The Guardian

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

Britain's Trade Offer

Britain's offer to eliminate all tariffs and other restrictions on Canadian goods if Canada reciprocates will, of course, meet with very strong opposition from the big industrial provinces. For that reason it is unlikely to be accepted without modifications. On the other hand, there is no question but that it would be of great benefit to this section of Canada, as well as to our western wheat growers. It would mean cheaper cars, fabrics, farm implements and other British imports, as well as a greatly expanded market overseas for our agricultural products. The offer serves to emphasize the fact that the prosperity enjoyed by our great industrial centres is due to tariff policies for which the rest of the country is paying—and has been paying since Confederation—and that no fiscal arrangements with Ottawa can be regarded as fair and equitable if they do not take this basic grievance into account.

Meanwhile it is worth noting that the idea of a Commonwealth trade conference has gained ground steadily, thus confirming Prime Minister Diefenbaker's wisdom in suggesting it. When he first made his proposal, the idea met with a good deal of scepticism. Some of the critics felt that his victory at the polls had gone to his head and that he was talking about a conference merely to build up prestige in Commonwealth councils. Others, more charitably, felt that the idea was good in principle but that the difficulties in the way would make it impracticable. Particular criticism was aimed at the proposal to divert 15 per cent of Canadian imports from the United States to the United Kingdom.

Now the first step has been taken. Britain's latest proposal is but one evidence of the interest shown by Commonwealth financial officials who are gathered at Mont Tremblant, Quebec, to talk things over. This meeting is not the trade conference Mr. Diefenbaker has in mind. It is in the nature of an exploratory conference to find out whether or not a full scale trade conference would be feasible. The emphasis at Mont Tremblant is on the desirability of more trade among all members of the Commonwealth and not merely between Canada and the United Kingdom. Otherwise, of course, there would be no need of the presence of officials other than those from the two countries. The suggested increase in British exports to Canada was intended as a beginning in stronger Commonwealth co-operation.

Britain's free-trade offer settles one important question. It shows that Britain is desirous of going all out in its trade relations with Canada, and it paves the way for concrete consideration of alternative proposals. Any transaction of this kind will involve considerable give-and-take on the part of both countries. In any case it is only a matter of time before those industries which have been fattening behind high tariff barriers will have priced themselves out of the market. They are responsible in large part for the inequality which prevails between our provinces financially, and for which such drastic remedies were proposed under the Gordon Commission report. A little more of the competition which our farmers have had to cope with, and a little less monopoly in the production of things they have to buy, would be a good thing for all concerned.

Meanwhile, before turning down Britain's proposal, Mr. Diefenbaker should consider its manifold advantages to an agricultural province such as Prince Edward Island, which has been so shabbily treated under the so-called tax sharing agreements with Ottawa. If our interests are to be sacrificed again for the benefit of the wealthy industrial provinces, we are entitled to financial returns commensurate with the sacrifice we are making. This should be a major issue at the forthcoming Dominion-Provincial conference, and we hope our representatives will press it as forcefully as they can.

Research Agency

According to the Canadian Education Association, a central research agency to assist departments of education and local school boards in all parts of Canada is to be established immediately. The project was made possible by a $100,000 donation from Imperial Oil Limited—an example, incidentally, which might well be followed by other large industries which are interested in educational progress.

The purpose of the new agency, to quote from a statement issued by the C.E.A., is "to make the results of provincial, university and other research programs quickly available to teachers and school administrators from coast to coast."

It is proposed that the new body take on the following duties: (a) to collect and desseminate information on research; (b) to publish through printing of summaries or articles of greater length where warranted, research findings useful to educators generally and to provincial departments of education and local school authorities in particular; (c) to publicize, through personal visits by a C.E.A. research staff member and through the printing of brief semi-popular leaflets and pamphlets, interesting developments and practices evident in educational experiments under local school authorities; (d) to serve as a liaison agency in educational research for local, provincial and university research workers, (e) to serve as a library and reference centre to which local and provincial authorities could turn for prompt and reliable sources of information (agencies, books, research magazines) in various countries; (f) generally to act as a clearing house for information on educational research and as a stimulating and co-ordinating agency. The C.E.A. says that "special problems which may receive the agency's attention include the identification of and special education for gifted children and the inter-relationship of high school and university courses."

