The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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PAGE 6 THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1963

It Will And It Won't

According to Canada's new defense minister, Hon. Paul Hellyer, a nuclear agreement with the United States, which the Pearson government is pledged to make without delay, will be a "permissive agreement" which would not commit Canada "to anything." Under this kind of agreement, he explained in a television broadcast the other night, "we don't bind ourselves to any specific action."

Mr. Hellyer expects that the agreement he was discussing will be signed in about a month's time and that the nuclear warheads would be made available to Canadian forces six months after that at a maximum.

This leaves us rather confused. We were under the impression that Mr. Hellyer and his leader, Mr. Pearson, had geen denouncing the Diefenbaker Government for not honoring some kind of specific commitment it had made with respect to nuclear warheads. They made it clear that our national honor was involved, somehow or other. Mr. Diefenbaker had insisted there was no such commitment, and that Canada was free to decide the matter as it saw fit, in the light of changing circumstances and conditions. His own defense minister, Mr. Harkness, deserted him on this issue, maintaining that there was a commitment to be honored.

Now we hear no more about commitments but about a "permissive agreement" which won't commit us to anything at all. Yet it is to be a custody-and-control agreement that is to be signed, which seems to imply something less vague than that. Perhaps to military pundits this is all as clear as crystal. We confess to being incapable of making any sense out of it.

Adenauer's Last Battle

A major political battle is reported to be shaping up this week in West Germany. Chancellor Adenauer has been campaigning to keep his No. 2 man, Dr. Ludwig Erhard, from taking over as leader, and has undertaken what may be his last fight for political life. A powerful faction of the governing Christian Democratic Union is planning to force an immediate end to the party's long, damaging controversy over a successor to the 87-year-old chancellor. If their plans succeed, Vice Chancellor Erhard will be named Chancellor-designate with a mandate to take office in July.

When he returned last week from a month's vacation in Italy, Chancellor Adenauer publicly promised that he would ask to retire in October or November. But he quickly made it plain that he is not ready to step down yet. As chancellor and as party chairman, he is expected to use all his influence in an attempt to stall off a fight over his successor.

Other party leaders, however, are concerned lest their organization will tear itself apart. The two local elections of the past two months—Berlin and the Rhineland-Palatinate area—have set the Christian Democrats back. Uncertainty over the future leadership was one of the reasons. Nor are the prospects much better in the next local vote, scheduled for May 19 in Lower Saxony.

In the last few days an increasing number of Christian Democratic leaders have committed themselves to support Dr. Erhard, who is Economics Minister, for early succession to the leadership. But there is a still powerful rearguard prepared to do battle for Dr. Adenauer. Its tactics would be to delay a final decision to allow time to build up the candidacy of Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroder.

Many West Germans credit Dr. Erhard with their country's recovery from the chaos of World War II. But Dr. Adenauer says Erhard has "no talent for politics". Admittedly his own long tenure of power is nearing its end; but the dismaying aspects of his last months is that the succession struggle has blurred the nation's image abroad and muted its voice.

With Adenauer sure to go and his successor still uncertain, every allied statesman automatically discounts any "authoritative" statement of West German policy. Fortunately, however, there seems no doubt that whoever may become the next Chancellor the country will remain firmly committed to the Atlantic alliance and to a constructive role in the Western community.

Italian Market Prospects

There should be an excellent market for Canadian potatoes in Italy for most of 1963. This we learn from a Department of Trade and Commerce publication, "Foreign Trade", which notes that the Italian market for Canadian goods has expanded and continues to expand. The market for Canadian wood products, pulp and lumber is expected to maintain the substantial gains made last year.

More, we note that the range of products shipped from Canada has broadened and that prosperity should create new openings for goods that Canada has never before sold to Italy. Preliminary reports from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that our exports there rose in 1962 by 10 per cent over 1961, reaching a record $74.5 million. This was particularly encouraging in face of a very large drop in exports of wheat, Canada's traditional best seller to Italy. Wheat sales dropped from first to third place because of a record harvest in Italy and in Europe as a whole, and this trend may continue through 1963.

