The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Published every week day morning (except Sundays and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd. Branch offices at Summerside, Montague, Alberton and Souris.

Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers Advertising Services, Toronto, 425 University Ave. Empire 3-8894; Montreal, 640 Cathcart Street University 6-5942; Western Office, 1030 West Georgia Street, Vancouver (MA 1-7037).

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Not over 35c per week by carrier.

$12.00 a year by mail or rural routes and areas not serviced by carrier.

$15.00 a year off Island and U.K. $20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.

Not over 7c single copy.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Senate Retirement

In his maiden speech as Government leader in the Upper Chamber last week, Senator J. H. Connolly explained that the Government's proposed measure affecting the retirement of Senators at 75 will apply only to those appointed after the provision comes into force. The present incumbents were thereby assured that their $15,000-a-year jobs are quite safe.

Politics is a wonderful game, and here is another example of its workings. Both the Liberals and Conservative were pledged, more or less, to a Senate retirement bill. The Liberal proposal is in line with the recommendation presented to a previous Parliament by the Diefenbaker administration, but with one significant difference. The Conservative plan would have ousted all senators over the age of 75, and the Pearson Government wants nothing to do with that.

For why? One guess ought to be enough. The Tory scheme would have created a large number of vacancies in the 102-seat Senate, in which Liberal members are in an overwhelming majority. There are at present three vacant seats; and if such a scheme were applied now, it would remove 36 members from this exalted chamber—30 of them Liberals.

So, as Senator Connolly explained, it wouldn't be advisable to disturb the present setup. The present members will remain in tenure for life. Of course, if any of them wish to retire under the new arrangement, they will be given the option on or after their 75th birthday, with an appropriate pension. The pension for those forced to retire at 75—the newcomers after the scheme goes through—will be comparable with that available to a retired member of the House of Commons, who serves three terms to become eligible.

So everything will be hunky-dory; the status quo will be maintained, the shade of Mackenzie King who worked so hard to pack the Senate with Grits will be appeased, the Liberal pledge of retiring senators at 75 will have been kept, and there will be a general feeling among the faithful that Providence is still on the job, guiding the affairs of men in ways beneficent and wise.

Too Much Politics

According to a parliamentary writer in the Ottawa Journal, votes of confidence in the government—such as the ones which occurred last week—are not the harrowing contests they sometimes appear to be. Although nobody could have predicted the exact figure in each vote, it was known in advance that the government would survive, if only by the narrow margin shown in the vote on the Conservative motion Tuesday night, the closest of the session.

If this be true, it merely confirms what many people have suspected, namely, that it is a game of political shadow boxing that could well be dispensed with in the public interest. But if the game did get out of hand—there is always that chance, however carefully it may be guarded against—and the minority Liberal government was defeated, who would be better off as a result?

If it should be a Conservative motion that precipitated another election, the onus would be on Mr. Diefenbaker and his followers of justifying their action. This could only be done by showing that they were in a better position to take over on a stable basis than the present administration. But how could they do that?

Where are the stalwarts who deserted their cabinet posts before the last election, rather than serve under the Diefenbaker banner? They are not back in the fold; they are still sulking in their tents, or plowing a lone furrow like Mr. Harkness. What experienced men would the Conservative leader have to replace them?

That is what the electors would inevitably ask if forced to vote again at this time. And, of course, it's the main question the Liberals would be asking, in appealing for an overall mandate for themselves. It is not impossible that they might get it, on just this basis. But the chances would seem to be for a continuance of the unstable situation Parliament is confronted with now.

Cannot the Opposition parties realize that their interests lie in co-operating with, not in bucking at every opportunity, the government of the day, and getting on with the business for which Parliament was summoned? That is the only way in which they can win public confidence, and earn the right to go before the people.

Why The Secrecy?

Would our security interests be threatened by lowering the bars of secrecy about the ARDA projects in this Province, or what? We note from Resources Minister Rossiter's reply to Opposition questions in the Legislature that a number of these projects—though not specifically for the development of rural areas—have received approval and are currently under way. Eleven of these are water conservation projects, five for forestry and three for parks. The minister listed the projects by districts, but did not disclose the nature of each, or their exact locations in the various constituencies.