The Association points out that peculiar circumstances in the organization of education in Canada create special needs and problems. It is hoped that the formation of the research agency will help to ease the situation in that respect. Certainly, its goal is an ambitious one; and all who are interested in education will wish it abundant success. It will probably come as a surprise to many Canadians to hear that Canada and Switzerland are the only two countries in the world which do not have a national ministry of education or a Federal office to keep an eye on national problems in that important field.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The sympathy of all our readers will be extended to Dr. Frank MacKinnon, principal of Prince of Wales College, on the death yesterday of his mother.

* * *

After much arguing by learned counsel and presentation of evidence gathered in drunkometer tests, it was decided in a New Jersey court that if a man drinks whiskey all day long he will be drunk by nightfall. It's simply wonderful what these scientific tests can do.

* * *

It is generally agreed that Major General Burns, Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East, has carried out his difficult assignment well. And there will be widespread approval of Mr. Diefenbaker's assertion before the U.N. General Assembly that "he has done his duty in so superb a manner as to have earned the praise of the most objective observer." General Burns is reported to have expressed a desire to resign. It is to his credit that Secretary-General Hammarskjold, among others, have asked him to remain.

* * *

In a recent issue the London Daily Mail noted that "some of the most imaginative ideas and action have come from Commonwealth statesmen, men like Smuts of Africa and Menzies of Australia." The observation was made in an editorial devoted to Prime Minister Diefenbaker's proposal for increased Commonwealth trade, which it called "a gleam in the grey economic sky." The inference was that Mr. Diefenbaker shows promise of becoming one of the great statesmen of the Commonwealth. He has certainly started out well, at any rate.

AIMING NOT TO MISS ANYTHING

OTTAWA REPORT

Russian Visitors

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: A Russian newspaper reporter stationed here has just returned from a short holiday in his native country. He has been offering his acquaintances here a sample of the cigarettes used by Russians. They came in an enormous box, like a flat two-pound chocolate box, and with an attractive picture on the lid. The cigarettes themselves, of a brand name which seems to be "Zanoposky", are a super-king-size four and one-quarter inches long. One has to work at them to keep them burning or they quickly go out. They do not appear to be wrapped in paper impregnated with the chemical which will keep them burning, like our cigarettes. The most surprising thing about them is their long 'filter tip.' Of their total length, no less than two and three-quarter inches consists of a hollow tube of rolled paper, so only about one-third of the length of the cigarette is tobacco. This long "air-filter tip" reminds me of the old gag about the girl smoking a cigarette with a very long cigarette holder. Asked why she used such an unusually long holder, she replied naively: "I promised my dad I would always stay far away from tobacco."

HOWDY STRANGER

A colleague of this Russian, who did not get back to the Soviet Union this summer, did however get a little holiday in our west, when he was among a group of newsman accompanying Prime Minister Diefenbaker to the Calgary Stampede. I joined him at breakfast one morning in the coffee shop of Calgary's Palliser Hotel, and he remarked that he had already been out for a walk around Calgary, then resplendent with the usual decorations in honour of the Stampede. A skilled cowpoke astride an arched bucking broncho was the theme, and this standard illustration hung outside the Palliser and every other hotel and restaurant — and so many other buildings too — always accompanied by the Stampede slogan. My comrade remarked to me that around Ottawa and Toronto, every restaurant seemed to be called "Honey Dew"; in the New England States, every restaurant is labelled "Howard Johnson"; and in Calgary they all must belong to a chain owned by a man called "Howdy Stranger."

