

Covers-Prince Edward Island Like The Dow
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Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd. Branch offices at Summerside, Montserrat, Alberton and Souris.
Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers Advertising Services: Toronto 425 University Ave. Empire 3-8974; Montreal 440 Cathcart Street University 4-5942; Western Office 1030 West Georgia Street Vancouver MA 7037.
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Not over 40¢ per week by carrier.
\$12.00 a year by mail on rural routes and areas not serviced by carrier.
\$15.00 a year off island and U.K. \$20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.
Not over 7¢ single copy
Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

PAGE 4 TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1966

Only Griots Need Apply

Prime Minister Pearson has said that he will make no appointments to the Senate until his minority government has been confirmed in office by a vote of confidence in the Commons. Which, of course, hasn't put an end to the speculation as to who the appointees will be. A pretty safe guess is that they will all be staunch party men—or women—and that the idea of giving these plums to the best qualified persons, regardless of politics, will—as usual—be honored in the breach.

The last non-political Senate appointment came on Jan. 21, 1958, when John Diefenbaker named the first Indian senator, James Gladstone, who later joined the Conservative caucus and campaigned for the party. The only three independents now in the Senate were named 10 years ago by Louis St. Laurent. The former Liberal prime minister showed rare magnanimity toward the Opposition when on the same occasion he named a former Conservative MP, the late John Hackett.

Mr. Pearson's record doesn't indicate that he is interested in following examples of this kind. Since he took office in April, 1963, he has named 11 senators. Seven were or still are high-ranking Liberal campaign fund raisers, three are former Liberal MPs and one is a former provincial Liberal leader and cabinet minister.

With the Liberal party caucus now in session at Ottawa, we may depend that there will be a good deal of on-the-quiet canvassing in the interests of Liberals who feel that their political records entitle them to recognition of this sort. The public generally can be excused for not getting unduly excited about the matter. The party label is what counts, and if it happens that good appointments are made in this case it will have to be within the framework of political expediency.

The Prime Minister has even carried this requirement into the field of deputy ministerial appointments, heretofore made from the civil service. Tom Kent, whom he has appointed deputy of the new Manpower Department, has been one of his party's chief political advisers since 1957. Partisan qualifications, apparently, are of prime concern even here.

Why, then, expect Mr. Pearson to deviate into non-partisanship in his Senate appointments? Newspapers which have been urging him to rise above partisan considerations in this matter might as well save their time and labor. "Senate reform," as he conceives it, is to have as many good Griots in the Red Chamber as possible. And with a few more appointments like Mr. Kent's he'll soon have the civil service in apple-pie order, too!

Farm Problems

Agriculture Minister Greene is settling down to his new duties at Ottawa, and the Ottawa Journal suggests that by now he should know "that a nice, fat figure of agricultural earnings does not mean agriculture is happy." The 1965 figure will be rosy. Farm cash income for the first six months was a record and there is evidence that sales and prices held up well for the second half. But a golden statistic for Dec. 31 is no comfort to the farmers who have suffered setbacks of various kind, and who are plagued by uncertainty about future markets.

Sobering reviews of agricultural prospects have been prepared by various authorities for a conference on international trade and Canadian agriculture at Banff, Alberta, this month, sponsored by the Economic Council of Canada and the Agricultural Economics Research Federation of Canada. Among the conclusions in studies prepared for discussion are:

1. Canada's competitive advantage in agricultural production has been reduced. Imports of farm products competitive with domestic production are rising; there has been a relative slowdown in the past 15 years in farm production of most commodities, and rapid increases in costs of production have occurred relative to other countries.

2. Output per man-hour in Canadian agriculture has increased less than in the United States.

3. A main support of Canadian export business has been the recent sale of wheat to Russia. Yet Canada's share of the world wheat trade has dropped from pre-war days.

These are warning signals, as The Journal well says. It is encouraging to have organizations such as the economic council and the agricultural research council come together to study the farm problem on a basis that will take note of them. They are expected to make recommendations and Mr. Greene can benefit agriculture—and the government's reputation—by heeding good advice and drafting policies to deal with a farm situation that becomes increasingly difficult.

Perhaps, at the Banff conference, a fresh look will be taken at the ARDA program. As pointed out by Premier Shaw in his year-end review in yesterday's Guardian, while the program has worked well in our water conservation and forestry schemes, there have been delays in modifying other features of it to suit our requirements. No doubt other provinces have experienced the same difficulty. This year should see marked progress in making the program 100 per cent effective.

Minority Complaint

A dog in Pennsylvania has struck the right note on an issue of general concern on both sides of the boundary line. His master recently wrote to the National Broadcasting Company to say that some of its theme music—and a couple of commercials—caused his dog to howl. The poor animal was only doing what many of us have felt like doing many times, and hadn't the nerve.