Italy is not, and has not been for many years an easy market in which to sell manufactured goods. These goods account for approximately 90 per cent of all Italian exports by value, and this proportion has been growing in recent years. As incomes continue to rise, however, there will be opportunities for Canadian manufacturers to participate in the general prosperity of the country, perhaps by providing goods the demand for which is not sufficient to stimulate local production, and certainly through sale of products incorporating Canadian designs and skills.

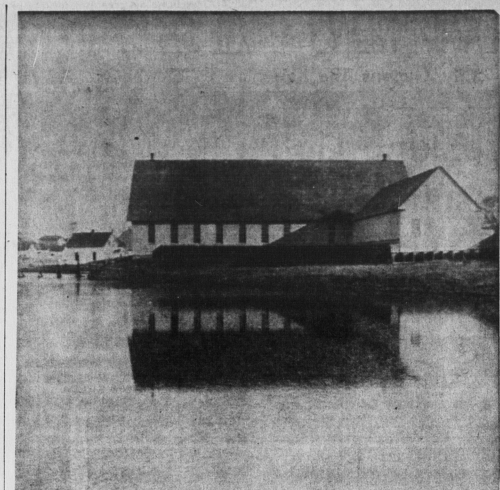
But we were intrigued especially by that note about the "excellent market for potatoes" offered by the Italian market this year, and pass the good news along for the encouragement of all concerned.

Hit By Mechanization

Census figures for the Republic of Eire covering the 1956-61 period are disturbing to all who have the country's interest at heart. In spite of strenuous efforts to establish new industries, there has been a steady population decline. The rural areas, especially in the west, show the greatest decline. The census indicates a total drop of nearly 80,000 between 1956 and 1961, from 2,898,264 to 2,818,341.

Seemingly, the increased mechanization of farms has meant that despite greater production fewer workers are needed. Emigration continues at the rate of 40,000 a year. Certain western districts have declined by as much as 50 per cent. Besides the drift to Great Britain, the people from the rural areas crowd into the towns, especially into Dublin. Nearly half the total population is in the Leinster area, the majority in Dublin City, where there are 50,000 more women than men.

The solution of the farming—and population—problem lies probably in the development of some form of agricultural cooperation, with larger holdings and more efficient operation. Efforts are being made along these lines, and one can only hope that they will prove successful in the end. Meanwhile, it is a painful period of readjustment.



OLD CHARLOTTETOWN

The old drill shed overlooking Government Pond about 1880

Copied by Craswell Portrait Studio

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Mystery Squeeze Play Puzzles Newsmen

"Did Diefenbaker step down, or was he pushed?"

That is the question teasing the lunchtime speculators in Ottawa's historic Rideau Club. There, from the windows of the second floor lounge, politicians and political followers can look across the once - again green lawns, to the distinctive upreach of the Peace Tower which broods over the unpeaceful scene beneath.

For, make no mistake about this, Parliament Hill is not a dull place. The disappointment is that one cannot be in all three widely - separated rings at the same time, to see all the day-by-day story of history in the making. The history books of tomorrow will have a lot to say about the political events of 1962-1963.

After this month's election, some people feared and others hoped that the Conservative Prime Minister would remain in office.

MINORITY UNCERTAINTY

One prominent Liberal here deplored that Diefenbaker might cling to office, until Parliament assembled and administered a defeat to him. "That would waste two more months in which the essential affairs of government would be deferred".

Others hoped not that he would "glue together a Cabinet from his shattered remains," as one cynic said, but that he would seize the opportunity to build a powerful multi - party government able to provide the rough tough non - partisan politics which Canada needs today. Top politicians from other parties, perhaps even from all parties, would willingly serve in the national interest in a truly working cabinet, with John Diefenbaker continuing as prime minister, It was being suggested.

This latter course seemed possible to the hopefuls, and was admitted as practicable by the fearfuls. For the simple arithmetic was that Conservatives plus Social Crediters plus New Democrats hold 135 seats, to the Liberals 130.

But then the mystery squeeze play broke upon Ottawa. Six Social Crediters apparently notified the Governor General that they would support a Pearson government. That tipped the scale to Liberals 136 votes, the rest 129.

