

Covers Prince Edward Island like the Dew
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A Question Of Equity

Reference was made recently in these columns to protest meetings which Alberta farmers have been holding against what they regard as inequities under the Canada Pension Plan. Further reference to this matter appears in the current issue of The Printed Word, Toronto, which quotes a spokesman for the farmers as saying at a meeting held near Red Deer: "We didn't know what it was all about and were shocked when we learned the extent of the obligations being imposed on us." To this statement Robert Thompson, their representative in Parliament, replied: "Few members of the House of Commons fully understood what they were voting for when they passed the Pension Bill because the Bill had been changed so often, and so few details of the final draft had been given."

"This statement by a responsible member of the House of Commons," comments the Toronto publication, "indicates a serious condition in Parliament. If our elected representatives are too busy or too indifferent to keep themselves fully informed on the legislation they are passing, what are they busy at? And what kind of legislation are they likely to enact?" The farmer's first objection to the Pension Plan, it notes, is that it compels him to pay twice as much, and in some cases three times as much, for his pension as a wage earner of equal earning power has to pay for an equal pension. The farmer has no employer who can be compelled to pay half the cost for him, and he may have an employer.

Thus it is argued that a young man of 18 years, operating a farm with the help of one hired man and earning a taxable income of \$4,000 a year, might have to pay into the Plan about \$200 a year. If he continued these payments for the full 47 years (from age 18 to age 65) he would, by that time, have paid in something like \$10,000. All he could expect in return for that investment would be a pension based on his average contributions on his own behalf during the period, and he would receive that only for the few years left to him. But if, instead of making all those contributions to the Pension Plan, he had invested the same amounts at 5 per cent interest, he would probably have in the neighborhood of \$35,000 to his credit by the time he reached the age of 65. This money would be his own to use as he saw fit. Invested at 5 per cent, it would yield him an income close to \$1,800, and he would still own the principal.

Of course, if he was improvident he wouldn't have this nest egg; but that's another matter. The contention is that he is being mulcted in his compulsory contributions to the Plan and that he should, as the Alberta farmers claim, have the right to "opt out." That could present difficulties of another kind, to the Plan's operation generally. But there is a grievance here which should, at least, get a full airing in Parliament.

A Slow Process

Four months have passed since the UN General Assembly told a special committee to work on the question of authorizing and financing UN peace-keeping operations. The committee, known as the Committee of 33, met exactly once to appoint its officers. It still has to even start on the question which is at the root of the UN's present financial crisis.

In a statement in the House of Commons this week, External Affairs Minister Martin gave fresh indication of Canada's desire to obtain action in this matter. No cost-sharing scheme will be acceptable for long, he said, unless the leading states pay their share. But there will always be states whose interest is

not to uphold the status quo in a particular situation or who oppose outside intervention into what seems to be domestic affairs. What is needed, he suggested, is to find some "flexible relationship" between peace-keeping and peace-making. This would involve making every effort to find an agreed system of cost-sharing before a force is organized and deployed, and to review regularly the mandate of a peace-keeping force, especially where there is no agreement on collective assessment.

A case in point is the UN force in Egypt which has been there for nearly 10 years, and to which Canada has contributed regularly from the start. There is danger now that the UN may find itself upholding the status quo and thus face the prospect of an indefinite commitment. The Canadian government reportedly plans to raise the matter at the summer meeting of the UN's 33-nation peace-keeping group.

One reason why this committee has been dragging its feet may be that another committee of 14 has been looking into the whole financial structure of the United Nations, including a possible way of amortizing the peace-keeping debts of the Soviet bloc and France. Reports have been heard that the Soviet Union might make a lump payment into an emergency UN fund to cover its obligation, but there is nothing definite on this point. The committee has held several meetings but no conclusive results of any kind have been reported. The Committee of 33, meanwhile, is presumably waiting for any success in this field before embarking on its own full-scale considerations.

Whatever the reasons for delay, Canada does well to press its views on the need of reaching a working arrangement without further loss of time.

