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 7037).

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Not over 35c per week by carrier.

$11.00 a year by mail or rural routes and areas not serviced by carrier.

$14.00 a year off Island and U.K. $20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.

Not over 7c per single copy.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation

PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1963

Reassuring News

The announcement that the RCAF Station at Summerside is to be continued, that there will be no appreciable change in the number of personnel and that the Defense Department has authorized the signing of a million dollar contract for improvements to the runways, comes as a great relief after all the alarm generated over reports that the station might be closed down.

All concerned in pressing for a firm assurance from Ottawa in this matter are to be congratulated on their efforts. It must be assumed, however, that the question was primarily a military one, and on this point a valuable contribution to the discussion was made in the Commons on Monday by Hon. J. Angus MacLean. Himself a Wing Commander of the RCAF (Reserve) with war service which won him the Distinguished Flying Cross, he was in good position to speak with authority.

Mr. MacLean's chief point was that any sudden cut-backs in defense, under pressure of the treasury board or otherwise, are ill-advised until a reasoned policy can be worked out and until the defense committee has had a chance to study the matter and make recommendations. He noted that the Glassco commission on governmental expenditure had recommended the closing of only one base, namely the defense college in Victoria, and suggested that the economies be limited to this recommendation. He also stressed the important role of the submarine in modern warfare and urged that nothing be done to affect Maritime Command of the RCAF that would reduce its ability to meet submarine attack.

But it is to our present Cabinet respresentative, Hon. J. Watson MacNaught, that the chief credit goes for the news announced yesterday. Mr. MacNaught had from the start emphasized his belief that the rumored close-down would not materialize, and had warned against making too much of an internal review which the authorities were making of various airports. He pledged himself to fight the issue if it arose in the Cabinet, and this might have involved his resignation if the fight went against him. It was a contingency which didn't arise, but his attitude may well have helped to bring about this fortunate result.

So much for the present. What the future holds for these costly defense establishments in the event of a further easing of cold war tensions, and for communities which become too dependent on them economically and otherwise, is another matter. It is perhaps time that we gave it more serious consideration than we have been doing.

Sir Alec's Campaign

When he relinquished his peerage, Sir Alec Douglas-Home acquired the unique distinction of being the first Prime Minister of Britain to have no seat in either House of Parliament. When Parliament opens on November 12, however, he expects to be present in person. In the meantime he will contest Kinross-West Perthshire, a rural constituency in the Scottish highlands that is safely Conservative.

It was Sir Alec's decision to postpone the opening of Parliament until he was elected, and for this he has been sharply attacked by the Labor opposition. His action involved a departure from the agreement reached by all parties last July as to when the Parliament would reconvene. To avoid this Sir Alec could have deputized one of his Cabinet, or the Cabinet could have exercised its joint responsibility as the executive for Parliament while he stood for election. Then he would not have incurred Opposition leader Harold Wilson's charge of throwing away parliamentary time and treating the Commons "as his awkward or refractory tenants."

Sir Alec has countered this jibe with a democratic demeanor. Opening his campaign in Perth, from the rostrum of a livestock market, he sought to steal Labor's thunder with a speech promising vigorous modernization and expansion of Britain's economy and social services. He also brought his foreign affairs experience into play with a pledge to maintain Britain's nuclear strength while exploiting every opportunity to improve East-West relations.

Some observers feel that the peer turned commoner is proving himself a stronger opponent for Labor than was generally expected. But Labor is maintaining its lead in the public opinion polls taken since his appointment, and the real tests are still ahead. The Prime Minister will have no more than a year in which to mend the party fortunes, for a general election must be held at the latest next October.

One test is closer at hand. Not the by-election for the safe Scottish seat, November 7, but another one, on the same day, at Luton, a constituency about 40 miles northeast of London. It has a Conservative majority of 5,000. This is what the pundits will be watching for a sign of what Sir Alec can or cannot do as the new Conservative leader.

Miss LaMarsh's Hopes

Health Minister LaMarsh has assured a meeting of the National Liberal Women's Federation that the Government is not shelving its national pension plan, as some newspapers have alleged. She hopes to see it proceeded with at this session of Parliament or, if that proves impossible, "at the beginning of the year—at the next session."

It wasn't the newspapers, however, which were responsible for the lack of assurance shown by Government spokesmen in dealing with this matter after the Ontario provincial election. Miss LaMarsh had actively participated in that campaign, in favor of the Liberal provincial leader who had charged Premier Robarts with trying to sabotage the federal pension plan in favor of his funded pension scheme for Ontario.

The overwhelming victory of the Robarts Government at the polls seemed to put a crimp in the Canada Pension Plan—not because Mr. Robarts had opposed it (he only stated he wanted more light on the matter) but because it was the Liberal line to so misrepresent him. By lending herself to this campaign Miss LaMarsh blundered grievously. What looked like a good vote-catcher turned out to be nothing of the kind, and the smear of partisan politics she put on the issue hasn't entirely rubbed off yet.

