The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Talking Plainly

On his visits to Ottawa and Washington this week, British Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home showed a refreshing talent for speaking plainly and to the point. He made it clear to the United States that Britain will continue trading with Cuba, nor would it indorse any move to impose boycotts or other discrimination on non-strategic trade with the Communists. He believed a well-fed Communist was less likely to remain a fanatical one. And for Canada he had an equally straightforward message on the subject of trade.

This took the form of a notice of Britain's intention to reduce sharply her trading deficit with this country. A massive trade drive is to be launched this spring with this objective. "I have made up my mind," Sir Alec stated at a news conference in Ottawa, "that the situation must be rectified."

This, he emphasized, was indeed the only real problem between the United Kingdom and Canada. "Our exporters must improve their business methods," he conceded; "and you must give us fair conditions."

Britain's case is that our anti-dumping legislation takes no account at all of whether Canadian producers are being hurt by imports—the 10 per cent of Canadian consumption provision gives automatic protection to them anyway. It was "a curious thing," the Prime Minister said, that Britain, which had been able to crack "other very tough markets" in western Europe, hadn't been able to cut her trade deficit with Canada.

The situation is that while Canada sells more than a billion dollars worth of goods to Britain, it buys little more than $500 million worth from British producers.

Towards the end of this month (Feb. 26-29) Canadian Trade Minister Mitchell Sharp will meet British Board of Trade President Edward Heath to discuss mutual trade problems. Sir Alec has plainly intimated that this will be the vital issue.

Brotherhood Week

Brotherhood Week was initiated sixteen years ago by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and is now widely supported across the country. Its purpose is to promote justice, amity, understanding and co-operation among Canada's racial, religious and ethnic groups and to analyze, moderate and finally eliminate inter-group prejudices.

A tall order, the cynic will say. And indeed there are signs enough to show that these objectives are a long way from being realized on anything like a nation-wide scale. But last year more Canadians took part in Brotherhood Week activities than ever before, and plans for this year's observance, slated for next week, indicate that there will be still wider participation.

Perhaps the movement should dispense, now, with some of its high-sounding generalities, and concentrate on specific problems. One such problem, of course, is involved in the demand of our French-speaking population in Quebec for a greater share of the advantages accruing from Confederation. We discuss this glibly in terms of bilingualism and biculturalism, but what it means is that we have too long been a house divided, and are tending to lose any sense we had of mutual kinship—not to speak of brotherhood.

Our newer ethnic groups are not asking much of us—only to be given a chance to show that they are truly Canadian and qualify as something better than second-class citizens in this land of unbounded opportunity. Here it is not our laws that are at fault but the conservatism of those of us who happen to have our roots a little deeper in the soil. Brotherhood Week is intended to remind us of the artificiality of such distinctions.

Finally let us remember that brotherhood is something more than a sense of promiscuity, or even of national unity. It has profound religious connotations, and involves a concept much bigger than itself. We cannot logically claim all Canadians to be brothers without acknowledging that all men, everywhere, are brothers. And we cannot talk about the brotherhood of Man without presupposing, in some form or other, the fatherhood of God.

This is a truth which—as the historian Arnold Toynbee has pointed out—involves the converse proposition that, if the divine father of the human family is left out of the reckoning, there is no possibility of forging any alternative bond of purely human texture which will avail by itself to hold mankind together. Or even Canadians together, for that matter.

This, we are led to conclude, is at the core of the Brotherhood Week campaign—which is not so much a campaign as a creed. A creed to which all men and women of good will can subscribe, and which can be brought to fruition only by passionate belief in its verity and its efficacy.

Dental Legislation

It is interesting to note that in the Nova Scotia Legislature this week, second reading was given to a bill to establish a dentist-operated prepaid, non-profit dental service for the Atlantic Provinces. It is intended, in the words of Health Minister Donahoe, to pave the way for the day when dentists would participate in a general service of this kind.

The bill states that the corporation to be set up under its provisions "may arrange with dental associations in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island to provide dental care in these provinces either in co-operation with these associations or independent of them."

