

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the "Dew"
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"The strongest memory is weaker than
the weakest ink."
FRIDAY, OCT. 28, 1955

Our Farmers' Predicament

The serious plight of our farmers this year is due to no production failure on their part, to no disastrous storms such as have ravaged the New England coast, nor to unfavorable growing conditions. Nature has rewarded us, as usual, with a bountiful harvest, and every care has been taken to gather it profitably. It is the marketing imbalance that has played havoc with our farmers' expectations, not only in the potato industry and other phases of agriculture affecting this Province directly, but with the Western wheat crop, on the export of which our whole national economy depends.

We have come a long way in scientific field and livestock development, and our farmers would be among the most prosperous people in Canada—as indeed they should be—if their marketing practices could be brought up to the standards prevailing in other industries. They cannot do this by themselves. Tariffs and transportation costs enter into the problem, stemming from national policies which were designed, primarily, to aid secondary infant industries in the early Confederation period, which now have long outgrown the need for such support. The exploitation of oil and mineral resources has lifted other Provinces out of the red financially, without any corresponding gains to our Maritime farming communities.

The Economic Commission must have been impressed by these facts at their hearing in Charlottetown this week. They will hear similar representations in other parts of Canada and they will have failed altogether in their work if they do not devote a large part of their time to a study of this problem. In the meantime, however, the situation here is urgent and our farmers have every right to look to Ottawa for immediate assistance. Our Boards of Trade are rightly concerned with the matter, as was evident at the Charlottetown meeting on Wednesday evening. One speaker estimated that our potato marketing losses alone will run into millions of dollars; and it is not the farmer only who will suffer but every business enterprise in the community.

There is nothing to be gained by muddying this issue politically. But something surely could be achieved by united action on the part of all our organizations concerned, working through our elected representatives, federal and provincial, and prodding them on, if necessary, so that our vital farm industry may be aided in this emergency. Even if a special session of the Legislature were required to call nation-wide attention to the gravity of the situation, it would be worth while. In any case, let us have unity of action and not diverse interests pulling in different ways, as has too often happened in the past.

An Alien Code

An Israeli spokesman has expressed the view that, should war break out between that country and the Arab states, the blame will rest with the Soviet Union. The reference, of course, was to the supplying of armaments to Egypt, and perhaps to the other Arab states, by certain Communist countries and to the statement by Soviet leaders that their sympathy is with Israel's potential foes. It is a simple explanation to an unfortunate situation; but whether it will bear critical examination is another matter. There is no doubt whatever that Soviet Government leaders would take advantage of every opportunity that might present itself in Middle East unrest to further their own interests; and no one supposes that they are helping, directly or indirectly, to arm the Arabs just for the fun of the thing.

At the same time, there is no

evidence to support the allegation that the Soviet Union is anxious to see a full scale war develop in the Middle East, or anywhere else, at the moment; and, even if that were the case, Soviet intrigue could never force Israel and her neighbours into war against their better judgment. In any event, it would appear that Israel and Egypt have all the ingredients for strife within their own respective lawlessness without the necessity of a third nation's intervention. Canada's Major-General Burns, the U. N. "trouble-shooter" in the Middle East, who probably knows as much about the true state of affairs as anyone, says that most of the trouble is due to the "policy of retaliation" which is practised by all the nations involved, including Israel. This is the old "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" code; and it is utterly alien to peace promotion in these days, whatever virtue it may have had in the early days of Hebrew—or Moslem—history. So long as Israel and her Moslem neighbours adhere to it, it becomes any one of them to disclaim responsibility for whatever it may bring in the way of war and chaos.

An Honoured Visitor

Hon. Milton Gregg, Minister of Labour in the Dominion Government, is no stranger to this Province but we wish that he could find time to visit us oftener. Apart from his official position, we honour him as one of Canada's most distinguished war veterans, and are proud to claim him as a Maritimer. His visit on this occasion is for the purpose of addressing a political meeting, but no doubt he welcomes the opportunity of renewing old friendships on other grounds as well.

Mr. Gregg's active service record covers both World Wars, he having commanded the West Nova Scotia Regiment and served with them during the blitz period of Nazi aggression until April, 1941, when he was appointed commandant of the Canadian Officers Training Unit in England. It was back in 1918, however, in front of Cambrai, that he won the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery and initiative" after having previously been twice wounded and decorated with the Military Cross and Bar. Later he served with the Department of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment and was for some years Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Commons and President of the University of New Brunswick. When Prime Minister King sought a New Brunswick cabinet member to replace the late Hon. Frank Bridges as Fisheries Minister he chose Mr. Gregg, who was transferred to the Veterans Affairs portfolio in August, 1950.