What was the reason for this reticence? One would imagine that the Government would seek to give the widest publicity to the details of these undertakings. Isn't this what it undertook to do under the general agreement which was entered into by each province with the federal authorities, as the basic implementing document in connection with ARDA?

Under the heading "Publicity", this agreement specifically sets out: "The Province agrees to publicize the projects and programs under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act in the Province. The Government of Canada will provide publicity on a national basis."

Surely this implies an obligation on the part of the responsible ministers in both the provincial and federal administrations of tabling full details of these ARDA projects, without even waiting for requests from Opposition sources. The need for such publicity has been recognized, and it is high time that the details of all the projects in this Province were given a thorough airing in the Legislature.

The New Tutor

According to an estimate made by the British government's department of scientific and industrial research, the use of teaching machines reduces teaching and training costs possibly by half, certainly by 30 per cent.

This may be the solution to the teacher shortage problem in this country, too. At any rate, it is worth taking a look at this "tutor of tomorrow," as depicted in a recent London news item:

"Rather like a small television set with a series of buttons below the screen. The Programs are contained on 35 mm microfilms in a series of 'frames'. These are changed by the student himself operating the buttons. This new method of teaching by machine shifts the responsibility for learning to the pupil; he participates in his lesson, and is not merely acting as a receiver of information. The machine will not let the student proceed unless he has found the right answer to the question or the right solution to the problem."

HEADS AND TAILS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Voters Weary Of Political Antics

The message is getting across. Our daily press is pounding into the ears of its readers that Parliament is becoming a disgrace to the concept of democracy. Now letters from readers of this column are increasingly reflecting the rising public disgust. Our one-time politically unconscious population is getting aroused by the antics of our $18,000 a year MPs and $35,000 a year front benchers, who are using parliament, not as a forum for responsible legislators, but as a hustling for self-seeking politicking.

H. J. Giesbrecht, of Sarnia, in a letter to me calls Parliament Hill "The political sandbox played in by those kids Mike and Dief."

That rise to $18,000 a year has led Canadians to expect better value, many writers suggest. They will be much more indignant when they learn the full measure of the hidden fringe benefits that now go with the job. One MP for instance has just received a cheque for an extra $800 to reimburse his cost of air travel around Canada during the last six weeks of the 1963 session.

ENGLISH SEPARATISTS

From "Old Soldier" of Kelowna I received one of many letters criticising the government's intent to speed the French language across parts of Canada—namely, nine provinces—where our constitution does not give it official standing. "Canada is not bilingual. Who is running Canada anyhow," he asks. "Hitler?"

Another letter writer on this hottest topic of the moment suggests to me that if the French language is now to be given equal status with English in certain unauthorized parts of Canada, why should we not even more reasonably give Italian recognition in Toronto, where the second largest ethnic group is of Italian origin; and the German language equal recognition in large tracts of the Prairies where that ethnic group exceeds the French, and so on.

POSTAL LOBBY

Canadians are writing more letters to MPs than ever before. Protest, suggestion and lobby. But many Canadians still are unaware that anyone may send a letter to any M.P. postage free, if it is addressed to him at the House of Commons Ottawa, while parliament is sitting. The heaviest mail lobby today is demanding a portable universal pension plan; but this lobby is disregarded entirely here, because it is in the form of quite meaningless printed postcards, composed, distributed and perhaps even signed fleitlously by one central body. This does not represent the true voice of the people as do individual and personal letters.

PINLESS PAUL

Defence Minister Paul Hellyer expected to be the target for deep probing questions by M.Ps. The acceptance of nuclear arms by Canadian forces, the economy drive shrinking our reserve forces, and the contraction of our naval fleet are recent major policy decisions by Paul Hellyer, which should have prompted a thorough questioning. But instead, the raids on armouries and the consequent gathering up of rifles from under-protected armouries have been the subject of questions fired at him in the House of Commons. One correspondent writing to me on this subject tossed into the pot an ingenious nickname for our defence minister. "Firing-pin Paul," he called him. This suggestion prompted laughter on Parliament Hill, where another wit suggested a pithy shortening: "Why not 'Pinless Paul'?" said radio commentator Sam Ross — because many of the newly protected rifles already lacked their essential firing pin.

