The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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The Trying Season

We are now in the season of our discontent, so far as transportation connections are concerned. The battering sustained by the MV Abegweit in heavy ice over the weekend caused a day-long hold-up for propeller repairs yesterday. On Sunday only two trips could be made; the first return trip took eight hours to complete and on the second crossing there was a holdup of nearly four hours off Tormentine due to heavy ice floes. The SS Prince Edward Island was "being made ready" as a replacement, but there was a head of steam to be gotten up, and there were other handicaps in the way of pressing her into service with promptitude.

It is the old story of working under almost continuous difficulties with the equipment available, and we are likely to hear more to the same effect during the next few weeks. It is pointed out that while ice conditions in the Strait are severe, they are still "nowhere near as bad as they were last year"; and we may hope, with luck, to get through the season with just the normal amount of trouble and inconvenience. Always, however, there is the uncertainty of how the ice jam will pile up and how the ferries, under such terrific stress, will behave.

Fortunately there is no doubt about the spirit and efficiency of the officers and men of these boats, who are accustomed every year at this time to perform services beyond the call of duty, and to whom we are indebted, not infrequently, for keeping us from being completely isolated so far as rail and motor traffic are concerned.

These seasonal hazards are something we have had to live with all our lives, but we see no reason for being reconciled to them in this day and age of fast transport. They point up the need for more stable means of communication if we are to make the progress we should be making as a partner in Confederation. This is something we should like to impress upon all public men who visit us at this season. For the most part, however, these gentlemen come to us by air, and depart by the same comfortable and expeditious route, without personally experiencing the disadvantages which are so familiar to our shippers and ferry passengers.

We can hardly blame them for that. But it was otherwise in the old days, when visiting politicians had to take pot-luck with us, and get back as best they could to the mainland after an encounter with our ice barrier that left them under no misunderstanding as to what Prince Edward Islanders meant by transportation grievances.

"Murky And Dangerous"

Mankind looks across its world these days and realizes that the "arms race is a murky and dangerous trail." This quotation is from U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk at his latest press conference. As he prepares to leave for Geneva and the 18-nation disarmament conference starting March 14, he and his staff are working on specific disarmament proposals which he hopes will result in thawing out the cold war, even if only a few degrees.

Both the United States and Britain are known to be exploring the idea of a zonal inspection system, to which reference was made in these columns recently. This would be designed to overcome the Soviet fear that international government inspection means espionage. In each nation a complex of zones would be set up. Then an opponent could choose one zone to inspect exhaustively, probably by an international team. This sampling would go on until all the zones were covered.

Of chief concern will be the Soviet reaction to President Kennedy's decision to resume nuclear testing in the atmosphere in late April unless the Russians agree to "a fully effective" test ban treaty. This decision has already brought denunciations of "aggression" and "blackmail" from Moscow and Peking. In other countries, official reaction to the announcement has ranged from full support to reluctant approval on the ground that the United States has no other choice in the face of the series of tests Russia conducted last fall.

Britain and France have both issued statements saying they had been notified in advance of the U.S. decision and supported it. The strongest reaction against the tests from any non-Communist country was in Japan where the foreign minister issued the text of a letter sent earlier to President Kennedy by Premier Ikeda urging that the decision be reconsidered.

Nor has Canada's reaction to this move been favorable. Officially we have not protested, but Prime Minister Diefenbaker has reaffirmed this country's desire for an end to all forms of nuclear weapon testing. External Affairs Minister Green has been outspoken on this subject on many occasions; but there is little that he, or any member of the Canadian government, can do now to change the course of events.

If it were a military issue alone, there would be less reason to question this decision to resume nuclear tests in the atmosphere. But it involves incalculable hazards to human life, in which every nation has a right to be concerned. It may serve to convince the Soviets of the need for coming to terms on disarmament; but if it fails in this effect, what then? It is an appalling chance to take, whatever the outcome may be.

Widows And Veterans

Under the above heading, the Toronto Globe and Mail points out that when the Dominion Government raised the old-age pension hy $10 recently, it was saying, in effect, that the nation could now afford to provide a higher standard of living for its aged members. The pension scheme being universal, the extra $10 went to all persons aged 70 or over, rich or poor alike, regardless of need.