Let us hope that the Government will, indeed, be able to implement its promise of getting the national plan into effect early next year. In the meantime, however, Premier Robarts' stipulation still holds good. No public hearings have been held to examine the plan's objectives, its real costs, its adequacy, or its workability. If it was properly conceived, it should be able to stand up to the most searching inquiry. Miss LaMarsh should get busy on these preliminary steps, if she intends to carry out her latest promise to the Liberal women's organization.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Commissioner C.W. Harrison of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose resignation at the end of this month has been announced by Prime Minister Pearson, has a unique distinction. He is the only officer in the force who was a member of the old Royal Northwest Mounted Police.

* * *

London's Westminster Theatre, in Victoria, is installing a simultaneous translating system so that parties of 25 or more foreign visitors will be able to follow the action of the play in their own language. Under the new system, four translations can be relayed to earphones among the seats simultaneously.

MAKES IT HARD TO HOUSECLEAN

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Trend Now Toward Youthful Ministries

Political leaders in the democratic countries are getting younger.

West Germany's "Old Man" has retired. Following this trend, and that of U.S.A. which has a comparative child of 46 as President is the new British government.

Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home has appointed a huge Ministry of 38 members. His predecessor, Harold Macmillan, had two less. Of those, only 21 senior ministers were included in the Cabinet; the other 15 were misleadingly known as "Ministers of Cabinet rank". There were also four lowlier ministers, a chief whip, and 33 Parliamentary under-secretaries to complete the massive "Ministry."

In contrast, the U.S.A. cabinet consists of only ten members, while our federal ministry consists of a cabinet of 26 ministers and 16 Parliamentary secretaries.

LOW AVERAGE AGE

The new Douglas-Home group of 38 ministers ranges in age from 61 years to 39. The oldest member is 61 year old Earl of Dundee, who is a minister not in the cabinet. There are two 60 year olds, the Prime Minister himself and his bypassed rival for that post, "Rab" Butler. Other Cabinet members, who had been considered possible successors to the retiring prime minister, are 56 year old Lord Hailsham, 47 year old Ted Heath, and 46 year old Reginald Maudling.

The 9th oldest minister is Winston Churchill's 55 year old son-in-law Duncan Sandys, who as Minister for Commonwealth Relations has visited Canada. His other son-in-law in the cabinet, Agriculture Minister Christopher Soames, is only 43. An impressive total of seventeen ministers, or nearly half the group, are in their forties, and three more are only 39 years old.

The average age of this youthful ministry is 48 years and 5 months.

Our present federal cabinet averages 51 years and 7 months. The ages of ministers range from the 71 years of Senator Ross Macdonald to the 38 of Health Minister Judy LaMarsh. Prime Minister Pearson is 66; then comes Forestry Minister Jack Nicholson at 61, and Foreign Minister Paul Martin and Justice Minister Leonel Chevrier both 60.

As well as Judy LaMarsh, one other minister is still in his thirties: Defence Minister Paul Hellyer is 39.

Six ministers are is their forties: Privy Council president Maurice Lamontagne. Immigration Minister Guy Favreau, Revenue Minister Jack Godbout, Labour Minister Allan MacEachen, Veterans Minister Roger Teillet and Associate Defence Minister Lucien Cardin.

It is interesting that two of the cabinet's three outstanding successes, Favreau and MacEachen, are included in this age group; the third new political star is only just out of it — 51 year old Trade Minister Mitchell Sharp.

Favreau and Sharp are now sitting in their first parliament; that they have achieved national stardom in six months as parliamentarians and ministers suggests that young dogs can successfully learn new tricks, and that there is no premium on old age.

Considerably older than this Liberal cabinet average are the Conservative MP in the present Parliament who served as ministers in the last. These number 13, and range in age from the 68 years of John Diefenbaker, through the 65 of George Nowlan and Gordon Churchill and the 64 of Hugh John Flemming, down to the baby of the group, 42 year old Paul Martineau. This representative from the Quebec side of the Ottawa Valley served as a minister less than six months before the last parliament was dissolved, yet he certainly outshines many of his former colleagues who were considerably older.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

"TRICK OR TREAT"

Sir:—To grown-ups Oct. 31 will be Hallowe'en, just another date on the calendar But to the small fry it will be "Trick or Treat" night. A night for the little people to gad about in strange looking costumes: and no matter where you live the little people will find you and demand their pound of flesh.

So, to avoid having your windows chalked and your garbage pails strewn about, you'd be well advised to stock up on candies, apples, cookies, and other toothsome treats, to appease the young fry.