The old Parliament Hill tradition of succinct descriptive nicknames is dying out. The last defence minister to rate this was Brooke Claxton, who introduced the first naval aircraft carrier and therby won immortality as "Flat-top".

Sense Of Values

Vancouver Sun

More than 1,700 drivers fled after accidents in Vancouver last year. One needn't look far to find why.

To hit and run is a good gamble.

Odds are against apprehension. In any case, the maximum penalty, rarely given, is two years, whether the object struck is a person, a cow or a car. To stick around is to face a possible manslaughter trial. So, unless decency, compassion or courage prevails, why not run?

As for the hit-run driver whose excuse is that he panicked, the response of the public, in and out of the jury box, appears to be, "There but for the grace of God go I."

This is very humanitarian and very touching.

But is it apt to discourage drivers from leaving their victims to die?

We think not.

There is no intention here of debating whether William George Pollock received justice when he was fined $500 for fleeing the Empire Stadium traffic accident in which auxiliary policeman Arthur Trentham was killed. Neither do we debate that Justice Verchere, who found Mr. Pollock had "shown callous and selfish disregard for an injured person," saw fit not to suspend his driver's license.

But do let's stop moaning that the youth of today has lost its sense of values.

As long as we insist on throwing children into jail for minor crimes against property, and cluck our sympathy over the fatal cowardice of adults, we offer young people a sadly confused example.

Costs Of Education

Montreal Gazette

The difficulties that the provinces face in their finances were clearly set forth this week by the Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, Hon. James N. Allan. They have two plain causes. On the one hand, the responsibilities of the provinces have dramatically expanded. But the provinces, on the other hand, do not reap the full benefits— not even the main benefits—of what they spend.

At the time of Confederation the provinces, among other things, were given responsibility for education. It was not then a heavy responsibility. Education was not even compulsory. It was mostly financed locally. Universities were few, and were supported mostly by religious denominations, with aid from private citizens.

Ontario's spending on education, as revealed in its budget for 1964-65, will amount to more than $412 million out of a budget totalling $1,207 million. This is more than one dollar in every three, for education alone— an estimate that is about the same as that in Quebec.

While these responsibilities have exploded, the provinces do not receive a sufficient proportion of the benefits of their expenditure. For the chief results of what a province spends towards general development shows up in personal and corporation incomes. These taxing fields, however, have been mostly taken over by the Federal Government. The provinces sow more than they can reap.

Unless the problem can be somehow adjusted at the approaching federal - provincial conference, Canada faces the prospect of double taxation expanding in the personal and corporation tax fields. And the ratios in both these fields are already too high for the country's good.

No one should think that the federal - provincial conference will be simply shadow- boxing among politicians. Whatever the political manoeuvring may be, a critical problem lies at the heart of it all. And it is, in the end, the taxpayer's problem.

TEXTILE EXPORTS

Norwegian textile exports in 1963 totalled $27,923,092, more than twice the value of exports in 1959.

Social Status Of Bingo

Sarnia Observer

There is some lack of uniformity with respect to the attitude taken by authorities in the matter of bingos. Currently there is some observance of bingos by police morality and anti-gamb ling squads and charges alleging cheating have been laid.

There are those of us who frown upon bingos as being a waste of time and of money. It is more than likely that money which should go for groceries is sometimes spent on the bingo games in the hope that it can be parlayed into substantial winnings.

It can be expected, too, that there may be instances in which the sponsoring charities get less of the actual proceeds of these events than they might.

But it is a failure on the part of society as a whole that we do not provide other avenues of entertainment outside the home than bingo games. The complaint has been raised on more than one occasion by women, who are more or less cooped up at home all day, that there is nothing to do in the evening except watch television programs.

These are the people who with a slight addiction toward risk taking are looking for an escape from their routine lives. It does not occur to them that being out several nights each week checking off numbers on one or more cards can be boring also. But to them there is always that hope of easy reward.

The Irish Sweepstake would never have succeeded in Ontario as long as it did were it not for that gambling urge with which most people are possessed Many can control it just as they can control over - indulgence in food, drink, tobacco and athletics.

