

Ours, Too, Is The Loss

Dane F. Crosby, provincial news editor of The Guardian, who died with shocking suddenness yesterday at the age of 43, was well-known and respected in the field of journalism throughout the Maritimes. Among his island associates he was well-loved.

It was not just his work, but love of that work and love of the Island, that enriched his knowledge of this province and its affairs beyond anything usual among even those who have spent their whole lives here. This was his adopted home—he joined The Guardian almost five years ago—but he made the adoption both fervent and complete.

In both his thinking and his feelings Dane Crosby became an Islander and showed it continuously not only as an editor but as the head of a lively family and in the whole pattern of his interests. Just two weeks ago he moved with his family into a new home and was finding great happiness in at last being "really settled".

He had, too, a talent for happiness. It was usual for him, while with his associates, to share his pleasures and the good things he could say of others, but unheard of for him to mention any of the burdens he was carrying or to express any unfriendly judgments.

Even among those who worked closest with him he never allowed it to become known that he suffered from the serious heart condition which cost his life, even though he was aware of it, or that a serious accident in childhood had left severe physical consequences which he carried without complaint through the whole of his adulthood.

It is out of real affection—out of fresh memories of a fine spirit, a fine craftsman, a fine associate and friend—and in behalf of all with whom Dane Crosby worked that The Guardian extends its sympathy to Mrs. Crosby, and all who were close to him.

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Legislation Approved

There was an honest division of opinion in the Legislature over the bill to control the distribution and use of pesticides and poisonous top killing sprays. It passed second reading on Friday, over the opposition of four Liberals and one Conservative who made it clear that they were concerned as much as their colleagues about the misuse of such poisons, but had fears also that individual freedom was being unduly restricted in this case.

Opposition Leader Matheson warned that the legislation may be in conflict with section 92 of the British North America Act which deals, among other things, with property and civil rights. It is our understanding of this section that it gives exclusive powers to provincial legislatures to make laws with respect to such rights in the province; but if there is danger of running into a constitutional roadblock here, it would certainly be advisable to give further consideration to the matter.

Otherwise we are of the opinion that the measure is a good one, that it is needed as a protection against the danger of poisonous sprays to wildlife, to livestock and even to human life, and that, in the long run, it will give added prestige to the reputation our potato in-

Timely Resolution

The manner in which our legislative members expressed the loyalty of the people of this Province to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and the pride and pleasure with which we are looking forward to the visit of Her Majesty and Prince Philip to Charlottetown in October for the opening of the Fathers of Confederation Memorial Building, was heartwarming in its enthusiasm and unanimity. Premier Shaw and Opposition Leader Matheson were both at their best in expressing these sentiments. Through the facilities of The Canadian Press, their words have been carried across Canada; and overseas too, for that matter.

Not that there is "news" in the fact that a Prince Edward Island Legislature would respond in this way to a resolution of this kind. The startling news would be if it showed any other reaction on such an occasion. But it was a most timely and appropriate gesture, for which all concerned are entitled to our warm thanks.

Making The Headlines

News media in Canada have been charged with placing undue emphasis on the words and activities of the separatists in the province of Quebec. The charge was made by Hon. Yvon Dupuis, a minister without portfolio in the Liberal government at Ottawa, who complained that news treatment has tended to create disunity in the country at a time when all had an obligation to foster unity. Separatists in Quebec were in a minority, he pointed out, inferring that the view of the majority on the question was being overlooked.

The minister did not even suggest censorship in his remarks. Nevertheless, as the Fort William Times-Journal points out, it is most difficult to draw a line between censorship and editing of news to serve a specific purpose. The moment the blue pencil is applied to straight reporting of public statements and events, injury is inflicted on the integrity of news coverage. Editors become a party to an act of deceiving the public by keeping the truth hidden.

When arms are stolen from armories, bombs are tossed at public buildings, an individual casts a strong hint that the Queen may suffer harm if she visits Quebec, and when a minister of the Quebec provincial government takes a half-step towards the views of separatists, trusts of free information dare not ignore the facts or suppress them.

EDITORIAL NOTE

President Johnson has named comedian Bob Hope to succeed Henry Cabot Lodge. Hope isn't going to take over Mr. Lodge's job as Ambassador to South Vietnam, though. The job he is succeeding Mr. Lodge in is as a member of the Distinguished Civilian Service Awards Board, which recommends winners for the Medal of Freedom for distinguished service to the country in various fields.

I am, Sir, etc.

NEW GOSWOLD, P.E.I.

ROY DICKIESON

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