"We have a problem with your network and our dog," the Pennsylvania man's letter read. "Although to us he is special, he is not so unusual as not to be representative. Therefore, the state of affairs that exists between him and NBC may be more widespread among other dogs than one might think."

In particular, there was something in the frequency of certain notes of the programs that set the dog "off into a solo of one minute." This necessitated getting "up and down quite a bit turning down the volume." "I really don't know," added the writer, "if other people have this problem. But should they, it is something of importance. Anyway, I though NBC should know one effect certain sounds have in the home. He's a nice dog, but he suffers from NBC."

The NBC expressed its regrets, but it was as adamant as other bureaucrats in rejecting suggestions for improvement. "We can appreciate your concern," it said soothingly, "but we have also observed that what may be music to the ears of one dog can be a cat call to another. Thus, we might be able to modify the music to meet the approval of your dog, but in doing so we might well incur the displeasure of many others. We hope you will agree that, since yours is the only dog whose adverse reaction has been brought to our attention, it would be unfair to tamper with music which otherwise has apparently met with wide acceptance."

In any case, NBC went on to say, "the commercials carried on our facilities, including those you refer to, are produced not by NBC but by the advertisers or their agencies, whom you may wish to contact directly."

The usual run-around, which must have caused another howl of protest from the canine victim. Maybe he'll give up following TV programs altogether after this rebuff; and serve them right, too!

EDITORIAL NOTE

England, we note, is to have the world's biggest closed-circuit education TV network. The scheme—to beam TV lessons to 1,000 schools and colleges in the London area—will cost £182,000 a year to run.

A 9,000-foot peak in Alberta's Rockies has been named Mt. William Booth for the founder of the Salvation Army. A worthy tribute to a great man. Mt. Booth is 250 miles southwest of Edmonton in the David Thompson Pass area.



UNO WHO REVIEWS THE YEAR

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Problems Overlooked In Cabinet Shuffle

There is one aspect of the reorganization of government departments, now actively in process here, which has been largely overlooked. This is the creation of a "Commission of Consumer Affairs," who will have ground under their feet the responsibilities of most measures for the legislative control of business. Hitherto, these have been spread among other departments.

When Prime Minister Pearson announced the various changes he proposed, he indicated that he would ask Parliament to approve the establishment of a new minister and a new department to which these responsibilities would be transferred.

He said, in part, this: "Thus far, the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State have shared between them the responsibility for special areas of legislation concerning the national interest in the conduct of business activity. It is important that these matters be given more concentrated administrative attention. To achieve this result, it is the government's intention to have the Bankruptcy Act, the Companies Act, Companies Investigation and Research, Patents and Copyrights Trade Marks, and similar matters placed under the control of a new and separate Minister."

What will be done about the large number of vacancies in the Senate?

Of course, the same thing can be done, as has so often been done in the past; senatorships may be conferred on those whose performances in the House of Commons has been for various reasons unsatisfactory, or whose increasing age has made them wish to seek a time-honored haven. Included in the new appointments may be others who have served the party in power in various ways, and who believe themselves entitled to their reward.

But however strong the old customs may be within the party circles, it is not true that times have changed, so that the old methods are appearing more and more absurd and unacceptable?

It must always be remembered that a number of things have changed, to make the old type of appointment less acceptable than it once was. For one thing the House of Commons not only raised the payment of all members, and of cabinet ministers, to a very respectable level; it has also provided all members of the Commons with pensions—pensions which come into effect after comparatively brief service. In addition, all mem-

bers, of course, have such other pension benefits as are provided to all citizens. These changes moderate considerably the old claim that an appointment to the Senate was necessary to take care of those who had served in the House of Commons, at low pay and without a pension.

It has also to be remembered that the cost of every Senatorship has to be borne by the Canadian taxpayers. And they are entitled, since their money is to be spent, to have appointments made among those who might make some valuable contribution. This more than ever is reasonable, because the payment of Senators has gone up, as has their pensions.

If Prime Minister Pearson were to make his appointments to the Senate in a modern spirit, breaking away from traditions that were never good at any time and are less acceptable than ever today, he would be giving a new spirit to Parliament.

It may be a lot to ask from a political point of view. But it is necessarily true that rewarding those with political claims is the best politics, as far as making an appeal to the public is concerned? After all, it is the public that votes.

