America—in the land of Nod (East of Eden) must continue to struggle and sweat.

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Down In Paradise

The Nation

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The Bear Facts

Toronto Daily Star

Canada has found itself caught in the middle of a really cold war, over, of all things, the polar bear. The Russians are mad at the Americans for killing so many of the beasts, and the Americans deny that they are doing the species any harm.

Canada is interested because our polar bears wander far and wide over the frozen seas, beyond our own territorial limits, and within range of the guns of wealthy U.S. sportsmen, who hunt the animals from the air as close as three miles to the Siberian coast.

So little is known about the polar bear and his activities that "none of the five countries claiming a bear population—Canada,

Governor-General's Pension

Ottawa Journal

Not one Canadian in a thousand would say that only rich men should aspire to the office of Governor-General.

But unless provision is made for the \$16,000 pension for retired governors proposed by the Government, Rideau Hall will be the preserve of the very well-to-do.

Distinguished soldiers, diplomats, businessmen, doctors and professors are among those to be considered for the proud duty of representing the Queen in Canada. But how many of them must ask, if the offer is made to them, "What does a retired Governor-General do for a living?"

Think of recent Governor-Generals—Lord Alexander, who had his field-marshal's pension in England and Vincent Massey who had the private means.

Probably they did not need the \$16,000 pension but we would guess that Gen. Vanier, who had almost a chance to make his fortune as a soldier and diplomat, would live more easily with a

Outbreaks Of TB

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

In an analysis of more than a hundred epidemics of tuberculosis in 12 countries, it was found that the outbreaks had certain circumstances in common. In the first place, a large number of those exposed to the germs lacked immunity (tuberculin negative); secondly, the disseminator usually had a large number of tubercle bacilli in his sputum.

The concentration of germs spewed into the air depends not only upon the number expelled in the sputum but upon the fluidity of the discharge and the frequency and forcefulness of coughing. Of equal importance is whether the infected individual covers the mouth when coughing.

Three out of four of the epidemics were in schools, but adults, rather than youngsters were responsible. Teachers usually are the source but epidemics have been traced to a bus driver, custodian, or cook. Older children and adolescents with chronic pulmonary tuberculosis are responsible occasionally.

Eight members of a British military band developed active tuberculosis within a short period of time. The source of the infection was a young clarinet player. It was believed that the disease spread rapidly because band players exhale more air than average persons and do so with greater force. The air contains a greater concentration of bacilli in the circumstances.

Most epidemics develop within a short time. It is not difficult to pinpoint the source if all in contact with the victims agree to a tuberculin test and chest X-ray. The infected adult or adolescent should be treated in a sanatorium. The adolescent should not return to school until the disease is arrested for three to six months. Young children can be treated at home. Those having no symptoms can return to school provided they are under medical supervision and receive isoniazid or PAS for at least a year.

PAGET'S DISEASE M.G. writes: Is Paget's disease the same as bone cancer?

REPLY No, Paget's disease (osteitis deformans) is a chronic disorder of the bone characterized by bowing of the legs and enlargement of the skull. Now and then one bone, such as the thigh, shin, or the upper arm, is involved. However, as a rule, the skull and several of the long bones are affected.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Facing Grave Dilemma

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP) — Americans now have a much more realistic picture of the bomb damage being inflicted on North Vietnamese civilians by U.S. aircraft.

This is one result of the dispatches by Harrison Salisbury of the New York Times from Hanoi and elsewhere in North Vietnam. These have confirmed many of the previous and frequently derided reports available from French, British, Japanese and other journalists.

But, while there has been the inevitable revival of criticism from abroad for the bombings and fresh charges that President Johnson and his officials are less than candid about what they are doing and planning, there is no evidence whatever that the U.S. intends to stop the bombing.

The opposite may be true, because the president may think he has no other choice.

Both Hanoi and the port of Haiphong should be wiped out, says South Carolina's Mendel Rivers, chairman of the armed services committee of the House of Representatives.

FLATTEN HANOI — U.S. planes should "flatten Hanoi if necessary and... let world opinion go fly a kite," says Rivers.

Georgia Senator Russell Long, another militant Democrat from the U.S. South, says the "continued intransigence (by the North Vietnamese) leaves us no choice but to inflict greater punishment on the Communists until they halt their aggression."

The president, as the man who selects the main northern targets, says no mistake has been made by ordering bombing "non-military" targets and the attacks will go on.

The New York Times reports of bomb damage and the apparent failure of American air

power to stop northern supply transport underlines the dilemma for Johnson and his military aides.

Originally, when bombing the North began in February, last year, it was justified politically as punishment to be stopped when the North decided it wanted to talk peace.

Militarily, it would halt the flow of men and arms into South Vietnam — a contention that has had to be drastically revised as it became evident that infiltration has risen steadily.

NORTH DETERMINED — The Times dispatches indicate undiminished determination by the North to go on fighting whatever the cost and its apparent capacity to do so, barring American assaults on the North on a nuclear scale.

So far, the U.S. has lost more than \$1,000,000,000 worth of aircraft over the North—a small sum compared with the cost of this third-largest war in U.S. history but one that has risen progressively more sharply.

The North's defences have been strengthened materially and by experience and both the U.S. navy and air force have developed pilot shortages. The limited alternatives remain up to Johnson.

EXPECTS TO LOOK BACK EDMONTON (CP) — Mrs. A. E. Fahlan is organizing a society for the preservation of old houses. She says a young province should look ahead to when the historical significance of some homes will be appreciated. Mrs. Fahlan teaches home economics at an Edmonton high school.

PLENTY OF PRACTICE — Historical records of the toy industry of Nuernberg, Germany, go back to 1413.

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