The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Cutting Pretty Deep

When the Federal Government announced its emergency austerity program it indicated that a $200,000,000 reduction in expenditures would be necessary to bolster the country's foreign exchange reserves. The revised estimates tabled on Thursday in the Commons by Finance Minister Nowlan shows that the pruning knife is being applied in a still more drastic manner. Federal budgetary spending for the current fiscal year is being cut by $227,947,034, and practically every department of administration is affected.

If the Opposition is consistent in its demands for an attempt at budget balancing, it can hardly, in principle, disapprove of these reductions. But between principle and practice there is a wide margin for disagreement; and, in any case, the Opposition parties themselves are by no means agreed as to the overriding need for belt-tightening at this time. The chief cuts appear to have been made in defense, construction programs, federal payrolls, foreign aid and the CBC.

In addition, we note that there have been slashes in both agriculture and fisheries departmental expenditures. Spending in agriculture is being dropped $12,600,000 to $155,400,000. This includes a $3,100,000 cut in payments to farmers for hog quality premiums and lime assistance. The austerity drive in fisheries cuts deepest into the budget for the Fisheries Research Board, which was reduced by some three-quarters of a million dollars. Conservation and development work, which includes purchase of lands and buildings, has been trimmed, along with the Newfoundland bait service budget, and about a million dollars has been cut from general administration of the department.

In view of what we have heard about the grave problems facing both these basic industries, and the urgent need for rehabilitating them, it is hard to reconcile these reductions with sound national economy of any kind. However, we have only the bare figures before us. We shall expect a full debate on the revised estimates for these departments, in which our own cabinet member, Mr. MacLean, is vitally concerned as fisheries minister.

In particular, this cutting down of the Fisheries Research Board program, just when it was beginning to prove its value to the industry, will need a lot of explaining. This applies to new construction programs as well, where pennypinching could prove a pretty poor way of stabilizing the economy.

Joey Rides Again

In springing a surprise general election in Newfoundland for Nov. 19 Premier Smallwood said he was doing so to obtain a mandate for his long-term fisheries development program. Since he has had no report yet from his recently-called fisheries conference about this program, and doesn't expect one before next spring, this was obviously an excuse rather than a reason.

Voting will come on the heels of the Quebec general election on Nov. 14, in which a Liberal victory is predicted, and Mr. Smallwood no doubt hopes that in both these contests the results will boost Liberal prospects federally. His own position is pretty strong, since he can afford to lose a lot of seats and still come out on top.

The irony of it is that this nonexistent fisheries program he is talking about, and which will cost at least $50,000,000 during the next four or five years, will depend on substantial support from the Federal Government. Mr. Smallwood says it would be "madness" to proceed without a mandate because Newfoundland taxpayers have the right to decide on how their money is to be spent. But doesn't that go for the federal taxpayers as well? Wouldn't a vote for the federal administration be just as strong an indorsation of this provincial-federal project as a vote for Joey himself?

That, of course, is not the way Mr. Smallwood intends to present the issue. He'll be denouncing the Tories and all their works, just as he has done in every campaign; and we'll be surprised if he doesn't get away with it again. This will be his fifth election since bringing his province into Confederation, and there has been an average of less than three years between the campaigns. Always he has been able to pull some kind of an emergency rabbit out of the hat.

He complained, recently, that his job had become boring and monotonous—there just wasn't enough stiff opposition to make it interesting. His opponents should have been warned by this kind of talk that he was preparing another surprise for them; but they seem, once again, to have been caught off base. They are loudly protesting that an election at this time is unnecessary—as if that had anything to do with it, except from Joey's standpoint. Any similarity between his idea and theirs on such a point would be purely coincidental.

The Last Barrier

The result of Britain's seasonal round of political conferences has been an alignment on a major issue for which there is no precedent in British history. The issue, of course, is Britain's membership in the European Common Market, and the immediate situation is that the Conservatives and Liberals stand overwhelmingly committed to Europe while the Labor Party is officially on the fence but seen to be internally split into an ardently anti-Common Market left and a deeply convinced Common Market right.

Isolation thus is located politically in the left wing of the Labor Party which is itself the least influential of the major groupings of political power in Britain. Roughly speaking the anti-Common Market cause has been driven into a segment of political opinion which is at best a thin minority sixth.

