The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

Published every week-day morning at 165 Prince Street Charlottetown, P.E.I., by the Thomson Company Ltd.
Ian A. Burnett, Publisher and General Manager
Frank Walker, Editor
Member Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association
Member of The Canadian Press
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Branch offices at Summerside, Montague and Alberton
Represented Nationally by: Thomson Newspapers Advertising Service
44 King Street West, Toronto, Ont.
640 Cathcart St., Montreal
1030 West Georgia St., Vancouver
By Carrier Charlottetown, Summerside 30c per week.
By Mail elsewhere in P.E.I. $9.00 per annum. Other Provinces and United States $12.00 per annum.

PAGE 4 SATURDAY, SEPT. 6, 1958.

Our Bi-Centenary Too

On the night of October 1st bonfires will flare across the Province of Nova Scotia and by rights they should burn in Prince Edward Island too. Nova Scotia, of course, is celebrating the 200th anniversary of representative Government and Prince Edward Island was part of Nova Scotia at the time, having become a separate province only in 1769.

It would be appropriate, too, if there could be some message from this Province for the special session of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly which meets October 2nd. Both it and our own Legislative Assembly are direct descendants of the first representative body to be called together on what is now Canadian soil.

The history of government in this part of the world is one of constant striving by lawful means to bring the exercise of power in line with the real interests and wishes of the people. There was no such upsetting of constituted authority as was experienced in the Thirteen Colonies. For that very reason, however, it has been possible to make progress step by step, an advantage which is still important.

The American constitution is a rigid thing compared with our own. They have not yet, for example, managed to make the executive branch of government responsible to the legislative branch or establish the primacy of the popularly elected House of Representatives over the Senate in Congress.

The primacy of the Canadian House of Commons over the Senate also is still to be established, but there is not likely to be anyone who will doubt that the powers of the Canadian Senate will be curbed long before similar action can be taken in the United States.

Be that as it may, Prince Edward Islanders and, indeed, all Canadians join their Nova Scotian brethern in celebrating the beginning of the third hundred years of representative government. We should bear in mind our own responsibilities as citizens while we remember the way our fathers carried out theirs.

An Export Problem

The Aluminum Company of Canada, Britain's traditional supplier of that important commodity, is reported to have asked the British Board of Trade to cut down imports of aluminum from the Soviet Union. It seems that for some time now the British have been buying fairly large quantities from that source, chiefly because the price is lower than that of the Canadian product.

This disparity in prices between Canada and some other producing countries is one of the big problems facing Canadian business—not only in minerals but in many other commodities. No country can be blamed for obtaining its imports from the cheapest source; and the fact is that Canada is one of the most expensive sources of raw materials and manufactured products alike.

Some people blame this state of affairs on the labour unions which seem to be under the impression that there is no limit to what a given industry can afford to pay in wages. The unions, for their part, are prone to blame industry which, they maintain, insists on higher profits than are economically feasible. There may be some truth in both views But wherever the greater part of the blame lies, the point is that Canada can never expect to reach its full export potential so long as Canadian prices are not competitive with those of other exporting countries. This is a plain economic law that cannot be ignored.

Telling Time

In an article in a recent issue of the National Geographic Magazine Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, Director Emeritus of the Bureau of Standards and a trustee of the National Geographic Society, explains how the radioactivity of living things provides the key to locked-in secrets of age.

Radio carbon, discovered in nature only about 20 years ago, is the most spectacular of the radioactive materials used in dating processes. Since it has an atomic weight of 14, instead of carbon's normal 12, it is often referred to as "carbon-14". All living organisms contain the same amount of carbon-14. After death, organic materials lose it at the same rate. Half of it disappears in 5,568 years. Half the remainder disappears in the next 5,568 years—and so on until it is all gone.

Dr. Willard F. Libby, a nuclear scientist who is now a member of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, was the first to work out a method for telling time by radio carbon. How accurate his measurements are may be seen in his estimate of the age of an ancient Egyptian funeral barque dug up some years ago. His estimate was 3,621 years. Further research established the age as 3,800 years.