I believe that most people get a kick out of seeing these Hallowe'en sprites. The few innocent pranks they are sure to pull should offend none. So let the little people have their night of fun.

But policemen will need to have their guard up against acts of vandalism, such as we have experienced in the past few months, at the hands of older youth, who care nothing about the treat. The "trick" will be their battle cry. And in some cases the tricks will be the destruction of property—anyone's property.

Last year several Canadian towns and cities were taken over by groups of vandals armed with eggs of ancient vintage and over ripe tomatoes. These they threw at passing automobiles as well as pedestrians, without beer or bacon. Hydrants were opened, flooding streets and sidewalks, and several false fire alarms were pulled.

Confronted by stern magistrates, the tricksters said: "We were just having fun."

Let us hope we don't have much fun this Hallowe'en — no more engaging in hoodlum nonsense and petty crime. "Trick or treat", may be tolerated in the young, but destruction of property by older groups is not just an innocent prank.

Rather does wanton lawlessness come under the category of crime. For which there can be no excuse.

To you older youth I say, put away childish things and conduct yourselves like good citizens on Hallowe'en night.

I am, Sir, etc.,

F.H. MacARTHUR

Charlottetown.

A Slowly Dying Dream?

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The prospect of placing a man on the moon by the end of this decade now appears to be just a slowly dying dream. Russia might have done it, but Soviet Premier Khrushchev says he no longer is interested. While the U.S. would like to do it, technical accomplishments so far indicate the U.S. still has a long road to travel just to catch up to what Russia has done so far.

It is probably Khrushchev's desire that the U.S. keep well behind and not close the space gap that caused him to announce his withdrawal from the moon race. For it is this very challenge of a race that aided President Kennedy's campaign to gain the billions of dollars from Congress to keep the American space program moving at high speed.

WHAT'S THE HURRY?

Now some legislators are beginning to wonder what all the hurry is about, especially when Khrushchev makes clear he won't try to get to the moon first. Moreover, the U.S. national debt is soaring and more legislators want to put an axe to the U.S. budget to halt the series of budget deficits that have contributed to the inflated debt.

The ironic twist is that while the Kennedy administration has been placing emphasis on the moon race, the president is well aware the U.S. military concern is not so much to beat the Russians to the moon as to provide in the process the kind of American skill that could successfully meet a Soviet military challenge in space.

With excitement over the moon race deflated by Khrushchev's withdrawal, Kennedy will have to find some other equally attractive incentive to continue the intensified drive necessary to overtake the Russians. With the cold war thawing and the Kremlin beset by such earthy problems as the lack of food, more questions likely will be asked in and out of Congress why Americans must put up such intensified pressure in space.

The difficulties Kennedy may find in pleading for maintenance of urgency in programming probably will be multiplied by his government's own public concentration on U.S. accomplishments — the emphasis on the number of successful U.S. orbits in contrast to the Soviet success in tandem orbiting of manned shots for longer periods in more advanced space equipment.

BOOSTERS STILL BIGGER

Even at this stage, the U.S. has yet to produce a rocket booster equivalent in power to that used by the Russians for the last few years. All the American talk of overtaking the Russians is based mainly on boosters and vehicles still in the planning or prototype stage.

With Khrushchev now bowing out of the moon race, Kennedy likely will switch his campaigning for more space funds on the basis of need to improve U.S. technology—he may switch the emphasis from the moon race to a technological race. But that likely will not carry with it the same glamor and public appeal of a race to the moon.

And it may be difficult to cry havoc about the Soviet military threat in space when Russians are having trouble finding enough food. Undoubtedly, the Kennedy government will get sufficient funds to keep the space program operating at slower speeds but this won't help the U.S. schedule of getting an American on the moon by 1970.

TEST DETECTION

FALLON, Nev. (AP) — The ground jumped six feet and a tingling shock wave rolled along the Sand Springs test range signalling the successful competition of the Project Shoal underground nuclear blast Saturday. The blast, a charge equivalent to 12,000 tons of TNT, went off on schedule at the bottom of a 1,200-foot shaft drilled into the Sand Springs test range, 23 miles east of Fallon in west-central Nevada. It was intended to detect difference between man-made earth disturbances and nature's earthquakes.

Preventative For Smallpox

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

A new prophylactic treatment of smallpox may be the most important advance in this disease since Edward Jenner (1749-1823) discovered the vaccine. The chemical in question, Marboran, represents more than a decade of research work on the part of British and American scientists. This drug reduced the incidence of smallpox 96 per cent in India, where the infection is prevalent.

The drug is aimed at the person who comes into contact with a victim and who is susceptible either because he never was vaccinated or the procedure was done many years ago. Prior to the advent of Marboran, health authorities vaccinated these individuals immediately but all too often this was done too late in the incubation period to prevent the illness. As a result, they were condemned to a severe and possibly fatal attack of smallpox.