New Riding Boundaries

The Commons has completed its electoral boundaries debate, and the reports of the representation commissions have been returned to Representation Commissioner Castonguay. From him they will go back to the provincial commissions, which then will have 30 days in which to consider and dispose of the objections. The commission can accept and act upon any or all of them, or can reject the lot. When the commissions have reported back, Mr. Castonguay will make a draft representation order for the country as a whole. It will go to the Secretary of State and, within five days, by order-in-council, the representation order will be declared to be in force.

Our four Island MPs have made protests with regard to the new riding boundaries in this province. But they were not exceptional in this regard. Thirty-three petitions, backed by 158 members—well over half the total of 265—were filed after the new boundary maps were published.

One commentator notes that in the bad old days, when redistributions were performed by parliamentary committee—invariably to loud cries of gerrymander and worse—the reformers used to say that what was needed was to get the process out of politics. It has been one of the main complaints this time that politics got too little into the process; member after member has said the job was approached with a bloodless disregard for everything but regular shapes and near-uniformity of size. Creditiste Leader Real Caouette went so far as to suggest a return to the old system where a Commons committee set the new boundaries. That would be a poor way, indeed, of making progress.

Certainly it is well to remember that for the first time, a real attempt has been made to set up riding boundaries on a non-partisan basis. One exchange suggests that perhaps MPs are too close to the subject to be completely objective in their views. Some of them, indeed, will find their ridings wiped out altogether; the majority will find changes requiring more work to prepare for future elections. How could they be expected to react in the circumstances? On the other hand, where parliamentary protests are plainly keyed to the public interest, it is to be hoped they will be given very careful consideration.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Originally scheduled for the first week in June, the federal provincial conference at Victoria, B.C. on increased aid to higher education has been postponed to June 16-17. By that time the provincial elections here and in Quebec will be safely out of the way.



THOSE WILDLIFE COINS

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Soaring Costs Of Royal Commissions

The Canadian taxpayer will soon learn that crime does not pay. With the most of government-by-commission already soaring to unmatched heights, Parliament Hill has no less than five royal commissions on specific aspects of crime in action, pending or just past. In addition to the inquiries, there are court cases current involving politicians in two other cases. Two months ago, "Ottawa Report" spotlighted the soaring cost as well as the soaring number of commissions. I pointed out that one such inquiry alone, the "Bye-and-bye" commission, had already passed the total cost for eight recent important commissions together. The Bilingual and Bicultural Commission, already forecast to cost \$5,700,000 to the end of this fiscal year, thus exceeds the group cost of the eight most important other recent commissions.

House of Commons, and the official reply exactly corroborated my figures. Now the Canadian Tax Foundation points out that the Pearson Years have seen \$13,000,000 committed on such enquiries, contrasted to \$3,562,855 in the five Diefenbaker Years, and vividly contrasted to a mere \$681,000 in the last five St. Laurent Years. AUTO PARTS VICTIMS Lake Simcoe Industries Ltd. of Beaverton, Ontario, is the latest auto-parts plant to feel the axe of the Canada-Auto mobile-free-trade-plan. Of its 230 employees, a mere handful will remain at their old jobs; many more will be employed by a short-term government rocket contract, with no subsequent guarantee of jobs. 90 per cent of the plant's order book in the past consisted of items which were made in USA by the parent companies of its Canadian customers. Such Canadian-only requirements can in future be made more economically by USA plants with long run orders for USA as well as Canadian assembly plants.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

BREWERS MEET IN OTTAWA

Timmins' well-known brewer, Mr. W. J. Doran, was a recent visitor to our capital. He reminded me about the old days in Timmins, the early days of the Roy Thompson empire in fact, when a light in a window was welcome sign to an late home-goer, and everyone knew everyone else in what was then the hub of "the largest goldfield in the British Commonwealth." I was delighted to meet him. Doran by chance at the annual "Beer and Sea Food Party" given by the Brewers

C Jr Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 6, 1941)
Immediate use of the United States Navy "to make the seas secure for the delivery of munitions to Britain" was urged by the United States Secretary of War, Henry Stimson.
Jean Tarte, Montreal lawyer, testified in court that he had received money to facilitate evasion from military training and had "split" the money with Pierre Decary, former divisional registrar in Montreal.