Yet it seems that some of the most needy among the old people, 20,000 veterans and widows dependent upon Government assistance, are not to be permitted to enjoy the higher standard of living. The $10 a month which these persons gain on the pension will be subtracted from their other Government allowance, leaving them with the same income.

The Veterans Affairs Minister, Mr. Gordon Churchill, explained to the Commons that allowances are paid to widows and veterans on a basis of need, so when pension income went up, allowance income went down. But, as our Toronto contemporary well says, would it not be sensible to apply the same logic to pensions? "If we stopped paying $65 a month to well-to-do people who have no need for the pension, we should be able to provide a better living for aged persons who do need the pension, including widows and veterans."

Doubtless the Government has been following precedent in this case. But a bad precedent does not make a good guide to legislation of any kind. It is to be hoped that this measure will be reconsidered in the light of the obvious injustice it imposes.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Stands Engand where she did? Yes, indeed. In Derby the other day a teen-ager ended 62 hours and 17 minutes of dancing the twist and claimed the world's record for the twist-marathon from a New Zealander who danced 62 hours and 16 minutes.

* * *

"June 11," says Mr. Douglas, "is my target date for the federal election." The important thing is what Mr. Diefenbaker's target date is. But the NDP leader may be right. At any rate, Works Minister Walker is reported to have let slip .. hint last week that the general election may come before September.

ROBINSON CASTRO

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Herridge Takes Over New Assignment

Our two-party parliamentary system gives no official honour to the leader of any third party, as Mr. H.W. Herridge learned to his regret when he was recently elected leader of the CCF-NDP eight-man group in our House of Commons.

When an M.P. assumes the position of leader of the majority party, he makes a ceremonial visit to Government House, where he is officially sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada. When an M.P. becomes leader of the second party in our House of Commons, he is allotted the seat in the Chamber immediately opposite the Prime Minister, and goes on the public payroll as "Leader of the Official Opposition to the Government" at a salary matching that of a Cabinet Minister.

But the ace old-time greeting "Bert" Herridge in his new eminence came neither from the Governor General nor from the public Treasury. A gentleman traveling in gentlemen's millinery entered his office and announced that Mr. Herridge's new status demanded that he now wear dress shirts, for which he would be glad to take Mr. Herridge's order at $19.50 per, plus a small extra charge for a personal monogram embroidered on the left breast which would afford that additional aristocratic touch so typical of the blue-shirted workers and bejeaned farmers representative of Mr. Herridge's followers.

Apart from that thrustful and rebuffed emissary of commerce, Bert Herridge has enjoyed a welcome and deserved flow of good wishes and bonhommie.

"I am very pleased with the large number of messages from all across Canada, particularly those from members of the CCF and NDP," he told me. "I have had many telegrams from my Conservative friends, but of course CCFers cannot afford telegrams— they send me letters, in unstamped envelopes." In this he was referring to the privilege whereby anyone may write a letter to an M.P., and have it carried free so long as it is addressed to the House of Commons, and during the parliamentary session.

Bert Herridge's interest in politics has been life -long; his record of office holding dates back at least 30 years, for in 1932 he was elected vice-president of the B.C. Liberal Association which was as far to the left as he could find a hive at that time. Three years later, with the forming of the CCF, he offered himself as a candidate for the federal parliament under that new banner. He was twice defeated, but meanwhile a provincial election to the B.C. legislature before finally winning the federal seat of Kootenay West in 1945, which he has held ever since.

"Now I have reached the acme of my political career, and I say this in all humility," he told me, with a mischievous twinkle in his eye. "But it is like sitting on a glacier, which is subject to the eroding effect of the strong sun every day. My eclipse will come with the end of this Parliament." By which he implied that the national leader of the NDP, Tommy Douglas, will win a seat in the election, and assume his rightful place as leader of the NDP in the House of Commons.

Meanwhile, under "President" Herridge, the CCF-NDP group in Parliament is happy, united and co-operative, as they never were under the authoritarian leadership of Hazen Argue.

Bert Herridge's first words as leader were an epitaph on Argue. "He was given the support of convinced socialists because he stood to the left of the party in national and international affairs. If he had felt we were drifting away from this position, he should have resigned from the NDP and run as a CCF candidate. That way he would have won respect."