The corporation would also render assistance to the federal and Nova Scotia governments in the implementation and operation of national or provincial health plans, and in the promotion of dental educational and preventive programs. It would arrange contracts with individuals and members of groups to provide them with prepaid dental care, contract with legally qualified dentists in the province to provide the care to subscribers, and arrange for similar provision of dental care outside the province.

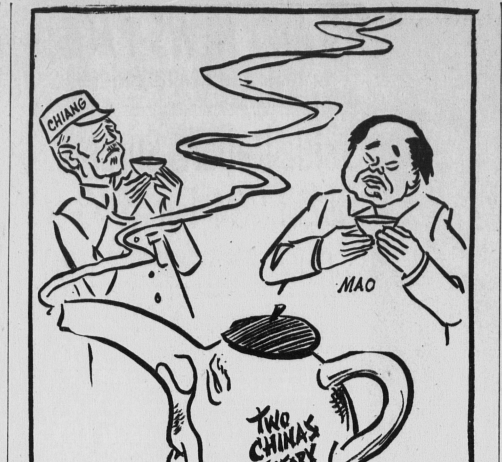
A similar plan for prepaid medical services, it is noted in the press report, has been operated by Nova Scotia doctors for some years under the name of Maritime Medical Care Incorporated.

EDITORIAL NOTES

During 1963 some 14 professors, along with 20 students, at some risk to themselves, escaped from behind the Iron Curtain. These latest figures bring the total of refugees from Soviet higher education in the last six years to 1,710. Nearly one-third of these were professors or lecturers.

* * *

The exchange of compliments between the leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition in the Legislature this session was said to partake of the spirit of our Confederation centennial observance. That may be; but we fancy it would have astonished our parliamentarians of a century ago, who spent little time on such preliminaries in debating political issues. Their attitude towards opponents was more like that of the woman at a political meeting who said: "I'm not prejudiced at all. I'm here with a perfectly open and unbiased mind to listen to what I am convinced is pure rubbish."



TEA FOR TWO

BRITISH COMMENTARY

Geneva Conference Possibilities

By W. N. Ever
United Kingdom Information Services

The Geneva Disarmament Conference has opened its second year with a somewhat increased expectation of achievement. The Soviet- Western atmosphere is better than a year ago. There is the definite success of the Moscow test- ban treaty. Has that opened the way to some further advance?

It is, of course, universally accepted that the goal is "complete and general disarmament," but no realist expects that the Geneva Conference will produce, this year, an agreed draft programme covering the whole field.

But can it produce specific agreements on specific matters? Could perhaps, a "partial" test-ban treaty be followed by practical disarmament measures short of a treaty? That, even though limited, would be a major achievement— something not yet accomplished by any disarmament conference in history.

I have in mind four possibilities.

The first is the Soviet proposal, in Mr. Khrushchev's New Year's Eve letter, for a new international agreement repudiating the use of force in the settlement of territorial disputes and frontier problems.

This is perhaps not, strictly speaking, a measure of "disarmament" but anything which could help to reduce tensions would help towards disarmament.

In their replies both President Johnson and Sir Alec Douglas-Home have made the same points. In the words of the British Prime Minister, the Khrushchev proposals would "need to be expanded if they are to contribute to the solution of the real problems of our times".

RULED OUT

It would be essential to rule out not only "overt military action". Danger can also come from "the promotion of unrest or the subversion of authority" by action from outside. "Infiltration for subversive purposes is at the present time more common and no less dangerous than overt attack.

Now that is something which the Soviet Government should surely be ready to discuss and negotiate. If my memory is not at fault, it was they who first pointed out the need, in any non-aggression pact, for a definition of "aggression". It might be well worth while for Foreign Ministers to look up the draft presented by Maxim Litvinov to an earlier Disarmament Conference in 1933.

Here, then, it seems to me, is one subject on which agreement should surely be possible.

A second is the establishment, in each other's territory, of "observation posts" as a safeguard against "surprise attack". This suggestion goes back to 1955. It is in both the American and Soviet plans now before the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

But the trouble is, to judge by what Mr. Tsarapkin has told the press, that the Soviet Government seems inclined to link this (which should be perfectly feasible on its own) with its demand for the withdrawal of all troops from all "Foreign Territory" (which is known in Moscow to be perfectly unacceptable).