P.E.I. CAMPAIGNERS

This column recently referred to the successful election campaign waged by the Conservative party in our smaller island province. It was led by that party's only sitting member, Angus MacLean, and by the president of the Provincial Conservative Association, Melvin McQuaid, the prominent lawyer from Souris. So effective was their generalship, and the assistance they received from their energetic fellow-workers, that they not only held their one previous seat, but they also swept the island by capturing every other seat from the Liberals. It was a fitting tribute to the parliamentary ability of Angus MacLean, and to the support of our only "Hundred Per Cent Conservative" province, that that senior member was appointed to the Diefenbaker Cabinet as Minister of Fisheries. It is a long time since the honour of a Cabinet appointment has gone to a member from the province which was the scene of the first meeting of "The Fathers of Confederation."

PHOTOS IN PARLIAMENT

It is a tradition to hang a framed photograph of every Prime Minister of Britain in the corridor outside the restaurant in the Parliament building here. It is also a tradition to hang a similar picture of the current Prime Minister of Canada in the House of Commons barber shop. Mr. Harold Macmillan's picture has arrived in place promptly after the resignation of Sir Anthony Eden, but Mr. St.-Laurent continued to hang in the barber's shop. Then one day uor new Prime Minister dropped in for a haircut. Barber Guilielmo "Bill" Polegato (pronounced approximately "Polly-Guard-Oh") dropped a hint as he snipped. Now Mr. Diefenbaker stares one straight in the eye from his frame on the wall while one has a hair-cut.

NO NONSENSE HERE

I asked Bill Polly-Guard-Oh whether barbers in Ottawa use fancy names for men's hair styles.

He was a little perplexed, so I explained. I had recently visited an American barber's saloon and had been offered the wide choice of a Crew Cut, a Perry Como, a Personality, a Flat Top, a D.A. or several others. I replied that I just wanted a trim back and sides. "Oh, I guess you mean a Personality cut," commented the cutter. He explained that this system of names can be bewildering, because different names are applied to the same style in different parts even of New York State. For example, what looked to me like a convict clip with a forgotten wisp in front might be called variously a Butch, a Teddy Bear or a Whiffle. But there is no nonsense like that in Ottawa and the reason: "Well," said Mr. Polly-Guard-Oh, "look what they charge you down there, and at $1.75 per visit, they don't want the customer to think he is just getting a trim for that trimming."

The Forgotten Majority

Arthur Blakely in The Montreal Gazette

Ever since the June election and the subsequent resignation of the St. Laurent ministry, it has been evident that Prime Minister Diefenbaker's Government, lacking a clear majority in the Commons, could be overturned at any time that the Liberal, CCF and Social Credit parties could agree that the time was ripe for another election.

For the present, this is little more than a theoretical possibility. It has become clear that the Opposition parties won't be ready for another test at the polls for a year, perhaps more. But the possibility remains.

But while Mr. Diefenbaker lacks firm control of the House of Commons, his position in the often-forgotten Senate is a good deal more serious.

At the moment, the political lineup in the Upper Chamber is as follows: Liberals, 78; Conservatives 6; Independent Liberals 2; Independent 1; vacancies 15.

Important legislation must be passed by the Senate, as well as the House of Commons. And at the moment, the Government has only 6 supporters in a 102-seat chamber.

FIFTEEN VACANCIES

There are, it is true, 15 vacancies. Each one of these might well be filled with a true-blue Conservative appointee before the fall session of Parliament opens. But even this large batch of appointments would leave a relatively small band of 21 PC's to fight the Government's battles in the Senate against an army of Liberals more than three times as large.

The Senate has the power to reject legislation which, for one reason or another, it regards without enthusiasm. And it has used this power. It also has the power to amend legislation, and it has used this very frequently indeed.