Next, three of those Social Crediters denounced that notification; they had been misled; they withdrew the promise of support which had only "apparently" been made by them personally.

The balance did not change, although the margin did: Pearson 133 votes in the Commons, the rest 132. Those simple mathematics proclaimed the decisive fact of a majority in support of Liberal Leader "Mike" Pearson as Prime Minister of Canada.

UNSEEN THIRD RING

The 13th Prime Minister tendered his resignation to the Governor General at his sick bed. As he walked out, through the crowd of waiting journalists, there followed this highly significant exchange, for the text of which I am indebted to the CBC's longtime parliamentary commentator, the experienced Tom Earle, and his tape-recorder:

Earle: "Sir, did you make any recommendations to the Governor General about your successor?"

Diefenbaker: "I don't think I can answer that. What passes between the Governor General and his Prime Minister cannot be revealed. But certainly there is no necessity of any indication being given in that regard. The three Social Credit Members having determined to give their vote to Mr. Pearson would give and provide him with a majority."

Thus the outgoing Prime Minister frankly admitted that he had been pushed off the throne by those three Social Crediters.

Even a Prime Minister cannot be in three widely - separated rings at the same time. He did not know that, at that very moment when he resigned, the three Social Credit Members are announcing in their caucus, less than one mile away, that they too were withdrawing their "apparent" promise of support for a Pearson government. That tipped back the arithmetic to its first figure, but only after tipping a Prime Minister off his throne.

Ballons In Space Probes

National Geographic Society

The oldest ,slowest, and clumsiest of aircraft has quietly soared into prominence as a versatile space explorer, both manned and unmanned.

At launch sites from Texas to Alaska, high-flying balloons are probing the upper atmosphere, bringing back valuable data on astrophysics, meteorology, and aeromedicine.

Two scientists recently rode a plastic-skinned balloon 15 miles into the stratosphere to study the appearance of stars at that height. They also recorded star sounds which, when played back, suggested an empty coal truck rattling along a bumpy road.

SKY SPIES

A balloon lifted a remote-controlled telescopic camera to 80,000 feet for unprecedented solor photographs of sunspots; another carried equipment up 72,000 feet for man's clearest look at Mars.

A giant balloon transported a rocket 100,000 feet up, then launched it into a 2,700-mile flight through space.

The Echo satellite balloon served as relay station for coast-to-coast television.

Balloons first probed the earth's uppermost atmosphere. On November 11, 1935, Explorer II, a joint effort of the National Geographic Society and the U.S. Army Air Corps, carried two Army fliers to 72,395 feet, a record for man's highest aloft that remained unbroken for 21 years.

The present record for a manned balloon is 21½ miles, set in May, 1961, by two Navy men.

Balloons have certain advantages over jets and rockets. They are relatively cheaper to operate and often can be recovered. They can lift men and instruments to the threshold of space and remain for hours.

Just as they pioneered the path to the stratosphere, balloons were man's first practical means of flight. As far back as the 13th century, Roger Bacon theorized that a hollow globe filled with "ethereal air or liquid fire" would float upward.

It was not until 1783, however, that the Montgolfier brothers of France first sent aloft a large linen bag filled with hot air and smoke from a straw fire. The Frenchmen believed that some mysterious vapor peculiar to burning straw was necessary to lift the bag, realizing only later that heated air was the actual force.

FIRST AERIAL BOMBING

History's first aerial bombing raid occurred in 1849 when Austrians attacked Venice with bomb-carrying balloons. Though few Venetians were killed, demoralization was rife.

During the Civil War, the North directed ground gunfire by balloons. The South retaliated with a rainbow-hued balloon made from the silk dresses and pantalets of patriotic Confederate ladies.

World War II blimps escorted hundreds of convoys without losing a single vessel to submarine attack.

Today, the United States Navy is experimenting with hot-air balloons for lifting equipment across rivers or rough terrain.

Balloons are equally versatile for nonmilitary uses. They have sown flower seeds in Japan, carried cables across Niagara Falls, and served as a hall for a Cinerama film show. A space-minded couple was even married in a balloon over Cincinnati in 1874.