TEN YEARS AGO

(May 6, 1956)
Mr. Wilson Ross, B.Sc. B.Ed., a supervisor of Schools in Queens County left for a short course in Educational leadership in Edmonton, Alta.
It was announced that a former minister of the Charlottetown Baptist Church, Rev. Judson Levy, B.A., B.D., S.T.M., then of St. Catharines, Ont., would receive a honorary degree at the 113th annual convocation at Acadia University.

FARM GAME BIRDS

WINNIPEG (CP) Manitoba has established a 4,000-acre game management area 75 miles-northeast of Winnipeg and a 9,600-acre game bird refuge nearby. Mines department officials will test conservation policies without curbing recreational opportunities.

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Miseries Of The Hand

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
The carpal tunnel is a passageway in the wrist through which the median nerve passes on its way to the thumb and index finger. The narrow canal is bounded by bones and fibrous tissue and also contains the tendons of the flexor muscles of the hand. A bottleneck is created when any part of the tunnel or its contents swell, the nerve is the softest structure and usually suffers first.

When this occurs the victim develops numbness, tingling or an aching or burning sensation in the hand and fingers. This is most noticeable over the palm side of the thumb, index, and middle fingers. The distress is sporadic and usually is encountered at night when in bed. The pain may awaken the victim from a sound sleep. Rubbing the hand, holding the arm up, or dangling it from the side of the bed usually brings temporary relief. Others develop tingling when gripping an object. This is true of the housewife when she sews, irons, knits, or holds the steering-wheel of the car.

Middle-aged women are favored. The syndrome often follows an injury or a rheumatic disorder of the wrist. Now and then the condition is traced to an infection in the ligament within the tunnel. Psychiatric factors also play a role. Prolonged pressure on the nerve ultimately leads to weakness of the hand muscles. Not all pain, tingling, numbness, or weakness of the hand is due to this condition. Nerve conduction tests on the nerve help to determine if the impulses are passing through normally. Some obtain relief when the wrist is immobilized with a hard or splint. Hydrocortisone injected into the canal to reduce the swelling, helps others. Diuretics occasionally lessen the edema. But surgery is the best remedy when there is proof that the nerve is being pressed upon and relief follows when the fibrous part of the tunnel is cut. This simple operation is performed under a local anesthetic.

FILTERED AIR
D. writes: Some of our friends say we should not run an air conditioner when the weather is cool. They feel raising the windows for fresh air is better. My husband and I are more comfortable with filtered air. We don't like the night air or the dust from open windows. Will this harm our health?
REPLY
No. Filtered fresh air is a luxury, especially for those living in an urban area.

COLD IRRITATES
R. writes: Why do iced drinks induce coughing?
REPLY
Because cold irritates the back of the throat and stimulates the cough reflex. But this is an uncommon reaction, for most of us are able to drink iced liquids without being bothered in this way.

DIMINISHING HEIGHT
M. O. writes: Can an operation be performed on a young girl to decrease her height one or two inches?
REPLY
Possibly but it is easier to do with hormones provided she has not reached the age of adolescence.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—
Do not buy or use cracked or unclean eggs.
(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

Matron: "What mining stocks should I buy?" Old promoter: "Buy? You don't buy 'em, lady. You print 'em and sell 'em."—Financial Post.
Bachelors, the U.S. Public Health Service finds, are the most unhappy persons of all. Unhappier than old maids, than married women or married women or married men. That's a thought for a married man to keep in mind when the baby is crying, the wife wants the windows washed, the mother-in-law has to be chaffered to a party—and his bachelor buddies invite him out for golf.—Cleveland Press.
There is nothing wrong with the younger generation that being a parent and or taxpayer won't cure.—Waterloo Courier.
A wife is a pretty valuable person to have around the house. It has been estimated that the services a wife and mother provide for her family in a single year would add up to \$10,875, if they had to be obtained from other sources. Think of her duties: purchasing agent, chef, hostess, nurse, seamstress, chauffeur, mechanic, engineer, cleaning woman, laundress, maid, social convener and recreation director, to name only a few.—Comber Herald.