SAME RUSSIAN DEMAND

Indeed, I find it worrying that, on any and every occasion during the past ten years, the Russians have injected this demand into discussion after discussion. It was pointed out to them in 1954— and many times since — that it could not possibly be accepted, since it would mean the complete disruption of the whole Western Defence System in Europe.

In 1962 they agreed that, pending complete disarmament, any disarmament measures must be of a character which would not significantly disturb the existing balance of military power. Yet they keep on repeating this, or kindred proposals, which would not merely disturb but entirely upset that balance.

But, if only they would not insist on linking the possible to the impossible, surely agreement on a system of mutual "observation" should not prove too difficult. Thirdly I take the point of "non-dissemination" of nuclear weapons to powers not now possessing them. Here it may be that Russian agreement means that the proposed NATO "multilateral force" would in fact give West Germany control of nuclear weapons are quite genuine. That seems to me a matter for quiet discussion rather than for heated polemics.And quiet discussion might provide an answer.

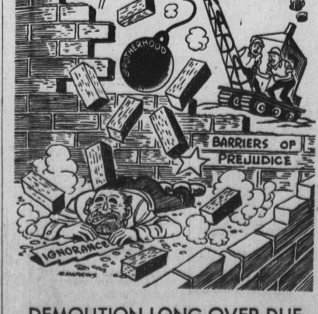
Last, and linked with this, is the American proposal for a "bonfire" to obsolete long-range bombers. The object, to ensure that they do not pass into the hands of countries for which (though "obsolete" in great power terms) they would represent a new potential against their immediate neighbours.

That surely should be quite possible. But again the Russian response seems to me to insist on linking the practicable with the impracticable. The Soviet counter- proposal is for the immediate destruction of all long-range bombing aircraft by all nations everywhere.

Whether or not it is really desirable to abolish "nuclear" planes while still retaining "nuclear" missiles is a question for argument by experts. But surely this is beside the point. The point is that it is politically outside all possibility that such a world - wide agreement should be negotiated within any forseeable time by the Geneva Conference.

Which brings me back to my main point. That is that, as Bismarck shrewdly noted, "politics is the art of the possible".

There is surely, between these American and these Soviet proposals, enough common denominator", to make some progress possible this year. And even some progress would be a tremendous gain. But for this, we must isolate the possible from the impossible, and concentrate on possibilities. That is the essential condition for any achievement.



DEMOLITION LONG OVER-DUE

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion 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.

MERCY FLIGHTS

Sir, — I have been following with interest the comments, etc. on the "mercy flights", and noted that a Summerside doctor recently refused to put his patient aboard the aircraft supplied by the private company from Moncton. I think he should be commended for this. However, I wish to point out that the rate charged is $50 an hour — not $50 a flight, and this comes to a considerable amount when the craft has to fly from Moncton, pick up the patient, fly to Halifax, fly the accompanying nurse back to Summerside or Charlottetown and return to its home base, Moncton.

These aircraft are definitely not equipped for this type of flight, I know as I accompanied my daughter on one, and at the time wondered how they would accommodate an adult patient. However, I do think the government should have some arrangement with these private companies. It is realized they have to make a living too, but it is rather difficult for the average person to meet a bill for possibly $150 for a mercy flight, after having numerous expenses for doctors, hospitals, anaesthetic, ambulance, and lodging for person or persons who accompany the patient.

It is hoped that some arrangement will be worked out to satisfy all parties concerned.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ONE INVOLVED
Charlottetown.

Remedies For Warts

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

The Russians report using liquid nitrogen to remove warts from the face, hands, and feet. One or two applications are given for those on the face and up to three on the hands. Many more are needed for plantar warts on the soles, according to the story in a recent issue of Medical World News.

We wrote about this method in 1955. Dr. Wayne Wright of Oakland, Cal., analyzed the results of eight different remedies on a group of 451 plantar wart patients. He found liquid nitrogen superior to electrocautery, X-ray, carbon dioxide snow, and the local injection of a variety of substances. Within 36 to 48 hours after applying liquid nitrogen, the wart could be scooped out with a scissors or a scalpel blade. The cure rate was 78.7 per cent.

