

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew... Wallace Ward... Editor... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.

says, is what he wants an overall majority for. Yet his Quebec cabinet colleagues have been speaking with forked tongue on the subject. State Secretary Maurice Lamontagne, for example, in a recent speech in Montreal. The Liberal decision allowing provinces to opt out of federal-provincial joint programs, Mr. Lamontagne boasted, "is the most spectacular and substantial measure taken by a federal government since Confederation to assure fiscal and legislative decentralization and to reorient our federalism in terms of an active provincial autonomy."

It is difficult to reconcile this statement with any recognition of the need for "strong central government." There seems to be a complete lack of communication between Mr. Lamontagne and Mr. Pearson in this regard.

Last week the Prime Minister raised another issue calling for clarification, in his statement that the government is planning talks with the United States about export or diversions of Canadian water—water supplies tending to get scarce in the U.S. and we having "well, lots of water." Have we, indeed? Not in the opinion of Resources Minister Laing who has been strongly critical of this proposal, claiming that our water supplies are not negotiable and that there is no point in discussing the question of bartering them with our American neighbors. This is the view, too, of General Macnaughton, Canadian co-chairman of the joint international commission and a former Liberal cabinet member.

These are "which is it?" cases that keep cropping up almost every few days now, puzzling the electors and making a farce of the principle of cabinet solidarity.

Policy Commended

It took the uncertain prospects of an election to convince Ottawa that there was need for revamping its policy with respect to Cape Breton mines. Whether or not the government's new \$25-million assistance program was triggered by Conservative promises for Maritime betterment we don't know. Probably it was. But in any case it is a move to be welcomed, the more so because it will start a chain reaction of benefits reaching far beyond this Atlantic area.

This is the view expressed by an Ottawa correspondent in the Financial Post, and endorsed editorially by the paper on grounds that it takes the issue well out of the field of mere vote-catching handouts.

It is expected, under the plan, that pithead prices of coal in Cape Breton will drop from the present \$12 per ton to an estimated \$9.50 or perhaps \$9. This will give the Maritime industry a new, more economic power source. It is hoped new industries will use thermal heating and power generation, thus putting more coal in use. There will be a reduction in the subventions required to transport coal from the Maritimes into Ontario at a competitive price.

Fuel costs for hydro in Ontario will drop because the way will be cleared for bigger imports of cheaper U.S. coal as the Maritimes consume more of their own. Even oil and gas producers, it is claimed, stand to gain because there will be opportunity for a quid pro quo arrangement to reduce the tariff charged on about half the U.S. coal imported into Canada in return for increased sales of Canadian oil and natural gas to the U.S.

Removal of the tariff would also give Canadian negotiators another item to put into their package offer at the GATT Kennedy Round talks at Geneva.

Most of the \$25 million will be spent on new underground equipment. Some of the money will be used to improve the layout of existing mines to make them as efficient as possible. There is no intention of assisting Cape Breton to increase its present production rate unless local demand puts it up; but it is predicted the move will give a new lease of life to the industry and prevent the area from becoming chronically depressed.

The fact that the project has passed the close scrutiny of the Toronto financial paper is itself something of a recommendation. Not usually, from this source, do schemes for Maritime betterment get such a warm reception.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Mariner 4's pictures of Mars, cost about \$13 million each and they weren't even in color.

A good time now to remember the old political saw that "objectivity is looking at things the way you see them; bias is now the other fellow looks at them."



MACKEREL FISHING OFF ALBERTON

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Liberals Hope To Win Majority But...

Few electors are showing enthusiasm for the "unnecessary election," according to reports from all parts of Canada. Yet Parliament Hill is picking up some very definite voter reaction as to possible results of the balloting. John Diefenbaker's proposal for an income tax allowance of up to \$500 for municipal taxes has been the most warmly welcomed new policy plank. He points out that the home-owner is prejudiced against by the tax on his house, whereas the apartment house operator can count municipal taxes as an expense when calculating his profit. In the USA the unfairness of having to pay tax has long been recognized, and the US taxpayer may deduct house tax, sales tax on petrol, etc., when calculating his taxable income. Another widely-welcomed and

fair proposal by John Diefenbaker is that our older citizens—those over 70 who will never qualify for the Conarbitary Pension—should receive an extra \$25 per month in Old Age Pension. And of course the proposed Consumer Loan Fund at 5 per cent interest appeals to those Canadians who now have to pay more. On the negative side, many Canadians resent the new maple leaf flag replacing the Canadian Red Ensign. This would have been more readily accepted if it had proved to be a factor creating greater national unity; but this hope was killed when the new flag was publicly burned in Quebec. The scandals and the growing crime wave have shocked all law-abiding Canadians, who deplore the repeated disclosures of corruption in high places and