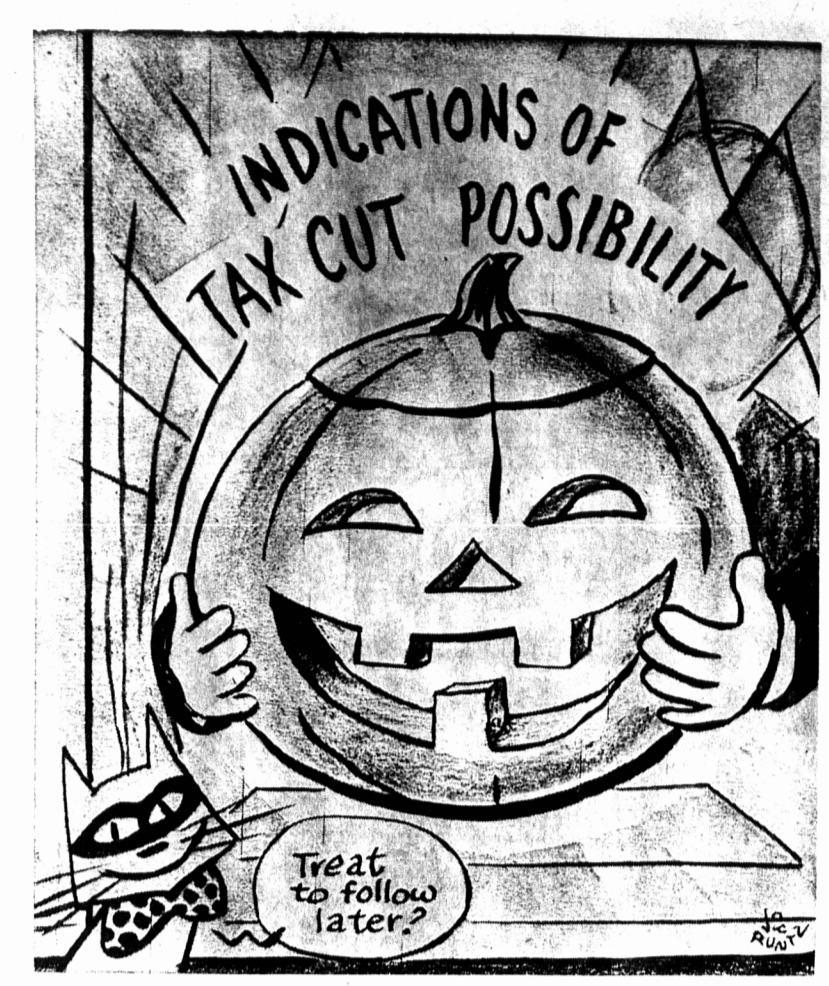
EDITORIAL NOTES

An Ontario oil man says that the first oil well on the American continent was located in that Province. The Americans, however, claim it was in Pennsylvania. It's hardly worth arguing about, since there is no great issue involved.

A young adventurer who is sailing in Australian waters on a 30-foot log is quoted as saying "I am not saying much now because the enterprise may not be successful. If it is, then I will talk." Provided, of course, he is lucky enough to survive the loss of the log.

General Leonardi, the new head of the Argentine Government, said in a statement to the press: "I am more interested in the progress of the spiritual order in the United States than in that of the economic order." He hastened to add, however, that he would appreciate any economic aid that Uncle Sam might be able to give his country.

There is quite an ado in Bermuda over film censorship which is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education which, in turn, cooperates with the Legion of Decency. Some of the critics are advocating a return to the old system of voluntary censorship by theatre managers. It is unlikely, however, that most Bermudians will be willing to leave well enough alone. Every reasonable person will admit that there are some pictures which should never have been released at all, however skilfully their sponsors might try to conceal their suitability as either entertainment or information.