PUBLIC FORUM

CONSUMER FORGOTTEN?
There are certain obvious omissions from the Prime Minister's proposals. For instance it would be logical to put into this same bag the responsibility for Weights and Measures, now supervised by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and the foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals, now supervised by the Minister of Health and Welfare. This raises the question once more of misleading packaging of be-

MARITIME POSSIBILITIES

Sir,—In his letter which appeared in his column several days ago, Rev. H. Lincoln MacKenzie observed, "Nothing can be gained by ignoring the possibilities of a united Maritimes in the new age which is upon us."

What are these possibilities? Would Mr. MacKenzie kindly enlighten the public about these. Surely he must realize that this is a closed issue in this province. After all, our Premier expressed the Island position several weeks ago in his memorable Montreal speech when he stated that Islanders would prefer to live in their present state with all its disadvantages and, for many, poverty—rather than give up their individuality as forming a separate province.

This position must have been the conclusion of rigorous investigation by the government specialists who are competent to study the question. And it must have been based as well upon some expression of opinion by Islanders. Otherwise our Premier would not have been so definite about the views of the citizens of this province on this matter.

Why therefore does Mr. MacKenzie raise this question? Our farmers may be suffering and many are giving up; our labourers are about the lowest paid in Canada; our percentage of poverty is about the highest in Canada—but these things we must endure, and so must our children. Our precious individuality we must preserve—at all costs, mustn't we?

I am, Sir, etc.
J. FRANK MCCORD
St. Peter's Road, P.E.I.

Senate Vacancies

Montreal Gazette

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A Slippery Question

Montreal Star

For years it seemed most unlikely that Canada would ever be able to absorb current butter production, let alone get rid of the tremendous stockpiles built up under the government's price support program. But it has come to pass.

Within a year we may even be importing the stuff to meet demand. Which puts the new minister of agriculture face to face with what may be his first important policy decision.

Should subsidies be scrapped and butter prices allowed to find their own level, which might encourage greater production? Should producer subsidies be raised toward the same end, and the consumer subsidy raised again to encourage greater consumption? Strong arguments can be presented in support of each case.

Canadians historically have been heavy butter consumers. The availability of substitutes, however, has had a marked effect on consumer habits, with per capita consumption plunging

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(January 4, 1941)
Australian troops storming the Italian fortress of Bardia, Libya, already had taken more than 5,000 prisoners, a quarter of the garrison, the British command announced in a special communique at Cairo.

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The Queen, in London, named Rt. Rev. A. M. Ramsey, bishop of Durham, to be Archbishop of York.

Dr. J. Elmer MacPhee opened an office in Souris for the practice of dentistry.

PLANNED OWN HONORS
Socratus, builder of the Phoros in ancient Egypt, had his name carved on it in stone and covered by a plaster plaque bearing the king's name, knowing the plaster would flake off

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Rheumatic Fever

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
Rheumatic fever was described by Dr. Ernest C. Laeque as a disease that "licks the joints and bites the heart." The scar from the bite may remain, but the "licks" never hurt anything. However, not all victims are bitten because more than one-third recover completely.

The remainder acquire some permanent scarring of one or more of the heart valves, but in the majority the injury is so slight that little or no handicap ensues. Nevertheless, the condition is responsible for at least one-third of all adult heart disease. Many of these injuries can be corrected later via heart surgery.

Group A streptococci are responsible for the lick and bite. Most rheumatic fever attacks are preceded by this type of infection, usually in the nose and throat. Symptoms seldom last more than five days, but the youngster destined for the disease has more in store for him. The next 10 to 15 days represent the lull before the storm. The system has conquered the strep infection by sending protective antibodies into battle. It is here that the rheumatic fever victim differs from others; he reacts to these antibodies or other by-products of the strep infection with swelling and inflammation of connective tissues of the heart, joints, brain, and other organs.

The ailment makes its debut in many ways. Symptoms are slight in some, consisting of weight loss, poor appetite, repeated nosebleeds, fever, and aching in and about the arms, legs, and abdomen. These manifestations may occur singly or in combination. In other cases the disease is ushered in with high fever and severe inflammation of one or more joints. Brain involvement (chorea or St. Vitus' dance) induces uncontrollable twitching in the muscles of the face, arms, and legs. Cardiac changes are recognized by listening to the heart and doing an electrocardiogram.

Aspirin or a corticosteroid is the treatment used most frequently. The antibiotics are of no value, except to prevent or treat the strep infection that triggers the disease.

CHILD'S ASTHMA

E. D. writes: I stay up nights worrying about my 6 year old, who coughs a lot. Now the doctor says he has bronchial asthma. What can cause this?

REPLY
Allergy. Breathing difficulties occur in bronchial asthma because the bronchial airway narrows and interferes with the passage of air. This leads to a typical wheeze during an attack.

A NATURAL PROCESS
Mrs. A. writes: Do successive pregnancies place a gradual increasing strain on a woman's health?