This is the situation as described by Joseph C. Harsch, distinguished London correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, who sees it as a far more decisive clarification than seemed possible a month ago when the yearly round of party conferences started. The apparent decisiveness of it constitutes a massive political dividend for Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

Unless there should be a readjustment of the pattern as drastic as the one which produced the present situation, it is to be presumed that Britain will be entering the Common Market as rapidly as negotiations can be concluded and detailed arrangements can be completed. There will be no stalling by the British Government.

The only obstacle remaining to speedy conclusion to the affair is now President de Gaulle of France. Conceivably he still can impose terms which London would find impossible to accept. The upcoming Adenauer visit to Washington will be important in this respect. This will be President Kennedy's chance to persuade the German Chancellor to throw his weight for tolerable terms to the British. If this happens, then Britain's entrance into Europe will be as certain as anything can be in politics.

EDITORIAL NOTE

So far only 5,900 farmers in three provinces have taken out insurance on their 1962 crops under the federal-provincial scheme. According to a report tabled this week in the House of Commons, 4,500 Manitoba farmers purchased coverage worth more than $10,000,000; some 1,350 farmers in Saskatchewan bought $2,400,000 worth, and 50 potato growers in Prince Edward Island joined the program for the first year.

CLOTHES AND THE MAN

FOR SHERPA CHILDREN

Hillary's School In The High Himalayas

National Geographic Society

Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mount Everest, has built a school for Sherpa children in the high Himalayas.

The school was a gift of the explorer's 1960-61 scientific expedition to Nepal. He said the project "turned out to be perhaps the most satisfying of our Himalayan adventure."

Sir Edmund describes the building of the Sherpa school in the October issue of National Geographic. A report on the expedition itself is given by its glaciologist and climatologist, Barry C. Bishop, a staff member of National Geographic. Mr. Bishop also will take part in the 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition, supported in part by the National Geographic Society.

VILLAGE NEEDED SCHOOL

"In terms more meaningful than money," Sir Edmund writes, "we wanted to show our gratitude to the Sherpas—high-altitude porters, cooks, and assistants, who had worked so hard for us in the mountains."

Most of the Sherpas came from the Nepalese village of Khumjung, which lies in a valley 13,000 feet high and only 15 miles from Everest. Their village had never had a school.

An Indian aluminum company donated a prefabricated structure, and the International Committee of the Red Cross flew the parts to the expedition's airstrip at Mingbo, an arduous day's march from Khumjung. Girders, beams, and long rippling sheets of aluminum jogged across country on the backs of Sherpa porters.

Sir Edmund and three other expedition members— Wally Romanes, Desmond Doig, and Bhanu Banerjee— erected the 20-by-40-foot building. They were assisted by Sherpas who had never handled a wrench or driven a nail.

After much trial and error during six days of dawn-to-dusk toil, the school was completed. It was dedicated in traditional Nepalese style.

LAMAS PROVIDED MUSIC

"Soon out of the fog and drizzle," Sir Edmund writes, "came a band of lamas clashing cymbals, beating drums, and tooting trumpets and clarinetlike flageolets. They were coming at my invitation, to give their blessing to this last project of our expedition.

"The band circled the building twice, with the head lama of Thyangboche marching in their midst and intoning prayers. By now the rain had turned to a downpour, and we noted proudly that our new building did not leak. Even more proudly we watched the crowd of Sherpas, who had come from miles around, stand dripping and solemn through the three- and-a-half-hour ceremony. To them, this was a historic day."

Sir Edmund engaged a Sherpa-born teacher from Darjeeling, India. To assure a future master for the school, a bright 15-year-old boy was sent from Khumjung to study at Katmandu, capital of Nepal.

"Just before we left Khumjung," Sir Edmund writes, "we called at the school and saw fifty children sitting cross-legged on the floor. They ranged in age from 6 to 16 and none, till now, had been able to read or write... We started for Katmandu with the heart - warming feeling that our enterprise had surely been worthwhile."

Sir Edmund plans to establish two more schools in the Himalayas. In the meantime, the new building in Khumjung may well be the world's only schoolhouse with a sturdy fence to keep off yaks.