More than a year ago we wrote about the hot water technic. The warts are soaked for an hour or more and the heat in it is to keep the temperature of the water between 113 and 118 degrees F. Several immersions are necessary. We have not seen a follow-up report on this method but it is harmless and worth trying on youngsters with numberous warts and plenty of time.

The trouble with trying to evaluate these therapies is that warts — or their owners — are so susceptible to suggestion. Warts have disappeared after rubbing with a kernel of corn or a potato peeling, provided the victim is convinced of the magic power of the substance. Good results from more scientific treatments may have the same psychological basis.

The psychic effect is difficult to understand because warts are caused by a virus. They are slightly contagious and prefer areas of skin subjected to injury or prolonged pressure. This may explain why the fingers, hands, and wrists are the most frequently involved sites. The majority reach a certain size and stay that way for months or years. They are more annoying than serious but the tendency is to toy with them until they become irritated or infected. Removal is recommended when they are unsightly or located in an area likely to be irritated.

REDUCING TENSION

M.M. writes: How do tranquilizers help high blood pressure?

REPLY

Many factors contribute toward raising the blood pressure. The list includes hormones, enzymes, salts in acids such as salt, and disturbance of the heart and kidneys. The nervous system also plays a role and it has been found that tranquilizers enter the picture by lessening anxiety and tension and promoting rest and relaxation.

DON'T GUESS

M. T. writes: Is it a sign of diabetes to be sleepy all the time, even after the amount of sleep obtained?

REPLY

This is one symptom of uncontrolled diabetes and a simple urine test at this stage of the diseease will answer the question. Elderly diabetics often are drowsy after breakfast.

DON'T STRAIN

M. M. writes: Is constipation in a heart patient symbolic of anything?

REPLY

No. It is treated usually in the same way as in the noncardiac patient.

NOISY AIDS

P.U. writes: Is it harmful to wear a hearing aid during a thunderstorm?

REPLY

No, but switch it off. This device amplifies sound and loud, crackling noises overstimulate the ears.

Today's Health Hint—

You live only once.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(February 15, 1939)

Freak weather was experienced in Prince Edward Island today as a soft warm south- west wind, coming inside the snow blanket over the province. The temperature climbed from 20 above zero early this morning to 44 above at 8 o'clock this evening according to records at the Station.

Requiem High Masses were offered for the repose of the soul of Pope Pius XI in Roman Catholic Churches throughout Prince Edward Island today. Large congregations were present in both St. Dunstans Basilica and in the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer which were draped in purple and black.

TEN YEARS AGO
(February 15, 1954)

The performance of a gifted American baritone Edwin Steffe brought great pleasure to a capacity audience tonight at Prince of Wales College in the third of the Community Concert series for this season. His rich powerful voice produced moods varying from the highly comic to the deeply dramatic.

Mr. Everett MacNeill was elected president of the Charlottetown Chess Club at their annual meeting held this evening at the YMCA. The meeting which was in the form of a banquet was presided over by the retiring president Johnnie MacInnis.

HARRIED MOTORISTS

Britain's motorists, who pay a tax of 38 cents a gallon on gasoline and diesel fuel, contributed $1,203,500,000 in taxes in the 1962-63 fiscal year.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Extracted from court case reported in Croydon, England, Advertiser: At one point during Reeves' evidence, Mr. John Clay, prosecuting, asked: "Are you making up your evidence as you go along?" Replied Reeves: "Do you think I could make up all these lies?"— New Statesman.

Magnus Anderson, who began smoking when he was 15 years old but decided a few years later that it was a bad habit, made a determined effort to give it up. At his recent birthday he announced that he has finally succeeded, and has no more desire to smoke. Mr. Anderson is 106 years old.— Copenhagen Press.

Sir Alec At Washington

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Anglo-American summit conference has shattered any remaining U.S. illusions that the allies somehow could be persuaded to co - operate in mounting an economic blockade against Cuba.