WARM GLOW

OTTAWA REPORT

The Coffin Case

Who said it could never happen here? For fourteen months past, one of our fellow citizens has been the victim of a refinement of mental torture which almost matches the brutalities of the Nazis. During that time, in a Canadian prison, Wilbert Coffin has been terrorized by an on-again off-again execution fixed for a specific date on six occasions and each time temporarily and anguishingly postponed. Such protracted and switchback anxiety is an unnecessarily cruel addition to the legal sentence. It is enough to make all but the most composed innocents lose their mental balance. The history of this inhuman process contrasts strongly with our self-righteous stand at the United Nations and elsewhere on behalf of the rights and dignity of mankind. Coffin, hanged or alive, Coffin will have one of the greatest causes of the great and long-odded reforms in our criminal law. The bare facts of the Coffin case are common knowledge. We was sentenced to death by a Quebec court. His appeal against that sentence was rejected by the highest court in Quebec. He decided to push his appeal further. At this stage the unfortunate Coffin came slap up against defects in our system of justice. Many years ago the government abolished the right of ultimate appeal to the Imperial Privy Council in criminal cases. Instead, it made our Supreme Court the court of final resort for Canadians. But it had overlooked the necessity to alter the conditions of appeal to the Supreme Court to meet these changed circumstances. Among objects discovered in previous years at Tara had been Roman coins, evidence of trade links with the Empire as Ireland was never conquered by the Roman legions. The summer's excavations have clearly placed several centuries before the legendary date of the founding of Rome or before, according to Irish legend, King Cormac, MacAirt in the third century A.D. handed over the Mound to hostages brought by him to Tara. They demonstrate that it goes back at least to the second half of the early Bronze Age, which occurred in Ireland between 2000 and 1000 B.C. The mound, the overall diameter of which is about 75 feet, has now been proved to be a burial site, consisting of a cairn of stones on an eight feet high, covered by earth to the depth of three feet, so that the height of the whole structure is roughly eleven feet. Investigation this summer was confined to the clay covering, and shows that it was built at the same time as the cairn itself. Into the clay further burials were subsequently inserted. It is among these burials that

Ancient Finds At Tara

Celebrated in ancient legend as the capital of Pre-Christian Ireland, Tara of the Kings in County Meath is to-day revealing its secrets to the patient delving of modern archaeology. This is the third successive season's diggings at Tara under an Irish government administered by the Royal Irish Academy. Among objects discovered in previous years at Tara had been Roman coins, evidence of trade links with the Empire as Ireland was never conquered by the Roman legions. The summer's excavations have clearly placed several centuries before the legendary date of the founding of Rome or before, according to Irish legend, King Cormac, MacAirt in the third century A.D. handed over the Mound to hostages brought by him to Tara. They demonstrate that it goes back at least to the second half of the early Bronze Age, which occurred in Ireland between 2000 and 1000 B.C. The mound, the overall diameter of which is about 75 feet, has now been proved to be a burial site, consisting of a cairn of stones on an eight feet high, covered by earth to the depth of three feet, so that the height of the whole structure is roughly eleven feet. Investigation this summer was confined to the clay covering, and shows that it was built at the same time as the cairn itself. Into the clay further burials were subsequently inserted. It is among these burials that

Square Apple Pie

(Good Will Journal) If there is a provable answer to the seemingly innocent question, "Why is a pie round?" it apparently will require much more research to discover it. It is possible, few people have considered the subject worth more than a slight furrow in the brow or a shrug of the shoulders. And yet—despite the obvious economic advantages of such a change—the cook who dares to serve her family their favorite apple pie on the square meets with a roar of protest. Pie just isn't pie if it isn't round. Why is a pie round? It seems more than logical that it had to be round, because until fairly recently the cook's cupboard held only round pans. With the recent acceleration in world progress, it may require only a scant century for man to become adjusted to eating square apple pies, instead of the usual round ones. For many, accept changes in such magnitude.

CABINET THE FINAL JUDGE

Wilbert Coffin's application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court is due to be heard by one judge. Mr. Justice Abbott, perhaps better known as Finance Minister Abbott was the judge who happened to be called upon to pronounce the final word on the judgment whether Coffin should live or hang. On his interpretation of the laws he rejected Coffin's application. Several of the eight other judges of the Supreme Court disagreed with the Abbott decision. But the law has omitted to give them authority to revise a ruling by a

CANADIAN EXHIBIT

BONN (Reuters)—The Canadian ambassador to West Germany, Thomas Davis, is to open an exhibition entitled "Canada—land and people" in Bochum, north Germany, Nov. 3. The exhibition will contain photographs and diagrams illustrating Canadian life, scenery and industry.

NOTES BY THE WAY

On the same day that this news paper was reporting the death of a Port Arthur woman, the Toronto press was reporting another of same in that city while Sudbury had it that "smokers top list of fire causes" there. Day may be coming when there will be a Smokers Anonymous—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Happily, people are constantly discovering for themselves the pleasures of creation and of self-participation. Besides music there are many other art forms and even lately, handwriting. The results for our civilization, such as it is, cannot be good. We need more individual endeavour, more individual concern for matters of taste and good living generally save this country from the mediocrity of the state. Only this individual creative attitude can democratize the industrial state.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

A simple but profound truth was spoken the other day by a Toronto city controller when he said "Asking for more is like asking for more. It is, in fact, a tendency in public life, and especially in municipal life, to face an issue by asking for a report on it, or by referring it to a special committee. This gives a pretence of action, but in fact, nothing is done. The matter is put off until it is too late to do anything about it. It is, in fact, a tendency to hide behind, public responsibility is scraping bottom as a result of the direct treatment. Let's discuss it now."—Windsor Star.