Some important findings have been made by means of carbon-14. It shows, for instance, that the last ice age ended about 10,000 years ago, only half as far back as had previously been believed. Man's shift from hunting to primitive farming took place in 7,000 BC.—the date given to charcoal dug up at Jarmo, Iraq, believed to be the oldest agricultural village. At the same time, men were living in Alabama; and 3,000 years before that—10,000 B. C.—hunters in the Southwest part of North America were hunting prehistoric beasts. This finding is in contradiction to the long held views that Indians had inhabited the New World only a few centuries before Columbus came.

Colombo Plan Funds

The Prime Minister has described as "pure conjecture" a news report that the Government is considering boosting its Colombo Plan contributions by as much as 50 per cent. He did not say, however, that the report was untrue; and certainly there is no reason why the Government should hesitate to make a considerable increase in the allocation. This year's amount is $35 million. Another amount of $1,600,000 has been set aside for Ghana and the West Indies.

If these contributions were outright "give-aways", it might be argued that this is not a particularly good year for the Government to increase them, what with a heavy current deficit and the promise of a bigger one next year. It must be remembered, however, that a large part of these grants is returned to this country in trade. Since the Colombo Plan was established eight years ago, Canada has contributed about $200 million to the fund. But much of this—perhaps as much as half of it—has come back in payment for industrial equipment; and, of course, as these countries advance industrially, they will need more and more equipment which Canada is in a position to supply. It is reasonable to suppose that they will prefer to deal with those countries which have shown sympathetic interest in their problems.

But the countries of South and South East Asia, the main beneficiaries of Canada's contributions, need food as much as they need industrial equipment From that standpoint, this has been a particularly hard year in India and Pakistan. Canada could easily afford to send them large quantities of wheat on a long term credit arrangement, in addition to the gifts which have been forwarded. Surely, it is better—and wiser—to put the wheat to use, feeding hungry people, even if the recipients need 25 or 30 years in which to pay for it, than to allow it to go to waste.

EDITORIAL NOTES

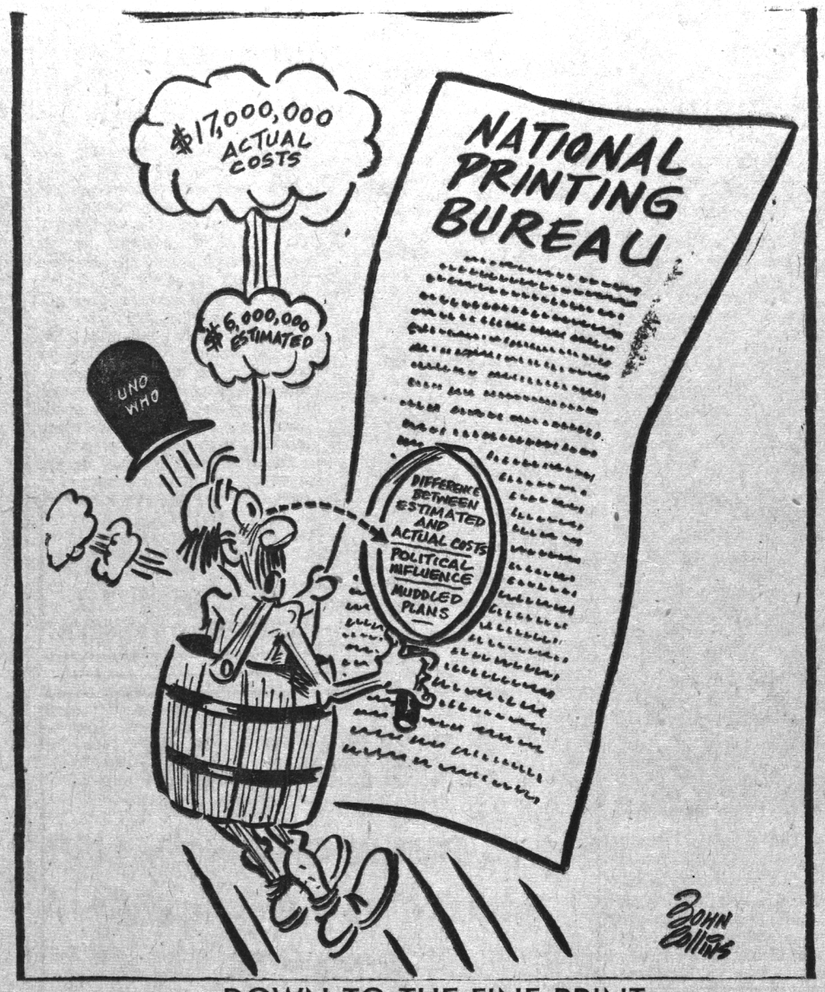
Opposition leader Hollet says that in all probability the Newfoundland Government has spent "most of the budget" before it was brought down in the legislature. Isn't that the way most Governments operate?