Stalin In Cuba

New York Herald Tribune

It is one of the ironies of our time that Stalin, having been banished from the Soviet Union, should now be turning up in Cuba — and, of all things, under the auspices of Nikita Khrushchev.

Soon after the Bolshevik revolution, the Russian workers discovered the practical meaning of the "dictatorship of the proletariat." And they reacted against the long hours and low wages imposed by their new tyrannical boss, the Soviet state. They engaged in a slowdown. They would come late to work, loaf on the job and leave before closing time.

Stalin cracked the whip and issued a series of labor decrees in the 1930's and the 1940's which cowed the workers into submission.

The history of the terrible thirties and forties under Stalin now appears to be repeating itself in Cuba. Ernesto Guevara, one of Cuba's economic tsars, has just told Cuban workers that their "slow pace must not be permitted." He announced that the government would establish "work and salary norms for all categories of workers all over the country."

Following Stalin's death Khrushchev eased up a bit on the "proletariat." He permitted the Soviet worker to leave his job after giving due notice. And penalties for absenteeism appear to have been relaxed.

But Cuba is a new Communist state. And apparently it must pass through the "Stalinist stage" before it can expect to enjoy the only slightly less tyrannical treatment of Khrushchev's communism.

The Melancholy Facts

New York Times

President Kennedy has often made clear his understanding of the dangers to all humanity of continued radioactive contamination of the atmosphere—last March, for instance, when he promised that the American test series would be completed within two or three months of its resumption.

Now, without public explanation, more atmospheric tests have been ordered. Because the date or which such a decision is made are secret, it is impossible for any layman to say whether these newest tests are absolutely required by military necessity.

The melancholy fact is that no end of the nuclear weapons race is now in sight. As each side increases the number of its explosions, it increases its knowledge, but it also raises the incentive for the other side to augment its own capability by still further explosions.

The Russians started the current race a year ago, of course; but now each side points a finger at the other and argues it must test because the other does. Meanwhile, the radioactivity in the atmosphere continues to increase, and we begin to see the impact on earth

In Minnesota and Utah some dairy farmers stopped feeding their cows fresh grass at the height of the summer and shifted to stored hay because of fear of the effects of radioactive iodine in milk produced by cows fed exclusively on grass, that has absorbed this year's high percentage of fallout material.

It is some moral comfort that the guilt for continued radioactive pollution of the atmosphere is now clearly the Soviet Union's. The United States recently offered an agreement ending all atmospheric tests, a pact that would require no onsite inspection. But Moscow has turned down this offer that went so far to meet the U.S.S.R's own demands. As a result of this action, all humanity and all living things on this planet must pay a price whose impact will be felt for generations to come.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

October 20, 1937

The four - masted schooner, James E. Newsom, Capt. Dawson, arrived in port yesterday with a cargo of Welsh hard coal. The vessel which sailed from Swansea, England, encountered heavy weather and winds, forcing the trip into 50 days, which ordinarily would have taken about thirty.

A delightful children's recital at the P.E.I. Protestant Orphanage last evening was thoroughly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. The program was arranged by Miss Rena Wood, who for the past three years has given her time and talents free to the training of the orphanage children, along musical lines.

TEN YEARS AGO

October 20, 1952

Prizes for Scottish piping and dancing will be offered in the Musical Festival Association, it was decided last night by the Caledonian Club. A sum of $50 was voted for the purpose.

Professor W.S. MacNutt, from the University of New Brunswick delivered two talks at RCAF Station, Summerside Thursday. He chose as his topic "The Russian Background". An interesting question period followed the lecture.

"Victory" In South Vietnam

Christian Science Monitor

C Company landed from helicopters in waist-high paddies, one day recently, in the Mekong delta area of South Vietnam. Slowly the men made their way through water and swamp to a village which was the objective. Only women were there. Men and boys had fled at the first whir of the rotor blades and were never found.

But a neighboring company was described as "more lucky". Some of its men landed in a field where three peasants were working with water buffalo. They started to run. One was killed by automatic weapons fire and the other two were rounded up.

Once inside the village, the attackers were told the prisoners were two of the poorest men in town. One was the father of four and unemployed. The other was a widower so poor he could not afford to remarry.