De Gaulle's Intransigence

By Arch MacKenzie
Canadian Press Staff, Washington
WASHINGTON (CP)—George Ball, the undersecretary of state who has caused a lot of President de Gaulle's pitching to the United States during the last five years, once told the late president Kennedy: "Every time the hand of friendship has been extended across the sea, General de Gaulle has put a dead fish in it."
Now the French president has shown he is firm about quitting NATO's integrated military system by next April. Franco-American relations have sunk even lower.
"Somehow we have lost communication with de Gaulle," mused a senior American diplomat. The American ambassador in Paris apparently has not had an audience with the president of France for many weeks. Moreover, competent observers say, French officials must frequently guess in order to interpret what de Gaulle means, pending subsequent clarification from on high.

RESENT DE GAULLE
The feeling that de Gaulle is an ingrate runs strong among some older American diplomats who recall the days when they fought against domestic isolationism amid charges of being unsympathetic to world problems outside the hemisphere.
Such a figure is former state secretary Dean Acheson, at 73 in de Gaulle's age bracket. A co-founder of NATO, he has been summoned back to diplomatic harness to help preserve it.
He commented recently, in giving his version of what President de Gaulle resents about the U.S. role in Europe: "It's a curious situation of a recovered patient—a convalescent who's been weak, who has been ill and has finally been built up and had good food and good care, been in a warm house and warm bed and suddenly he says: 'I'm a great big man, I don't need any more food, no more doctors, no more house. I want to get out in the wind and the rain, the ice and the snow. I don't need any more of this protection.'"

PRESERVES NATO

The official U.S. line is the "open chair"—methodical preparation to preserve NATO against the day when de Gaulle is gone and France can return. The spring meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Paris may show what success the U.S. line is having.
But while President Johnson has ended a sterile exchange of diplomatic notes, the accumulation of bitterness and frustration expressed by American spokesmen might well be called the "gritted teeth" technique.
Congressman Wayne Hayes, Ohio Democrat heading a Congressional delegation to the European Council in Brussels, said:

A Furrow Turned

Plowing is an act of faith. Man, inarticulate in the presence of the vertices, knows that for himself and all other forms of plant and animal life, essential food comes from a thin layer of humus.
It was an epochal day when man first learned he could stir soil with a crooked stick, plant seeds, and harvest grain. It meant that nomadic man could settle in one place instead of following flocks and herds. So far as research goes, wooden plows were used exclusively until 1770 when the first patent was issued for a cast-iron plow.
Today a powerful machine pulls many plows. Half a century ago on a spring morning a man went forth with horses. The first day of plowing was a highlight of the season. As the horses leaned into their collars and powerful muscles rippled beneath glossy coats, the point of the share dipped into the soil and a shining ribbon of moist dark soil glistened in the sun.
Before soil conservation became the watchword, men and youth were proud of straight furrows. Men wrote their names in quiet satisfaction in the turned lines of sod. Pioneers conquered a new land with axe, rifle and plow. Beneath a golden sun and blue sky, the shining ribbons unfolded.
Robins followed to harvest worms; crows called from the woodland and bobolinks made music in the meadow. The ripping steady monotone of the opening sod was music that struck a deep chord in a man who knew that plowing was an affirmation of faith.

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Ar. Port aux Basques		6.55 a.m. N.T.	6.00 p.m. N.T.
Lv. Port aux Basques		11.55 a.m. N.T.	9.00 p.m. N.T.
Ar. North Sydney		5.55 p.m. A.T.	6.00 a.m. A.T.

Before June 5 and after September 24 "William Carson"

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Lv. North Sydney		11.55 p.m. A.T.	Newfoundland Time is 30 minutes in advance of Atlantic Time.
Ar. Port aux Basques		6.55 a.m. N.T.	Embarkation of passengers and automobiles begins 2 1/2 hours before sailing from North Sydney and 1 hour from Port aux Basques.
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