Even money bills, over which the Commons has long claimed exclusive control, haven't been safe. The Senate, disputing the Commons' claim, have amended money bills on occasion and sent them back to the Commons. The M.P.'s grumbling that they didn't recognize the Senate's right to amend in this important area, haven't been able to do much about it.

SENATE'S RECORD

The most interesting thing about the Senate's power to reject legislation out of hand, is that it tends to happen most frequently when the Commons is controlled by one political party and the Senate by another. A study carried out a few years ago of the Senate's record, in this respect over a 60-year period indicated that a Conservative majority of the Senate wasn't likely to be deterred by any fear of embarrassing a Liberal Government. And Liberal majorities in the Upper Chamber have tended to feel the same way about things.

The last time there was a major event of the kind was in 1926 when a Conservative-dominated Senate rejected the Old Age Pensions legislation of that year. It had, of course, been introduced by a Liberal Government and one, by the way, which had only minority support in the Commons.

In the following year, after the Liberals had been returned with a clear majority, the legislation was again passed and despatched to the Senate. This time the Senate, still largely Conservative, passed the bill, on the grounds that the election had given the Government a clear mandate to proceed.

So Mr. Diefenbaker could have trouble with the Senate, though Liberal Senators will be under heavy pressure from party leaders to adopt a more prudent course. Because the Senates' rejection of important legislation would give the Government good reason to call an election at an earlier date than the Liberals generally now consider desirable.

The Age Old Story

And now abideth faith, hope charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Rabbits Bearing Gifts

Winnipeg Free Press

His harshest critics must wish Nikita Khrushchev well in one new venture. He has launched a vast campaign to encourage rabbit raising in the Soviet Union. If the campaign is successful, the Russians will have all the meat they want to eat, as long as they want rabbit.

But the Russian rabbits will do more than provide their owners with a tender, tasty dish which many people (says Mr. Khrushchev) prefer to chicken. Rabbits can be used as raw material for ladies shoes and overcoats and strings for musical instruments and good glue. The rabbit, therefore, could go far to usher in the day when no Russian need be ill fed or ill clad, music-less or glue-less.

And rabbits have another virtue, as Mr. Khrushchev's campaign managers have been careful to point out, they produce many times their own weight in young rabbits. To illustrate, the offspring of one pair of rabbits can, if all goes well, outweigh a cow.

It can be assumed that Mr. Khrushchev and his experts know not only the potential blessings of this undertaking but its hazards; that they know as well as any of us, and probably better than most, what happened in Australia. No doubt it is a calculated risk they run.

All the same, it does seem rather strange that Mr. Khrushchev should be under the impression that rabbits need encouragement. He is offering prizes and state honors to those breeders who induce their rabbits to exceed their quota.

And yet, if the rabbits find the fertile steppes of Russia more congenial than the austere outback of Australia — and who can doubt that Mr. Khrushchev thinks they will? — then surely all he has to do is bring a pair in from Australia and then sit back, while Nature takes its course, until every Russian in the Soviet Union is fed up to the teeth with rabbits.

No one would suggest that rabbits are subversive. They certainly look innocent enough. But before Mr. Khrushchev lifts the Iron Curtain to them, he should be reminded of the fable of the rabbits who were holed up in a hollow tree by foxes. 'What shall we do now?" one rabbit asked the other. And the answer was: "Let's just wait here till we out number them."

BATTLE WITH I.R.A.

BELFAST (AP)—Raiders of the Irish Republican Army blew down one wall of a police station at Armagh with a bomb Monday, then poured gunfire into the ruins Police returned the fire, but no one was injured. The raiders escaped.

Symptons Of Serious Ills

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

Early reports seem to indicate that we can lick rheumatic fever, but we need the help of you parents.

Simply by administering penicillin promptly when a youngster comes down with a streptococcus throat infection, we can usually stave off development of the often fatal disease.

NOT ALWAYS EASY

We've known for a long time that rheumatic fever usually follows an attack of beta hemolytic strep or strep thorat. But diagnosing such a case in time isn't always so easy.