The Marijuana Menace

Marijuana, by its very name, is suggestive of a narcotic of great potency. However, this is apparently not so; according to the beatniks of Toronto's Yorkville district, the drug is mild in comparison to heroin, is not habit-forming, and induces none of the physical horror that is involved in attempts to withdraw from heroin. Marijuana, they say, merely "turns them on... gives them a beautiful experience." Well, they should know, but it is rather like saying snakes are harmless if you just leave them alone. Only they do not want to leave them alone. The worst thing about any drug is that its effects are only brief, then one must fall back on reality and one's own resources. Yet the Kingston Whig-Standard, in an editorial on this theme, would have the restrictions of marijuana removed, in order to enable the authorities to concentrate on the control of other, more harmful drugs. "People are not going to stop wanting the kind of pleasure and release they get from intoxicants such as alcohol or marijuana," says the Whig-Standard. "Surely it would be wiser to permit such practices as smoking marijuana, thus removing the criminal element and doing away with a needless addition to the burden of trying to control the harmful addicting drugs." This seems to us a dangerous theory, an invitation to social degeneration, however, harmless the drug may be in its ultimate effects. It is doubtful, moreover, whether law enforcement authorities would find their tasks any less onerous simply by having marijuana made legal, or "legit," as prohibitionists of old would have said. Marijuana smokers often graduate quickly to heroin, so that control of one is bound up with that of the other.

Belongs To Ottawa

How confident Mr. Fowler and his colleagues are "A move to Montreal would undoubtedly induce a new vitality and sense of reality in the operations of the CBC," they say. Now it may be that Mr. Fowler himself on leaving government work in Ottawa years ago and going to the freer and lushier fields of private enterprise in Montreal found there a new vitality. We're less sure of his sense

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (October 18, 1940) At a largely attended convention held in Charlottetown by the Conservatives of the 2nd District of Queen's, Messrs. Philip Matheson of Oyster Bed Bridge and R.R. Bell of Charlottetown were nominated to contest the seats of assemblyman and councillor respectively in the by-election to be held Nov. 8 to fill the vacancies in these seats. Helping in the search of the debris of his bomb-ashed home L.Cpl. Hedley, in London, England, found the body of his two-year-old son. The soldier collapsed. Later on, the bodies of his wife and another son were taken from the wreckage.

TEN YEARS AGO Dr. Frank MacKinnon was elected president of the Canadian Club for P.E.I. at a business meeting Mr. Justice George J. Tweedy acted as provisional chairman. Yolande Pompes of Trinidad, fourth-ranked challenger for the world light heavyweight title, knocked out Yvon Durelle of Baie Ste. Anne, N.B., Canadian champion, in the seventh round of the 10-round fight at Harringay Arena, London, England.

PLAN CLEANER THAMES LONDON (AP) — Britain is planning a \$24,000,000 program of pumping clean well water into the River Thames. Sir Richard Nugent, chairman of the Thames conservation board, says fresh water from 38 wells would assure Londoners of enough water up to the year 2000.

Plague In New World

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen For years we have said that plague is not dead, just sleeping. It lingers in many parts of the world and even in this country, especially in the west. The causative organisms (Pasteurella pestis), found in wild rodents, are usually passed from rats to fleas to man.

Four cases have been reported to the New Mexico department of public health. The most recent was a 34-year-old Indian girl who developed small blisters on the chest where the bites occurred. Her temperature went up to 105 degrees F. and a large bubo (swollen lymph node) developed in the right armpit. The germs were isolated from the bubo and the vesicles on the chest. A cure followed the use of streptomycin.

This youngster came from a family of nomadic sheep herders who were camping on the edge of a prairie dog town. The other victims came from areas where these dogs were dying "like fleas." A carcass was obtained and proved to be positive for the bacterium. The disease has a mortality of 100 per cent of the victims died. This is better appreciated by going back in history to the London epidemic of black death in 1665 which took an appalling toll. The population was highly susceptible living in poverty, congestion and ignorance.

We hear so much about plague in India, yet the disease was not introduced into Bombay until 1894 during the next 40 years more than 12 million deaths were traced to this source. The rodent-flea relationship was not known until the turn of the century although many old-timers had noted that rats began to die before human beings were affected. This is happening to the prairie dogs in New Mexico.

There is plenty of ammunition to fight plague today. We have effective insecticides to eliminate fleas and rodenticides for the rats and other rodents. A preventive vaccine is available and the causative germ can be killed with sulfadiazine or streptomycin.

VARICOSE VEINS I. E. writes: I'm 17 years old and my leg veins are beginning to look varicose. Is there any way the progress of this disorder can be stopped before my legs begin to look like my mother's?

REPLY There is no practical way, but you should not be too concerned because varicose veins can be treated. Meanwhile, avoid standing in one area too long.

DON'T BLAME PIPE W. E. writes: Would making a pipe during the day cause a man to grind his teeth at night?

REPLY No. Consider the thousands of pipe smokers who do not grind their teeth and the number of tooth grinders who do not smoke a pipe. The habit usually is of nervous origin.

LIVING WITH AN AILMENT B. V. writes: How can a person with an organic disease practice good mental hygiene?

REPLY By making up his mind to live with the disease and to do what he can within the limitations of the illness. Refrain from self-pity because there is always someone worse off than you are.

ITCHING AXILLAE Mrs. C. writes: What causes an itchy rash in the armpits?