But there are others to whom the night or two per week at the bingo games is stimulating. They meet old friends. It seems to do something refreshing to their social status. And it must be a popular pastime or so many people would not be attending such events.

Frankly, we don't see much point in denying people this form of recreation if it is not abused

Fasting Has Its Hazards

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

The old fallacy, "If a little medicine is good, a lot is better," applies also to fasting. Going without food for several days makes a good start on any slimming plan. But prolonged starvation is a horse of another color. This drastic measure should not be undertaken except under the supervision of a physician.

A recent article in the Journal of the American Medical association told of 11 persons who consumed only water and vitamins for periods ranging from 12 to 117 days. None complained of hunger and the average loss was approximately a pound a day.

The majority were more successful during the early stage of fasting. A 450 pounder, for example, lost nine pounds in a day. The women who starved for 117 days dropped 116 pounds.

Did the hazards justify the outcome? Minor side effects included headache, nervousness, and tension. One developed an attack of gout and another became anemic. But the most striking and potentially serious complication was orthostatic hypotension. In this condition, dizziness, faintness and weakness occur on getting up from a chair or out of bed. A marked drop in blood pressure was observed in the group under study when they assumed the upright position.

Fasting for a few days before going on a low caloric diet is effective and well tolerated by up to 2½ pounds may be lost daily. Teen-agers should not go without food for more than five days, whereas adults can fast safely for two weeks, provided they are healthy. Intermittent fasts for a day or two are helpful while dieting, especially when the project reaches a standstill.

Short intervals of starvation are suggested only when the individual is unable to relax by the usual methods. These include a low caloric diet, exercise, and the use of appetite suppressant drugs, psychiatric guidance, and crash and liquid diets. The starvation regimen allows the use of water, weak tea and coffee, and other low caloric beverages. A vitamin mineral mixture usually is prescribed.

FOOT TUMOR

V. M. writes: What can you tell me about Morton's toe, also called Morton's neuroma?

REPLY

Dr. Thomas G. Morton described two foot disorders. One is a painful condition involving the base of the second toe. The other is a nerve tumor (neuroma) between the third and fourth metatarsal bones. This lesion is extremely sensitive and must be removed to obtain relief.

MORE THAN MINERALS

F. B. T. writes: I read your article on mineral springs. What minerals can I put in the bath water to get the same effect?

REPLY

The good results are not brought about by the minerals but by the heat of the water, plus the relaxation associated with staying at a spa.

COFFEE AND DIZZINESS

A. W. writes: Could too much coffee (five cups a day) be responsible for dizziness on bending over?

REPLY

No, but the coffee might aggravate conditions responsible for this symptom, such as hypertension or other vascular disorders.

MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

Mrs. K. writes: How deep beneath the surface can a skin cancer go?

REPLY

Through all the layers of the skin. It grows slowly but, like any other cancer, it can kill if untreated.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Remain active in parkinsonism.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 2, 1939)

Charlottetown City Council at an emergency session tonight decided to appoint D.F. Archibald, C.A. of Charlottetown and W.A. Morell, C.A. of Amherst, N.S., to prepare a financial report for the year ending January 15, 1940, and a statement of assets and liabilities on the City of Charlottetown as to that date.

Robert Large, Charlottetown, left today for Aulac, N.B., where he will assume a position as assistant engineer at the new radio station recently constructed by the CBC. Mr. Large has held a position on the engineering staff of C.F.C.Y. here for the past two years.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 2, 1954)

A large barn on the farm of Cecil Ford at Brackley Beach was totally destroyed by fire with all its contents early this evening. Mr. Ford had recently completed threshing and the barn which had been remodelled and modernized was well filled with grain and seed.

His Honour Lieutenant Governor T.W.L. Prowse, accompanied by his aides, Capt. J.J. Connolly, V.R.D., Lt. Col A. W. Rogers, E.D., and Wing Commander A.G. MacMillan, D.F.C., attended the official opening of the Provincial Legislature today.

BANK RESOURCES

Norway's three largest commercial banks had total resources of $904,615,385 at the end of 1963.

The Vietnamese War

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The United States appears to have considered and then set aside for the moment plans for an escalation of the Vietnamese war to penetrate the Communist home front in North Viet Nam.