* * *

The Japanese Foreign Minister thinks that China intends her current operations against the Matsu and Quemoy islands as "a lever for international recognition" rather than as an invasion prelude. It seems like a poor way to build up goodwill.

* * *

The United States Congress has passed a bill granting $25,000 a year pensions to ex-Presidents. Neither Mr. Hoover nor Mr. Truman has expressed displeasure wth the legislation, although they are both men of means. They are probably thinking of future ex-Presidents who may not be as well off financially.



DOWN TO THE FINE PRINT

U. K. OPINION

Banks Extend Consumer Credit

By M. McINTYRE HOOD
Special London (Eng.) Correspondent for The Guardian

LONDON—Chancellor of the Exchequer Heathcote Amory must be chuckling these days. He has been besieged with advice to the effect that he do something to ease credit restrictions and increase the buying power of the people to stimulate business and industry. But Lord Monkton, chairman of the Midland Bank, has done it for him without the Chancellor having to turn a finger.

The announcement by Lord Monkton that the Midland Bank will institute a system of personal loans for its customers at five per cent interest, and with no security other than character and stability, has had a chain reaction which will set sales of consumer goods soaring. Of course, the Canadian Banks have had a system of personal loans for years. But this is a new thing in the United Kingdom, and it has taken financial circles by storm.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the Midland Bank's action is the fact that in recent weeks most of the leading Banks have been buying heavily into the hire purchase finance companies. Most of the bigger hire purchase firms were involved. There were no big buys left for the Midland. So it came up with this, for Britain, revolutionary idea of placing funds at the disposal of the public, at rates much lower then those of the finance companies, for the purchase of cars, electrical equipment for the home, furniture, and other commodities.

Already, this has snowballed. The other banks are following suit.

One of the biggest finance companies has reduced its rate of interest to 3 3-4 percent. It looks as if everyone is pleading with the public to come along and borrow money and spend it to keep the country's economy at a high level. And the public is responding, running in droves to the Midland Bank to get some of the easy money, at a low interest rate. Chancellor Amory's problem of getting more money into circulation has been well solved for him, without the government

EMPIRE TRADE BOOST

Lord Beaverbrook's Daily Express is again beating the drum for Commonwealth and Empire Trade. It took its text from an article written by High Commissioner Geo. A. Drew and published it in the quarterly magazine "Impulse". In it, Mr. Drew said there was a stronger sentiment in Canada in favor of greater trade with Britain, and that in the next few years there would be a tremendous expansion in the Canadian Market.

Seizing on this, the Express has come out strongly in support of raising the levels of Imperial preferences to stimulate Commonwealth trade, and urges that this form the keynote of the coming Commonwealth Trade Conference in Montreal.