Laos Sinks To Its Depth

Montreal Gazette

One of two things is likely to happen in Laos: either a new and precarious balance will be reached between the factions: or the Communist element with North Vietnamese and Chinese support, will attempt a major advance and set the fires of civil war burning again as they were a year ago.

The Geneva agreement of last year was supposed to lead without delay to two important results. A loose coalition government, composed of Communist, neutralist and pro-Western elements was to be set up. And all foreign troops, under the supervision of an international Control Commission (of which Canada is a member), were to be rapidly withdrawn.

NOT WITHDRAWN

The coalition government was established, and still exists. The United States withdrew its military advisers. But the North Vietnamese, and apparently also the Chinese, who had aided the Communist faction, remained in Laos.

They were not withdrawn, and may even have been increased in number. The International Control Commission was denied the right to exercise supervision in the Communist controlled area.

The result of these developments has been a shift in the balance of power within Laos. The non-Communist elements have become weaker. The Communist faction has grown stronger, and for geographical reasons could be strengthened even further in a very short time.

STRONGEST FACTION

It appears that the Communists can expect to win complete control of Laos any time they wish. They are the strongest and best supported faction. They are the least scrupulous and have broken the Geneva agreement when it suited them.

There seems to be little standing in their way but their own sense of timing, although the effect of the quarrel between Russia and China is an unknown factor. Russia may feel that stability in Laos is in its interest, not because of any affection for Laos, but because this would place a check upon the Chinese.

Unless the Soviet Union is prepared to throw its prestige into the scales, and oppose further Communist advances that are not in its interest, the slow death of Laos may be brought to an abrupt, and final conclusion.

SEEK MEETING

OTTAWA (CP)—A conference to work out negotiation and arbitration procedures for federal civil servants was requested Tuesday by the Civil Service Association of Canada in a letter to Prime Minister Pearson. J. C. Best, president of the association, recalled in the letter that Mr. Pearson last year had indicated support for arbitration machinery in negotiations between the government and the four civil service organizations.

HELPED FISHERMEN

The Antigonish movement, started in 1922 to improve living conditions for Maritime fishermen, has spread throughout the world.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

April 25, 1938

Forbes P. Rhude of Vancouver, Manager of the Canadian Press on the Pacific Coast, arrived in Charlottetown last week to visit his mother, Mrs. (Captain) Rhude, and his sister, Mrs. T.G. Ives.

The Farquhar Steamship Company Ltd. of Halifax, N.S. has been awarded a contract to place a ferry on the proposed route between Wood Island in this province and some point on the Nova Scotia mainland, at or near Caribou.

TEN YEARS AGO

April 25, 1953

Wing Commander L.C. Dilworth, DFC, officer commanding the Air Navigation School at the RCAF Station, Summerside will be in command when three Lancaster aircraft take off Monday for two weeks in the Arctic. On such trips one flight is usually made over the North Pole.

The RCAF has announced that LAC H.W. Acorn, of Charlottetown, P.E.I. has been selected as a member of the RCAF Coronation Contingent. LAC Acorn is at present stationed at RCAF Station, Summerside, where he is engaged as Safety Equipment technician.

The Poets Corner

TO THE ISLAND FARMER

A square of Island earth is yours,
A little kingdom that endures
Throughout the years of war and hate,
The sore unrest beyond your gate.
Creation touched, with humble pride,
The acres where you now reside,
And sweet seclusion keeps an arm
About this place you call a farm.
Is it mere chance you are endowed
To dwell beyond the noisy crowd
And learn to know the blessed worth
Of this, your square of Island earth?
You own a square of Island soil
And know the dignity of toil,
The self - respect that lets you stand
A little taller on the land
That makes you just as rich as they
Who have their millions stashed away.
You may look on the folk who dress
In garish garments of success,
But something in your heart recalls
The honoured touch of overalls.
There on your square of Island earth,
Contentment measures out your worth.

—S. BARLOW BIRD.

Freetown, P.E.I.