REPLY
Not in those who are in good health.

SHORTSIGHTED

E. W. writes: Can nearsightedness be cured surgically?

REPLY
No. The cause of myopia is an eyeball that is too long, but the difficulty can be remedied by wearing glasses.

MONONUCLEOSIS
REPLY
Through blood studies, combined with symptoms. Today's Health—Keep your blankets clean. (Note: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Former members of the French Foreign Legion are being sought—to make a movie—Ottawa Journal.

Dr. Earl Jahne says that one neighborhood boy said to another, "My dad can lick your dad." The reply was, "So what? So can my mom."—Columbus Journal-Republican.

In London the other day, a woman charged with drunkenness explained to the magistrate that "I have had a lot of worry over this Rhodesian business." The magistrate let her off with a warning, thus proving that it pays to keep up with even the bad news.—Hamilton Spectator.

There are 12 vacancies in the Canadian Senate. Okay, but is that enough?—Windsor Star.

Fair Customer (to salesman displaying modern bathing suit)—"And you're sure this bathing suit won't shrink?" Salesman—"No, miss; it has nowhere to shrink to."—Vancouver Sun.

A viewer gave the mighty Grand Canyon a fast look and asked, "Where's the golf course?" "Isn't any," said the ranger. "What are you supposed to do around here?" the tourist demanded. "Look at the scenery?"—Toronto Star.

For Adults (And Others)

Christian Science Monitor

The cartoon showing a child sadly reporting home that he couldn't attend a single movie in town because they were all advertised "for adults only," makes a telling long-term point. But 1965 seems to have been his year.

Of the four apparent top money-making films, three were musicals, and two of these were of special appeal to children (as well as adults). "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music" appear to have cashed in on a market over which Walt Disney has heretofore had a virtual monopoly.

These two, along with "My Fair Lady," are also notable for having drawn capacity crowds in the United States and abroad, in spite of their unconcern for sex and violence, so often associated in Hollywood with box-office receipts.

Is all this mere coincidence or have we something heralding a new trend? Are people growing bored with the clash of arms in the classic Hollywood spectacles? Is there a longing for the sort of entertainment which television seldom provides?

Does a fast-paced era of technical proficiency and complexity look with relief to the lightness of music and the laughter of children? Or is youth merely dictating the market, as it does in so many other ways?

Whatever the answers, we are encouraged to see family entertainment holding its own and providing the moviegoer with a decided choice.

Town Crier Retires

National Geographic Society

The town crier at Provincetown, Massachusetts, has turned in his bell. The last "Oyez!" has sounded from deep within his leather lungs.

For 13 years, Arthur P. Snader patrolled the streets of the Cape Cod town every summer, proclaiming the news and tides. An admiring traffic policeman once told a National Geographic writer: "He has a voice like a foghorn. Best crier we've had in years."

Mr. Snader made his rounds dressed in a Pilgrim costume, and he obligingly posed for photographs—as many as 35,000 times each summer. But he will pose and cry no more. At 81, Mr. Snader found his duties too tiring.

DOG'S WORRY SHEEP
The Provincetown crier's mission was largely picturesque, but in Colonial times the town crier was a figure of some importance. Equipped with a bell, drum, or bugle, he rang, banged, or tooted to attract attention, then read official proclamations.

The town crier also reported shipwrecks, drownings, and other disasters. He acted as a walking classified advertising section by announcing lost children, strayed cattle, and the like. An English crier once walked 22 miles to tell householders to keep their dogs indoors after an outbreak of sheep-worrying. For this he was paid a shilling.

Newspapers, telegraph, telephones, radio, and television have made town criers obsolete on this continent, but they still carry on in some parts of the world.

Writing in the National Geographic, Robert K. Burns, Jr., described the town crier of Saint Veran, a remote village high in

DEDICATED ARTISTS

In Great Britain, where town criers are largely ceremonial, the survivors practice their art with intense dedication. Once a year, two dozen or so of Britain's finest criers gather at Hastings, Sussex, to compete for the national championship.

The program lists each man's background. For instance, "William H. Walsley, town crier of the Manor of Kirkham, Lancs. Official town crier in attendance at the charter fairs and markets at Kirkham, the charter being granted in 1295."

The competing criers—bells in hand, wearing colorful uniforms—parade to a local park. They are preceded by the Hook Silver Prize Band and followed by mayors, town clerks, and macebearers.

Top British criers often are dispatched on goodwill missions around the world. Alfie Howard, of Lambeth, cried successfully in 14 countries, but came a cropper in Melbourne, Australia. He no longer let out his first "Oyez" than a city council official silenced him. The mayor explained that "people are not allowed to do that sort of thing here."

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