It may have been coincidence, but on the day following the drum beating in the Express, the London Evening Standard came out with a special three-page supplement setting forth the opportunities for greater trade between Britain and Canada.

ANXIOUS ABOUT ICELAND

The average Britisher, we have found, is not very easily aroused by international affairs. But we have sensed, in the last week, a very deep concern on the part of many to whom we have talked about the possibilities of trouble with Iceland over the enforcement of a 12 mile fishing limit around that island country. At the moment of writing both sides are adamant. The Iceland Fisheries Minister says the 12 mile limit will be enforced, and British Fishing vessels violating it will be seized, taken into port, their catches and nets confiscated and fines imposed. The British government says to the fishing boat Captains, "Go ahead, and fish up to the old limit and ignore the new Iceland regulation, and we will send gunboats to protect you."

This could have all the makings of a first class international row. What the British Public is asking is just this, "What happens if British Ships of War fire on Iceland Patrol Boats trying to enforce the new limit?" That might well be even more than a $64,000 question. The people here are showing a vital interest in it. And they are hoping that the efforts of the NATO Council to effect a compromise will be successful.

WELL KEPT SECRET

When Julie Andrews, star of "My Fair Lady" whose connection with Canada we were the first to reveal had to take a few days off because of tonsilitis, much was made of the success of Tonia Lee, her chorus girl understudy, who stepped into the leading role on a few hours notice. It was considered phenomenal that this chorus girl should give so excellent a performance on her first appearance.

Now the secret is out of the bag that she is not merely a chorus girl. She had a previous successful career as the star of a musical show, but under another name.

VISITORS WELCOME

Readers of The Guardian who visit London are cordially invited to visit the office of Canada Review, a Canadian newspaper published in the United Kingdom, and Associated with this newspaper. The staff of Canada Review, headed by M. McIntyre Hood as editor, will be happy to welcome all visiting Canadians and to assist them with information, advice and guidance whenever possible. The address is 63 Fleet St., London E. AC. 4. just a short walk from Trafalgar Square and St. Paul's Cathedral.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TOURIST PROSPECTS

Sir,—I read with much interest the letter of Pro Bono Publico in this morning's Guardian with reference to the Rocky Point Ferry. I am sending an article by a tourist which appeared in the Guardian of August 3, 1950, referring to the tremendous possibilities for development at Rocky Point.

Now with the proposal to establish a National Historic Park at Rocky Point the possibilities for development should be away beyond what the tourist had in mind in 1950.

I thought possibly you would like to insert the enclosure. Just think of the possibilities right at the front door of Charlottetown, and the need, greater than ever, for a first class ferry service to develop the tourist business and give citizens without cars a chance to enjoy a real outing. It would not matter if it was necessary to have a moderate toll for all cars and passengers to cover expenses.

It might be good policy on the part of residents in town and country to hold a joint meeting and let the politicians know what the voters demand and have a right to expect.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ROCKY POINT RESIDENT

(The article, too long to republish here, advocates the development of a luxury resort for summer and winter at a cost of approximately four million dollars. Pointing out the beautiful scenery and beaches, the writer was sure that it would be a gold mine. Ed.)

Will De Gaulle Step Down?

By Godfrey Anderson
Associated Press

Will Gen. Charles de Gaulle step down as he promised after getting France on the tracks with a new constitution?

That is the question many Frenchmen are asking. And more and more seem to be coming around to the view that the general intends to stay.

They point out that in the new constitution he has proposed, the post of president of the republic is tailor-made for him. The next president will have stronger powers than any French head of state since Napoleon. Many Frenchmen think he could be virtually a dictator if he wished.

De Gaulle has laughed off the very idea of wanting such personal power. "What, me a dictator at 67" he asked a press conference just before he became premier.

PLANNED SIX-MONTH STAY

When de Gaulle formed his government after the military-civil revolt in Algiers brought France to the verge of civil war last May, he said he would stay in the job six months. His avowed aims: To restore the nation's shattered unity, give Algeria a new deal and France a new constitution.