Marboran will change all this. A report in The Lancet, a British medical journal, says every smallpox patient admitted to the Infectious disease hospital, Tondiarpet, Madras, India, between February and July of 1963, was questioned about those who came into contact with him after the rash defeloped.

A total of 2,227 susceptible persons were found and vaccinated. Many others were excluded because they had had one smallpox or refused to cooperate.) Of the total, 1,101 contacts were given Marboran and the remainder were used as controls. All were visited 16 days later to determine what had happened. There were three mild cases of smallpox among the treated group. In contrast; 78 cases occurred with 12 deaths among the 1,126 contacts who had been vaccinated but not treated with Marboran.

The drug appeared to be most effective among contacts who never had been vaccinated. This is fortunate because in some western countries, many persons have not been vaccinated and epidemics have appeared in the last few years. Marboran also is effective when the contact is not detected soon enough for successful re-vaccination to offer any chance of protection.

EXERCISE IN HEART TEST

B. R. writes: What shows up on an electrocardiogram while exercising that is not shown on this test while resting?

REPLY

In some persons, especially those with narrowed coronary arteries, changes in certain waves are noted in the electrocardiogram during exercise. This is used as a test in angina pectoris.

Mrs. B. writes: Do the birth control pills delay menstruation? If so, how can a woman tell if she is pregnant?

REPLY

These pills should not delay menstruation. They prevent ovulation and are 99.9 per cent effective when used as directed. As a result, other reasons for the delay should be considered.

SOUTH PACIFIC WORDS

E.L.V. writes: Is there a drug to cure filaria?

REPLY

Yes, if you refer to the most common form of filariasis, usually called elephantiasis. It is confined largely to the far east. This worm infestation is treated with Hetrozan or Caparsolate.

VEINS NOT INVOLVED

T. B. writes: Does smoking harm varicose veins of the legs?

REPLY

No. But the arteries are constricted by nicotine in a certain percentage of the population.

Today's Health Hint —

Keep the feet dry.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
October 30, 1938

Hallowe'en is an old Roman custom, and when Canadian children go from house to house on Hallowe'en asking for apples or other treats, they are merely following a practice established by boys in other countries of the older world thousands of years ago.

The S.S. Hochelaga which runs between Pictou and Charlottetown will make its last trip tomorrow, with general cargo of potatoes for Halifax. The skipper of the Hochelaga is Captain Carter.

TEN YEARS AGO
October 30, 1953

Five graduating Nursing Assistants of the Provincial Sanatoriums were presented with pins and certificates at an impressive ceremony yesterday afternoon. They were Mary Jane Gill, Mrs. Emma Johnson, Flora Jannigan, Mary MacRae and Bertha Robertson.

Miss Sis Kelly, Summerside, who has been on the staff of Holman's Ltd., for several years left yesterday for Hamilton, Ont. where she has accepted a position. She was accompanied by Miss Alberta Gaudet, R. N. who will nurse in Montreal.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Grasping at a straw is a poplar pastime with youngsters — if there's ice-cream soda at the other end. — Chatham News.

Now it is getting to the point where a fellow can't talk about his experiences in the First World War without advertising his age. — Fort William Times-Journal.

A passenger in an airplane was far up in the sky when the pilot began to laugh hysterically. Passenger: "What's the joke?" Pilot: "I'm thinking of what they'll say at the asylum when they find out I've escaped." — Montreal Star.

If you're a pleasant person you don't have to drink like a fish to keep in the swim. —Sherbrooke Record.

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!"— Chatham News.

A little boy went to his uncle's garage: "Could you lend me a few gallons of gas?"

"What do you need gas for, my boy?"

"The school is burning." — Montreal Star

Markets for Tress

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

While emphasis must be placed on Canada's basic exports such as grain, pulp and paper, minerals and other products basic to our trade with other countries, there are other rewarding avenues of trade if properly pursued.

A good example is reported by the federal Department of Trade and Commerce.

There has been a recent interesting development in exporting Christmas trees to Venezuela.

Decoration of coniferous trees certainly is not native to Venezuela because few of this species grow in its tropical climate.

Yet, because of growing colonies of people from north ern countries, and the many Venezuelans who have lived abroad, the use of Christmas trees has become something of a Yuletide tradition in that country.

Canadian Christmas trees have a good reputation in that country now, and the trees are avidly sought. The demand could be greatly increased.

The department, however, warns that Canadian exporters must try to preserve and encourage such a market by sensible credit plans, and by following their shipments through so that consumers there receive Canadian trees in good shape.

This is just one example of the opportunities which are available to expand Canadian trade in many parts of the world.

The help which can be given by an efficient and wide-awake Department of Trade and Commerce can be invaluable.

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