Just before Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home and President Johnson began their two - day talks, there were widely-circulated American reports that the Johnson administration planned to exert new pressure on the allies to restrict trade with the Castro regime.

But in his private discussions with Johnson and his public statements later, Sir Alec made clear Britain wanted no part of discrimination, restrictions or boycotts on trade with Cuba or any other part of the Communist camp.

In fact, Britain planned to step up trade with the Communists, rather than reduce trade. Britain lived by trade, he said, and Britain believed a fat Communist is less likely to be aggressive than a lean, hungry one.

COMMUNIST CONTRACTS

Moreover, in response to the U.S. plea that the allies refrain from providing extensive credit to the Communists, Sir Alec said Britain hopes to land a number of new contracts in Moscow, including chemical plants, and Britain's credit terms in those cases might be extended to 12 or 15 years from the present five.

All this is rather hard for the Johnson administration to swallow at a time when the president faces increasing pressure at home to do something about Premier Fidel Castro's regime, whose actions, such as cutting off the water supply at the Guantanamo naval base continue to add to American political embarrassment.

From the American viewpoint it is difficult to see what Johnson gained from his first formal talks with the British Prime Minister. Sir Alec talked of having achieved harmony with Johnson on the world's big questions, but it appeared the two leaders differ on what these big questions may be.

Britain agreed to support American military policy in South Viet Nam; to co-operate with the U.S. closely on the Kennedy round of tariff bargaining this year and to pursue with the U.S. any openings that may lead to more arms-control actions with the Soviet Union.

DISAGREE ON CUBA

But Sir Alec did not see eye-to-eye with Johnson on Cuba, or on Communist China, or on trade with the Communists. The U.S. opposed admittance of China to the United Nations; Sir Alec said such admittance would be a good thing.

The U.S. maintains a ban on all American trade with China and wants an allied economic blockade against Cuba; Sir Alec said Britain doesn't believe in blockades.

The U.S. wants to see Britain fully support the proposed seagoing, mixed-man North Atlantic nuclear force; Sir Alec said the proposal has political advantages but he still isn't sure of its military merit.

It appears that in their first formal encounter, the prime minister and president sized each other up; pledged to keep the Anglo - American alliance strong but virtually made no changes in the policies that existed before the talks began.

Different Census Figures

Port Arthur News Chronicle

In discussions about speaking English and French that are now going on in Canada, frequent mention is made of the bloc of "five or six million Canadians who belong to neither the English nor the French language groups.

There is no such bloc of this size in Canada. The common error arises from two different sets of census figures. The number of people in this country whose mother tongue is neither English nor French is 2,454,562 (according to the 1961 census). There are, however, 4,701,226 people in this country whose ethnic origin is neither French nor English. To show how confused the picture really is, there are 32,925 persons of British ethnic origin who speak no language but French!

There is a third significant figure. The number of people who speak neither English nor French but the language that is indicated by their ethnic origin is only 1,987,054. In other words, there are 466,608 persons speaking neither French nor English who do not speak the language of the country indicated by their ethnic origin. Somewhere along the line they have picked up a different one.

For example, the largest of Canada's so-called "other ethnic groups" is German. There are 1,049,599 people of German ethnic origin in Canada. There are 503,713 of German mother tongue. There are 413,382 of both German ethnic origin and mother tongue.

The makeup, by mother tongue, of what has been referred to as a third linguistic "bloc" is this: Chinese, 49,099; Finnish, 44,785; German, 563,713; Indian and Eskimo languages 166,531; Italian, 339,626; Japanese, 17,856; Magyar (including Hungarian) 85,939; Netherlands, 170,177; Polish 161,720; Russian, 42,903; Scandinavian languages, 116,714; Slovak, 42,546; Ukrainian (including Bukovinian, Galician and Ruthenian), 361,496; Yiddish 32,648; Serbo-Croatian, 29,866; 14,997; Lettish, 14,062; Syrian Estonian, 13,830; Lituanian and Arabic, 12,999; Creek, 40,- 7,533; Welsh, 3,040; Flemish, 1,304; and others in smaller numbers.

All this may not clarify the situation very much. But it does show the danger that lies in making sweeping statements about who speaks what in this country.

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