HAS TRADE PROBLEM

The imbalance of trade between New Zealand and Australia is a problem to New Zealand, which in 1961 exported $32,700,000 to Australia but imported $141,000,000.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"I left a bottle of Scotch in the train this morning." "Was it turned into the lost and found department?" "No, but the fellow who found it was."—Sarnia Observer.

If you cross a little line in the ocean, you'll lose a day. Crossing one on the highway, you're out for the rest of your days. — Chatham News.

"Are you really content to spend your life walking about the country begging?" a housewife asked a young bum. "No, lady," answered the tramp, "I often wish I had a car." —Montreal Star.

Told that her teenage boy was having difficulty with reading and writing, his mother appeared unconcerned. "It really doesn't matter," she said, "he'll always have a secretary." — Vancouver Province.

One man says that between his wife dyeing her hair black and his daughter coloring hers grey, it's hard to keep the family straight. — Orillia Packet and Times.

Four men out of five can drive a car. It's the fifth you have to look out for at intersections — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Antiquarian: "This vase is 2,000 years old. Be very careful in carrying it." Moving man: "You can depend on me, professor; I'll be as careful of it as if it were new!" — Toronto Star.

Early this year in Kirkland Lake, a driver ran over a 14-year-old boy and killed him. He was subsequently charged with impaired driving and dangerous driving. In court last week he was found guilty on both counts and fined $150 for his impaired driving and given a suspended sentence for his dangerous driving. In Toronto, on the same day of last week, a 21-year-old man was convicted of setting off nine stink bombs in a cinema. He explained that 'a voice' had commanded him to perform the odious act. The magistrate said he viewed the incident as a serious offence and imposed a fine of $500. — Peterborough Examiner.

In Awkward Position

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Faced by embarrassing bandthe - bomb demonstrations at home and by two stubborn, unbudging nuclear giants abroad, Britain appears to be a bit frantic in its latest efforts to obtain an East-West nuclear test-ban treaty.

It is unlikely that even a direct appeal would cause Soviet Premier Khrushchev suddenly to yield enough ground to provide a treaty sufficiently attractive to gain U.S. Senate approval.

The planned appeal to Khrushchev Wednesday by the British and American ambassadors in Moscow may merely convince the Kremlin there is an element of Western political demonstration—at least on Britain's part—involved, and that the treaty price could be stepped up instead of reduced.

While the United States and Britain are anxious to have a treaty, Britain may be a bit more anxious because of the ban-the-bomb issue at home and because the Macmillan administration faces uncertain election prospects.

NO SECRET TALKS

American authorities shrug off any suggestion that Britain would negotiate behind their back in the hope of persuading Khrushchev to yield some ground — particularly on the number of annual onsite inspections. The United States demands at least seven inspections a year while Russia has offered two or three.

In fact, Americans point out that the ambassadors of Britain and the United States jointly sought the audience with Khrushchev and that the two countries are working jointly on the nuclear issue.

But there seems room for suggesting, from various reports accompanying the ambassadorial audience with Khrushchev, that Britain more or less dragged the United States to the Kremlin conference table. President Kennedy has been criticized by Congress for watering down U.S. treaty proposals. It is unlikely he would improve his popularity by yielding more ground.

LAOS A FACTOR

U.S. reaction to further concessions would be viewed to some extent in the light of the Laotian situation. The question being asked in some Washington quarters is what use would a test-ban treaty be if the Communists cannot be trusted to abide by their agreements. Laos is used as an example.

Russia and Britain are co-chairmen of the conference to maintain Laotian peace. The pro-Communist Pathet Lao appears to have hided its time and expanded its territory through attack, without regard to any understanding.

American disarmament authorities say that despite Laos, Cuba and other trouble spots, they are convinced Russia would honor a nuclear test ban if firm agreement is reached. Some even suggest the day may come when, as the leading nuclear powers, Russia and the United States may join to police the world against war.

American officials argue the real culprit in Laos is not Russia but Communist China and that the two leading Communist powers are split. However there appears to be some Soviet fence mending under way in China. The Soviet charge that the United States and not the Communists are responsible for the Laotian flare-up adds to suspicion that when the chips are down the Communist breach suddenly will be mended to present a solid front to the West.

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