The Western Powers take nothing for granted. They accept the possibility of a genuinely neutral Germany. The point is that the Reich must be prevented from threatening its neighbors; and they are ready to enter into a security pact with Russia to that end. This is the substance of the Western case as put last week to the conference of British Conservative statesmen, since it followed a consultation between himself, Secretary Dulles and Foreign Minister Pinay at New York, may be accepted as an authentic guide to the line the West will take at Geneva later this month.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

The decision to put HMS Vanguard into reserve must have been a hard one, and it shows a courageous break with tradition. The Admiralty will not admit that battleships have outlived their usefulness. They are still thought of as playing the part of "super-cruisers" in a future war. But it is not easy to imagine the five battleships now maintained in reserve ever putting to sea again. Most of their functions are now better and more carefully performed by aircraft carriers, which are equipped with nuclear weapons; and battleships afloat, with its protection of planes and ships, may be more of a liability than an asset.—London Observer.

A few generations ago when most farm work was done by four-footed "hayburners" one of the principal uses for wire was to hold bales of hay together. It took several feet of wire for the job, and wire so employed was only beginning its career of usefulness. Nowadays, when most of the nation's work is done indoors and the only sheaf of paper, and when a large part of business consists of feeding typewriters, billing machines, and brief cases, miles and miles of wire are consumed in making paper clips. We don't have the figures, but we imagine that more steel must be fashioned into paper clips for holding a memo "from the desk of..." to the invoice, specification sheet, and customer's letter than is fabricated into baling wire. If you want to know what holds the world together these days, it's the ubiquitous paper clip.—Christian Science Monitor.

For the rest, the bald eagle subsists largely on disabled birds or game, dead fish, and offal. Such is the creature honored by the American people. But Canadians need not feel too superior for the animal emblem of this country isn't entirely above reproach either. In the eyes of many a harassed road engineer, the beaver is more trouble than any bald eagle could possibly be. And after all, the eagle does look noble.

Medically Speaking

TOO HEAVY? WATCH OUT!
Overeating is a good way of throwing away your health. Excess poundage not only looks bad, it is bad. Fat persons, in general, neither feel as well nor live as long as persons of normal weight. That's why I urge those of you who are overweight to begin slimming down at once, providing, of course, that your personal physician does not advise against it.
How does excess weight affect your health? Let me give you one example of how it can be a hazard. Every pound of fat, according to estimate, contains 4,500 feet of blood vessels—that's nearly a mile of them. So if you have 30 pounds of fat, your heart—in addition to its regular work—must pump blood through some 25 miles of extra blood vessels every 5-6ths of a second. That's a pretty great strain, even for a normal heart.
This extra work, over and over, eventually is going to cause your heart to lose some of its efficiency. Then every other organ in your body suffers, because it fails to get its full quota of oxygen-carrying blood.
The decreased efficiency of these organs sets up a vicious circle. The weakened organs place an even greater strain on the already weakened heart. Then you really got trouble.
QUESTION AND ANSWER
C. A.: My son is thirteen years old, and has a deviated nose separated. Is he too young to be operated on?
Answer: If your son's symptoms are severe enough, and if the operation has been recommended by your physician, it should be done.

An Ignoble Bird

(Ottawa Citizen)
Among the "purely personal prejudices" listed by Sydney J. Harris on this page recently was the following:
"Anyone who knows birds must regret the careless choice of the bald-headed eagle as the symbol of America—for it is a lazy, treacherous and cowardly creature, despite its superficially noble appearance."
Mr. Harris didn't elaborate, because he is in the habit of using just one paragraph per prejudice. But he is quite right; the national emblem of the United States is a pretty shady character, by and large.
Most other birds of prey do their own hunting in a bold, straightforward way. The bald eagle tries to get somebody else to do his foraging for him, which may be smart but is hardly an admirable characteristic. When he is obliged to rustle for himself, he goes about it in a mean way. Thus he will surprise a person (in the surface of some sea bird) and force them to dive. The unfortunate duck or loon keeps dodging and diving; it is never allowed more than a fleeting moment to catch its breath, so that presently it is exhausted and becomes an easy prey.
This procedure requires more effort on the bald eagle's part than he likes. He much prefers to invade an osprey's fishing ground and wait high in the blue until the expert diver bomber has made a strike. When the osprey rises, a fish gripped in its talons, the raider is ready. Buffeted by the wings of the larger bird, the osprey is down with the latch, the eagle has little chance, and in the end is obliged to drop the fish, which the eagle adroitly snatches in mid-air.

The Age Old Story

We have sinned with our fathers, we have done wickedly. Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; they provoked him at the sea, even at the Red Sea. Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.
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