The Rain And The Wind

Ottawa Journal

It would be wise, President Kennedy said of Premier Khrushchev's offer of space co-operation, to wait "until we see whether the rain follows the warm wind in this case."

Mr. Khrushchev should enjoy that homely turn of phrase and he should be notably aware by now that Mr. Kennedy is not one to allow the man sitting across the table to get away with a bluff. The President, who can also draw on a poker game for a metaphor, said at his press conference: "We... have more chips on the table than we did some time ago." Mr. Khrushchev must be finding it a new experience not to be able to bask longer in the glow of his own propaganda.

CORDIAL REPLY

The President's reply to Mr. Khrushchev continued the zip and the confidence of recent Western approaches to Russia. The letter was cordial. Yet it was admirably explicit:

"I am instructing the appropriate officers of this government to prepare new and concrete proposals for immediate projects of common action, and I hope that at a very early date our representatives may meet to discuss our ideas and yours in a spirit of practical co-operation."

We shall know soon enough if the rain will follow the wind. When Mr. Khrushchev means by pooling resources for the benefit of mankind. What a difference that could be from the secrecy which has surrounded every Russian ascent into space! Quite apart from working together on a project, it would be change enough to have a group of American experts merely watching the firing of a Russian rocket.

COLD WAR SPUR

The race into space has of course been spurred on by the Cold War. It would be one of history's great ironies if the recent great achievement of the human spirit— on both sides of the Iron Curtain— might lead to reducing the tensions between men.

Mr. Kennedy spoke a profound and a hopeful principle when he said "we believe that when men reach beyond this planet they should leave their national differences behind them". In space, if not on earth, perhaps they can remember above all their essential humanity.

The Russian response to the President's note may tell something of the prospects for that momentous chance.

PUBLIC FORUM

MISS AMY EARLE

Sir,—Miss Amy C. Earle who passed away on 1st, March was the last of the large family of the late Professor S.N. Earle, all of whom did so much to raise the musical standard in this city some decades ago. Miss Earle had a fine contralto voice and took part in many musical events in the City and was a valued member of St. Paul's Church choir for many years.

In 1922 Miss Earle accepted the position of district visitor of the Anti Tuberculosis Society, the name of which was later changed to the Free Dispensary, and for twenty-two years she was not only in charge of the dispensary but visited on foot the many homes of the poor and needy of the city.

Miss Earle was not only conscientious in performing her many duties, but her very personality brought happiness and comfort to those she visited. Her greatest remuneration was perhaps the thanks and love of those she helped.

In 1934 the members of the Dispensary and citizens generally were delighted when her services were recognized by being made a Member of the British Empire, which all recognized as an honour well merited.

As I was President of the Dispensary for nine years during the long dbdicated service of Miss Earle to the Dispensary and needy of the city I feel I would like to place on record a few lines in reference to her faithful work over a long number of years.

I am, Sir, etc.,
T.E. MacNUTT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Sir,—On reading your paper's report of the City Council meeting of March 3 I was deeply concerned at the omission of any reference to the discussion which took place regarding the failure of the Mayor and Council to institute a housing project as promised in the Mayor's election campaign of over two years ago. If you omitted this because you did not consider it to be of interest to the public then you are correct. If such omission was because the Mayor requested your reporters not to print it then that is quite another thing.

This discussion took place when the matter of a new City hall came up. I then stated that if the City had such money to spend it would be better used in assisting the people who are now paying exorbitant rents for dwellings that are actually health hazards. I reminded His Worship of his promise of over two years ago and that our first duty was to our less fortunate citizens rather than to the people who work at City Hall. A rather heated debate followed in which the Mayor asked the press not to report what he was saying. Whether he meant the entire discussion or just part of it is difficult to say. At any rate your paper complied with his request by saying nothing about the subject.

This is not the first time the Mayor has requested that the press omit reference to subjects arising in Council and had his request granted.

Approximately one year ago, you, Mr. Editor, quite properly admonished the Mayor and Council for holding a meeting behind closed doors. I heartily agreed with you. I cannot however see much point in having the press at the meetings if they will not report any criticism of the Mayor but will only print that which he authorizes.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ALLISON GILLIS
Councillor, Ward Five.