Yet the war is going so badly for the U.S.-supported South Vietnamese that some form of politically motivated enlargement may become necessary, despite the view of State Secretary Dean Rusk that no miracles are to be found in the north.

President Johnson is being accused by his opponents of wielding a weak and confusing foreign policy. They point to the disarray in the western alliance, French recognition of Communist China, expansion of trade by allies with the Communist world, including shipments to Cuba.

For most of the criticism, the administration has ready answers, including the argument that the U.S. no longer has a monopoly over the atom bomb and cannot dictate the changing pattern of world affairs.

DIFFERENT STORY

But South Viet Nam is a different story. Both the Johnson and Kennedy administrations subscribed to the theory that if South Viet Nam falls, all of southeast Asia will topple gradually into the hands of the Communists, radically changing the balance of power between East and West.

The problem in South Viet Nam is disorganization and confusion. Despite the coups that have taken place, government leaders in Saigon have failed to win popular support among the peasants.

Defence Secretary Robert McNamara now is being sent out for another on-the-spot inspection. Saigon reports would indicate the Vietnamese forces simply are losing the war. They need bolstering.

France argues there is no alternative to neutrality but the U.S. maintains it will not accept neutrality unless the Viet Cong withdraw. With the Viet Cong pressing its military successes, the prospect of voluntary withdrawal appears remote.

The only alternative that appears politically acceptable to the U.S. in this election year is intensified action.

Banks In Politics

Winnipeg Free Press

Doubtless other provinces will be attracted by British Columbia's plan to establish a provincial bank. This project offers the great advantage of a local management conversant with local needs and concerned primarily with the development of local business. But it also involves dangers quite apparent in the latest announcements of the Bennett government.

The provincial treasury will buy and hold a quarter of the bank's stock. It will be its largest depositor. With these direct levers, and its own indirect influence, the government can certainly control the bank's policies if it chooses to do so.

All banks chartered by Parliament are subject, of course, to federal law but within that broad context they operate as they please To the extent of its lending capacity each bank makes or refuses to make loans according to its own exclusive judgment. Hence of a government controls a bank it will be able to decide whether an applicant for credit shall receive it or not.

The temptation to use a government bank for political purposes is obvious. Only a strong and peculiarly virtuous government could resist the unjustified demands of its partisan friends for credit and treat its enemies impartially. The old evil of patronage will find a new and powerful agency in any bank exposed to the secret pressures of politics.

Premier Bennett doubtless has no such sinister intentions when he undertvrites a bank in British Columbia. His only object, he says, is to make sure that the private business of his province shall have adequate access to credit needed for its rapid growth and shall not depend entirely on the judgment of remote bankers in central Canada. An extra element of healthy competition will be introduced into the money market.

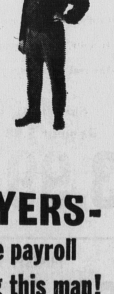
This is a sound proposition in theory, and the provincial bank will probably operate at the start on strict business principles, but the danger of political interference remains. Even if Mr. Bennett refuses to influence the bank in any way, a successor less scrupulous could use this handy instrument in the interests of some political party and against the public interest.

SWITCH TO CORN

JAKARTA (AP)—The Indonesian agriculture ministry is reported to have ordered a crash corn planting program in rainshort areas of Indonesia to prevent a "worse disaster" in this year's food production. Millions an overpopulated Java Island face acute food shortages. Rice is the staple food in this country and corn has been looked upon as second class, fit only for animals and hard times.

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army operates in 86 countries with an estimated to the secret pressures of politics. 000.



EMPLOYERS—
you can reduce payroll costs by hiring this man!

The Federal Department of Labour will pay you up to *$75.00 a month*—for up to 12 months—for *each* employee you hire who is 45 or over. The worker must have been unemployed for 6 of the last 9 months. All new jobs, or jobs vacated before September 1st, 1963, are eligible under this new Government program to encourage the hiring of mature, productive employees. **Call your nearest National Employment Office soon, for full details.**

Issued by authority of the

HON. ALLAN J. MacEACHEN, MINISTER OF LABOUR, CANADA