The constitution, now being studied by an advisory group of 39 experts headed by wartime Premier Paul Reynaud, is based on de Gaulle's cherished aim of strengthening the executive at the expense of parliament.

Until now French sovereignty has rested in the hands of the turbulent and factional National Assembly. Because the deputies never could agree on a common policy in the face of daily mounting problems French governments formed and fell like ninepins. There have been 25 already since the Second World War and might have been many more had de Gaulle not stepped in.

NEW REPUBLIC AHEAD

The constitution, if adopted in a national referendum Sept. 28, would start France out under its fifth republic with the kind of strong president de Gaulle has always wanted.

Instead of being just a ceremonial figurehead, whose only really important duty lay in naming the next premier, he will have a strong political role to play.

Among his prerogatives during seven years of office:

To name the premier and, on the premier's advice, the members of his cabinet;

To preside at cabinet meetings

To call referendums on important national issues;

To dissolve the National Assembly and call new elections within 40 days;

To sign governmental decrees;

To address messages to parliament, which may not be debated;

To be supreme commander of the armed forces.

Finally—and this is what disturbs many by its lack of preciseness — the president may "take the measures required by circumstances" in cases where the institutions of the republic, national independence or the integrity of French territory are threatened. That, the critics point out, could be a blank cheque for almost anything at all.

Such a president conjures up for many Frenchmen their old nightmare of "the Man on Horseback"—a military dictator who would give the republic its marching orders and rule alone.

Many Aids For The Crippled

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

PERSONS crippled by disease or accident too often try to "go it alone." They don't realize that there are hundreds upon hundreds of trained experts ready and eager to help rehabilitate them.

While I admire the determination of these handicapped persons not to become a burden upon anyone, I think they should take full advantage of the facilities available to them.

USEFUL LIFE

With competent help, they can return to a useful life more readily than if they were to depend solely upon themselves or their families to decide what should be done.

The same, of course, holds true for the parents of children crippled early in life. These handicapped youngsters should have all the help that is available.

Last year more than 156,000 crippled persons were helped by the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults Throughout the country, the society maintains nearly 1,400 service centers and other projects.

AVAILABLE FACILITIES

Here is a partial list of what the society has to offer those who need it:

Diagnostic and evaluation clinics where services of medical specialists and the required equipment are made available for diagnosis of crippling conditions.

Treatment centers which provide treatment services under medical prescription and professional supervision on an outpatient basis.

Rehabilitation centers which offer a concentration of services including at least one each from the medical, psychological, social and vocational areas.

Residential centers providing in-patient care to convalescent patients, surgical or rehabilitation cases.

TRAVELLING THERAPIST

Itinerant services and therapy for the homebound, brought to the community by a therapist traveling over a certain geographic area.

Special summer service in speech and physical therapy.

Nursery schools and pre-school centers designed for pre-school handicapped children and offering only education and recreation

Equipment loan pools where orthopedic equipment owned by a crippled children's society is lent to handicapped persons on a prescription basis.

Day camps, resident camps, public school units and many other services also are available. Ask your local or state society what services are offered in your area.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

N. D.: Does a baby have as good a chance for life if the mother has a Caesarean as if it is born normally?

Answer: The mortality rate is higher in babies delivered by Caesarean operations.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
((Sept. 6, 193)

The King's County Exhibition, which was held yesterday in Georgetown, was the most successful in the history of the organization. The number of live stock exhibited this year was 25 percent greater than last year, and the number of exhibits in the building was equal to last year's showing. Fine weather permitted the attendance of a large number of interested spectators.

Miss Nora Bateson, Director of the Carnegie Library Demonstration in Prince Edward Island, addressed a meeting of citizens in the Summerside Library yesterday afternoon to discuss ways and means of bringing a branch of the Carnegie Library to Summerside. This, she said, has been made possible through the recent grant from the Carnegie Foundation to the Provincial Government.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Sept. 6, 1948)

Modifications in the Trade Union Act passed in the Legislature last March will be introduced at the next session, Premier J. Walter Jones intimated last evening. The requirement for licensing of labour organizations will be modified and it is likely also that the prohibition with repect to non-residents will be repealed.

Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Veterans Affairs was the guest speaker at the annual Provincial Convention of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L. at Souris yesterday. Hon. Mr. Gregg suggested that although the welfare of disabled comrades and their dependents was a major concern of the legion, the members should give strong suport to those efforts designed for the betterment of P.E.I. and Canada in general.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There are just two sorts of women, those who do not believe what their husbands tell them, and those who haven't any husbands.—Brandon Sun

A mother may think her children have grown during the Winter, but she never knows just how much until she gets out their last summer's clothes.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

A doctor says whittling for an hour a day will relieve tension. That's all right, Doc. for anyone with a wooden leg or a block head but when you have to pay the dealer a quarter for a bit of wood hardly big enough to pick a tooth it's an expensive pastime unless you know someone who's wrecking an old house.—Ottawa Citizen

"Passing the hat" is the favorite standby of Hyde Park orators, organ-grinders with monkeys and impromptu sidewalk performers. It has no place in a modern election campaign. Thus, it is to be hoped that Liberals of Grenville—Dundas riding will overcome the bad impression created at the recent meeting in the audience was comfortably seated, the hat came rolling around for contributions.—Brockville Recorder

John Foster Dulles is a reformer, not a diplomat. His moralizing preachments endear him to no one. And like most reformers, he is about as resilient in his thinking as a concrete outhouse. Such men are dangerous in positions of great power. For the good of the country, Mr. Dulles should retire to Duck island and bore the birds.—Detroit Free Press

After what he considers to be adequate research into the subject,t Dr. James F. Bender, a New York psychologist, has come to the conclusion that women are smarter than men. It may or may not be a sound conclusion, but Dr. Bender is certainly not the first person to arrive at it. Millions of women could tell him that he has merely confirmed what has long been obvious to them.—Winnipeg Free Press

Little worries don't hurt anybody, says a doctor. Except the friends you insist on telling them to.—London Free Press

Those Russian agricultural scinists may have started something by growing a three-foot-long carrot. Now they'll have to develop a two-ton rabbit to eat it.—St. Catharines Standard

Our space explorers hope to find out what the face of the moon looks like, and their report is anxiously awaited by all public figures who have been described by the news magazines as "moon-faced."—Winnipeg Tribu

Although his sports car flipped over and over like a ferris wheel when he lost control of it on a highway, a young Orangeville driver walked away from the accident only slightly dazed. He was wearing a safety belt. Few motorists may be involved in such an accident. But before they dismiss this one from their minds, they should consider safety belts for their own cars, in the light of present driving conditions.—Toronto Star

MAXIMS

People generally do not appreciate what they do not suffer for. A thing is held to be cheap if it did not cost dearly. Honor is lightly worn if it is easily attained. Inherited liberty is too often carelessly used until it is repossessed through sacrifices.

The Poets Corner

NOTHING IS LOST

Now, at the turning of the year
we stand
With Janus, that sagacious god
who faced
In two directions and who gravely scanned
The seasons' portents variously traced.
Where leafy lattices concealed the sky
We watch familiar landmarks reappear—
Steeple and barn and silo—and the eye
Ranges through distance free frosty-clear.

If outwardly the world expands, no sense
Of our diminishment can make less keen
The bang of woodsmoke or the redolence
Of apple-musk. From Janus we may glean
Wisdom and certitude enough to say:
Nothing is lost by looking either way!

—LESLIE NELSON JENNINGS, in the New York Times

The Age Old Story

I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down.

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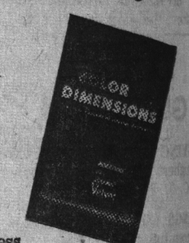

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