(Editor's note: Three reporters for The Guardian and The Evening Patriot attended the meeting discussed by Mr. Gillis. All agree that they heard no request from Mayor Gaudet that he should not be quoted in the press on the subject of housing, and none of them feels that "heated debate" developed on that matter. The Guardian believes that the subjects dealt with at Council's lengthy Saturday meeting were reported according to their news value.)

Growth Hormone Proves Success In Experiments

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

THE pituitary growth hormone (HGH) is distinctive in that it stimulates all tissues to grow without making the youngster grotesque; it does not have the sexual side effects of other related hormones but increases body proteins and fat, which are lacking in dwarfs.

The hormone is made to order for the correction of pituitary dwarfism and promises to be of help in some cases of short stature not related to the pituitary gland. Dr. M.S. Raben of Boston reports on the effects of this substance in the New England Journal of Medicine. One boy with pituitary dwarfism had the height of an 8½ year old boy (50½ inches) when he began treatment. Another 17 year old grew 9½ inches during 51 months of treatment.

Dr. Raben also treated five very short children who were judged to be normal apart from their stature. All grew taller. In addition to the short normal children and the pituitary dwarfs, he gave the hormone to three other short patients, two of whom did not respond.

HGH is used also in combination with other hormones in treating related glandular disorders; it is given along with thyroid, ACTH and the appropriate sex hormones.

(

We are getting closer to a practical growth stimulating hormone. The product under discussion comes from the human pituitary gland; 50 to 100 glands are required to maintain growth in a single patient for one year. Obviously, this has its limitations but our chemists might solve the problem by making the hormone synthetically.

Progress in this field has been delayed because there was not realized for some time that the growth hormone manufactured by the human pituitary gland differs from that made by cattle and pigs. The hormone obtained at the stockyards stimulated the rat to grow but not man. Apparently man differs in no, although growth hormones from monkeys also work on humans.

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

SQUEEZED NECK MUSCLE

F. J. O. writes: What are the symptoms and treatment of scalenus anticus syndrome?

REPLY

The scalenus anticus is a muscle in the neck that rarely causes trouble unless it swells or goes into spasm. The nerves and blood vessels pass between this muscle and the first rib on their way to the shoulder and arm. When the muscle swells or becomes tense, these structures are squeezed or compressed, leading to pain, numbness, or coldness of the extremity when the arm is moved in certain directions. Relief is obtained after the muscle is cut.

PILLS FOR HOT FLASHES

Mrs. A. writes: I get violent hot flashes, which seem to bother my husband more than they do me. I prefer to let nature take its course but he insists that I take pills. Are they necessary?

REPLY

Hormones are reserved for women who are bothered greatly by hot flashes. They are not essential, however, so feel free to tell your husband to go fly a kite.

CROSSED KNEES

M. G. writes: Will sitting with the knees crossed cause or contribute to varicose veins?

REPLY

Varicose veins stem from an inherent weakness in the wall of the blood vessel. Crossing the knees could aggravate the condition, but only produces more strain on the veins than does sitting.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Learn the early danger signals of cancer.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 6, 1937)

Rev. Beverly Ketchem of McNabb Church, Charlottetown, Ont., was nominated as moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, at a largely attended meeting of the Prince Edward Island presbytery, held in Zion Church yesterday. Rev. W. A. Cameron, Vancouver, was nominated as candidate for the office of secretary of the General Missions which has been vacant since the death of Rev. A. S. Grant, D.D.

Hon. B.W. Lepage, who will represent the government at the Coronation ceremonies at London, plans to sail from Montreal on April 23 on the "Duchess of York". He will be accompanied by Mrs. LePage.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 6, 1952)

A new Guide Company has been started in St. Peter's Hall to include Guides of St. James and St. Peter's churches, or any girls of Guide age in the vicinity who would like to join this company. Miss Marjorie MacPherson and Miss Nancy Hyndman are the leaders.

Allison MacRae left Saturday for Toronto where he will attend a meeting of the Canadian Tire Corporation. He was accompanied as far as Montreal by Mrs. MacRae, who will visit there with her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Ross Stewart.

NOTES BY THE WAY

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These are the days when two can live as cheaply as one large family used to!—Montreal Star.

Soldiers stationed at Tarn are having no trouble giving up the cigarette habit because cigarettes have been exploding in their mouths. Security officers have discovered that unknown persons have been mixing gun powder with tobacco. — Paris Presse.