'Parents just don't seem to recognize the serious possibilities accompanying a sore throat. And they don't call a doctor promptly.

It's highly important, therefore, that you be able to recognize the symptoms of a strep throat.

USUAL SYMPTOMS

Usually it is a sore throat which comes on suddenly. Swallowing probably will be painful and if you press at the angle of the jaw it is likely to hurt.

The victim is apt to have a headache, suffer nausea and vomit. And there probably will be a fever ranging from 101 to 104 degrees.

Be especially alert for any of these symptoms if your child has come in contact with another with a strep throat.

It is essential to spot a strep throat as quickly as possible. If it is let go too long, even penicillin can't do much to prevent rheumatic fever from developing.

There is only one sure way of diagnosing a strep infection, even with one or all of the above is to take a nose or throat culture and have it examined in the laboratory.

If the lab tests prove positive, the physician will administer penicillin right away. Then, in about six to eight weeks, you'll know whether the antibiotic has done its job.

If rheumatic fever symptoms don't develop by this time, it's a good bet the child is safe.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

A.C.: What causes stomach ulcers?

Answer: There is no definite proof as to what causes stomach ulcers.

Some believe they result from increased production of acids by the glands of the stomach; others think they are due to a blood vessel disturbance; still others believe they may be caused by nerve disturbance.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Oct. 1, 1932)

Work on the new Prince Edward Island Hospital building, the construction of which began five weeks ago, has made rapid progress, as the construction company is endeavoring to have all external work completed before cold weather sets in, and is planning to have the roof completed by November 1. The rooms on the ground floor are almost all completed and the work on the next floor is now in progress.

Mr. J. T. Cummings, New Glasgow, a director of the Canadian National Railways, arrived in the city yesterday. With reference to the cutting of expenditures on the railway, Mr. Cummings states that economies were effected by curtailments in the service, reductions in overstaff and reductions of large salaries.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Oct. 1, 1947)

No incidents of a serious nature occurred yesterday at the strike - bound Charlottetown Plant of Canada Packers as the Provincial Government, in accordance with an order-in-council, took the plant over at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. The first load of hogs arrived at the plant about 10:30 a.m. with a greater number arriving during the day.

Mr. J. R. MacNicol, M.P. for Toronto-Davenport, who is delivering a series of addresses on a Maritime Program of Rehabilitation, arrived in the City last night. He will speak Friday evening at the quarterly meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade.

MAXIMS

No man is good enough to govern another man without the other's consent.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Of interest to British Columbians is the surprising fact that BC leads the nation in the reading of books. Fory-one per cent in this province peeped between the covers in 1955, compared with only 28 per cent in Ontario and the Maritimes.—Vancouver Sun

Yugoslavia has discovered the whodunit. Politika, a Belgrade Communist newspaper, is attempting to boost circulation by printing translations of Agatha Christie. Its rival, Borba, has retaliated by publishing Peter Cheyney and Mickey Spillane. The government meanwhile is churning out Perry Mason paperbacks in batches of 30,000. It seems odd that people would turn aside from serious Marxian literature to pursue the Case of the Runaway Corpse. This sort of thing interferes with concentratiin.—Winnipeg Free Press

"Seven years ago, Government savings were offered at 2¾ per cent interest with no 'cash-in' privileges and they found a ready market. The fact that they would not do so in 1957 is a measure of the inroads inflation has made into the value of money.—Hamilton Spectator

Meg O'Day, a hen at the Rutgers University test farm, laid an egg for 284 straight days. Then, on the 285th, she gave her customary triumphant cackles arose from the nest — and left no egg. That's the tricky part of habit. You get to doing something automatically. You're so used to doing it that the day comes when you just assume you've done it — and haven't. It is one of the things that makes business for doctors, lawyers and plumbers.—Detroit Free Press

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