REPLY Common causes include ringworm, excessive perspiration, nervousness, and allergy to a cosmetic such as an anti-perspirant or to a dye in the clothing.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—A good book dispels boredom. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Wilson's Major Problems

By Harold Morrison The urgency in which Wilson portrays the need of a non-dissemination agreement appears puzzling, in the absence of any indication that the Soviet Union has any intention of helping a body get nuclear weapons or even a share in control of them. And while a Moscow-London-Washington pledge to block the transfer of such weapons may help ease the concern and fear of some non-nuclear countries, it may have little value if it does not include China, which has started to manufacture nuclear weapons of its own. China shows not the least interest in joining a non-dissemination pact or any other agreement in which the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States are involved.

More important, perhaps, is that a Western non-dissemination agreement with the Soviet Union could end the current deadlock and increase the prospects of fruitful negotiations with Moscow in other fields. Many diplomatic strategists suggest the West is not taking full advantage of the Moscow-Peking split. Successful agreements, involving minor Western concessions, might entice the Soviet Union to move closer to the West.

But Moscow may be playing a different game. In working to keep West Germany out of the Western nuclear group, the Russians may merely be planning to keep NATO off balance, to promote dissension and suspicion among its members, dangling before Britain something which, in the end they may not be prepared to give.

NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT And now Wilson says in an interview there is nothing more important than a non-dissemination pact, a conviction that may raise a storm in Bonn, where the Erhard government suspects the British Labor administration leans too heavily towards Moscow.

New Pollution Threat

Ottawa Journal A California chemist argues that lead, mainly from gasoline combustion, is contaminating the atmosphere. He estimates the current level of poisonous metal is 100 times ABOVE "normal" and about half that at which "obvious symptoms" begin to appear. The symptoms of lead poisoning include disruption of the central nervous system, leading to convulsions.

Walter Sullivan, science editor of the New York Times, writes that lower levels of lead in the body are feared to have more subtle effect such as impairment of thought processes. Continued pollution of the atmosphere could thus have "historic" consequences. But U.S. lead and petroleum industries, backed up by at least

one study involving public health authorities, claim that present lead levels are well within the accepted levels for human beings. Still these replies apparently do not disprove the claim that lead content is rising. Lead is put into gasoline to assist uniform combustion. It can also enter the human through lead used in water pipes, food cans, paints and insecticides. It's something more for all of us to worry about. The consolation is that perhaps we can worry less. The more it stirs controversy and leads to further investigation by science. Just the same it's enough to cause a motorist to view traffic jams in a new and gloomier light.

Go Ahead, Sneeze Loudly!

Polite society is apt to frown on the fire alarm sound effects of the sneezer who simply opens his mouth and lets go with ear-splitting and friendship breaking results. According to a Brooklyn otolaryngologist, in spite of unpleasant anti-social side effects, this is the proper way to sneeze. According to the Brooklyn doctor, a considerable number of sneezers injure their nose, sinuses, or middle ear by wrongly performing this ordinary and simple act. Writing in the Illinois Medical Journal, the doctor outlines the incorrect methods of kerchooing.

First, there is the "tip-locked sneeze." In deference to the ethics of polite society he muscles all sound and directs his sneezing through his nose with shattering effect on the nasal membranes. It can often be traced as the direct cause of middle ear disturbance and impaired hearing. Even more disastrous person-

al health problems can result from the sneezer who either smothers his would-be sneeze or stifles it altogether. This causes a backwash pressure within the head. "Besides provoking a nose-bleed or ear discomfort," the doctor claims, "these over-considerate individuals may infect their sinuses. Elderly persons can do immense harm to themselves. An occasional sneeze has resulted from the momentary rir of blood pressure which hit to smothered sneeze whic-

So, all you hay fever sufferers go ahead and sneeze. Do it real loud—let it go!

MATADOR WAS YOUNG ANGERS, France (AP)—An escaped bull horned 16-month-old Michel Coulaud out of his baby carriage and tossed the infant, while his mother looked on helplessly. Michel was found unharmed when bystanders chased the bull away.

Where Are The Leaders?

Edmonton Journal the national government to get to the bottom of this hideously un-Canadian mess? Why did it require the minister of justice in the Quebec Liberal government to expose this to expose this can or worms? Phony bankruptcies on a grand scale; arson; swindling; gangland murders; the Cosa Nostra; loan sharking; hot merchandise smuggled into Kingston Jamaica; tentacles into Europe and South America; influence in high places—it sounds like plot ingredients for a James Bond novel.

We need a national tribunal of inquiry, the election consequences notwithstanding.

MISSION RETURNS TEL AVIV (Reuters)—A Canadian study mission of the chemical industry left home Friday after a five-day visit to Israel. The four-man mission held talks here with leading manufacturers in the chemical industry and Trade Ministers Haim Zadok. The mission, sponsored by the Canadian government, will report on possible co-operation with Israel industrialists in the same field. They had earlier visited Poland, Russia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Greece.

Naturally, Mr. Diefenbaker has been quick to exploit the political opportunities in the latest go-round. But he gives the appearance of speaking in high glee rather than with the sobriety the public should demand. If he has a case, why doesn't he demand the most searching and comprehensive inquiry?

NEED FOR ACTION Why doesn't the Prime Minister marshal every resource of

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