A correspondent tells of having, together with her husband, recently visited a venerable Scottish lady who, after a hard life, had reached her 90th birthday. "My husband," she writes, "tactfully avoiding the obvious fact that the old lady would not have many years left, asked her if she was going to have a party when she attained her century. 'Aye, I will that,' she replied with deliberation. And will I be invited?' he inquired. 'Certainly,' she said, looking sideways at his 49 years. 'If you're spared.' "—Nanaimo Free Press.

An opportunist recently went out to Colorado with a pound of uranium looking for lost geiger counters. — Montreal Star.

A story is making the rounds these days — about some scientists who designed an English to Russian translating machine. To test the device, they fed it the sentence, "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Back came the translation, "The liquor is good but the food is lousy." — Saturday Review.

Many thousands of five-pin bowlers will gratefully remember the inventor of the game, Thomas F. Ryan, who died in Toronto at 89. He got the idea of using only five of the ten pins half a century ago when he was urging some benchers at Osgoode Hall to take up exercise. His interests extended beyond the game with which he will be associated for a long time. He operated a billiard academy, a profitable hotel business, was a dealer in furniture and art treasures. — Toronto Telegram.

Selling Canada's Products

Guelph Mercury

Canada's Timber Mission to Britain and Ireland which spent two weeks visiting seven cities in these two countries, has resulted in direct sales of lumber and lumber products worth more than half-a-million dollars, it is reported by P.H. Jones of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

One of the Mission's chief objectives was to assess the possibilities of increasing Canada's share of these important lumber markets by examining consumer preferences.

The visit was arranged to coincide with the Building Trades Exhibition in Manchester and to impress on British and Irish buyers and specifiers that Canada was genuinely interested in supplying their particular needs. It was timed also to coincide with a market upswing in exports to Britain and Ireland of Canadian lumber and wood products.

The members found that British architects, engineers and specific groups were keenly interested in receiving more technical information on the properties of Canadian timber. To quote one Mission executive, "The Mission did a lot of good in reintroducing the hardwood business that has been practically non-existent since the war started.

MOVING STEADILY

Certain lumber and wood products from British Columbia that previously had found little or no market in Britain are now moving steadily to important customers. The Mission had another result— a number of new exporters of Eastern Canadian spruce to the British and Irish markets.

On their return to Canada, the members of the Mission recommended that the visit be repeated in two years' time, that continued follow-up was needed, with greater emphasis on hardwood lumber promotion, and that more information on the properties of Canadian lumber species should be given to British and Irish buyers.

Tied Into A Knot

Cape Breton Post

LIBERAL Leader Lester B. Pearson recently has made so many varying statements about the Canadian new flag proposition that he has contradicted himself into an inextricable knot. This puts him in the position of being unfathomable. Nobody can figure out what Mr. Pearson himself really thinks, nor what he will say next about this or anything.

Not long ago, Mr. Pearson was reported to have said that the design of a new Canadian flag should be left to the French Canadians, which surprised them although they gladly would take charge of it, but not even envy, with all their demands, had demanded that much.

NOT EXACTLY

Later, Mr. Pearson said that he didn't exactly say what he was reported to have said that aroused indignation in Ontario. Remarks meant to placate extreme sentiment in Quebec strike an unintended target in Kingston, Belleville and St. Catharines.

Next, Mr. Pearson put in a plug for the Union Jack but he didn't maintain that position long. He seems to have beat a circular retreat, but credit should be given when it is due him. Mr. Pearson has sensibly maintained that the flag issue would be too controversial to put to the vote of a national referendum, but he says it is a matter that whatever party is in power should settle resolutely in its own judgment subject to the authorization of Parliament.

NOT CRUCIAL ISSUE

The flag certainly should not be made the issue of an election campaign to divert attention and emotion away from the crucial issues confronting the Canadian people. And, just as certainly, the design of the flag should not be the task of amateur artists whose offerings so far have been atrocious.

In the meantime, it would be charitable to say that a man as desperately eager for votes as Mr. Pearson should be regarded with a certain measure of compassion when he contradicts himself all over the map of Canada. But it would be interesting to learn, not what he supposes most people want him to think, but what he does in fact really think—if he does.

The Age Old Story

Roast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

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