In still another section outside the village, other units were ambushed in what became a pitched battle with Viet Cong soldiers in a row of houses. Some 33 government soldiers were killed and ultimately they killed as even greater number of Communists. But the bulk of the enemy melted into the wild terrain. And again, an enemy platoon was sighted, there was a burst of harmless fire, and it slipped away

POPULATION BOOM

Of the estimated 186,000,000 population of the U.S. in 1962, more than 18 per cent was added since 1950.

Petit Mal Can Lead To Epilepsy

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

MINOR episodes of epilepsy (petit mal) may be so brief they are overlooked for months or years. This is ironical in modern times because drugs are available to control the condition. Most victims of petit mal are children, usually under age 10.

The attack comes on without warning and consists of a sudden blackout. The child becomes motionless, stares into space, and does not respond to commands. Just as suddenly, consciousness returns and the youngster resumes whatever he is doing.

Should the bout come on while eating, the boy or girl may get a blank expression and chew more slowly but doesn't drop the knife or fork. Two to 20 seconds later, he resumes eating but has no idea what was said or what he did during the brief period of unconsciousness.

Some children have one blackout a week whereas others have them every 30 minutes. Those with frequent lapses do poorly in school because the continuity of instruction is interrupted so often. The child does not fall as a rule and may continue to walk or even ride a bicycle during an attack.

The entire affair has been described as a blank place or an absence in the stream of consciousness. Various drugs (Tridione, Paradione, and Milontin) are effective in controlling petit mal, though they are less effective in other types of epilepsy.

Do these children outgrow minor epilepsy? According to Dr. Louis D. Boshes of Chicago, some continue to have sieges of petit mal even in adult life but it is not unusual for them to become less and less frequent as the child gets older. In many, they disappear before age 20.

Now and then petit mal is replaced by the major type of epilepsy (grand mal) or by psychomotor seizures. Some develop convulsions; others, temporary hallucinations or illusions involving peculiar smells and tastes. Objects appear to be far away or unreal, as in the story, "Alice in Wonderland."

(Dr. Van Dellen will send leaflet on the various types of epilepsy if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

Reckless automobile driving arouses the suspicion that much of the horse sense of the good old days was possessed by the horse. — Niagara Falls Review.

Our pet gardener called a spade a spade until he tripped over one of them in the dark.— Brandon Sun.

The Iraqi scholar who claims that Shakespeare was an Arab is making much ado about nothing. — Brantford Expositor.

Back in Grandpa's day there was something to make you sleep good. They called it work. — Galt Reporter.

Maybe calories don't count, as a current book contends, but they certainly add. — Woodstock Sentinel Review.

Sign on the last gas station before entering the Sahara Desert "Fill your tank here. Any gas pumps you see further on are merely mirages." — La Vigie, Casablanca.

The London County Council has saved a house in Stoke Newington High Street from demolition. In the 18th century it was the home of a Quaker by name of John Wilmer, who left instructions that he was to be buried in his garden in a four-poster bed. A wire, tied to his finger, was to run up through the grave to be connected to a bell on the wall of the house. The bell, unrung, is still in position. And so, presumably, is John Wilmer. — Saint John Telegraph Journal.

The Bretons Stand Fast

Ottawa Citizen

The Breton Information Bureau is an organization dedicated to the preservation of the Breton language and culture, both of which it fears are in danger of being submerged. And in this respect the Bretons, who are of Celtic stock, are at present making common cause with those who speak Scotch Gaelic, Basque, Occitan and certain other tongues. A petition signed by 52 professors and lecturers at 11 Nordic universities, the bureau is happy to report, was sent not long ago to the UNESCO councils of the Scandinavian countries, asking them to use their influence with the parent body to take measures on behalf of the small ethnic groups.

The petition points out that in nearly all countries there are organizations and laws for the protection of rare plants and animals. But there is "not a single officially recognized association" for the defence of the small ethnic groups. The petitioners say:

THREAT TO CULTURE

"Since language and thought, and thought and culture are so intimately bound, the extermination of a language is tantamount to the destruction of the culture it expresses. Neither the Nordic peoples nor the Catalans and Basques would abandon their languages for the sake of English or Spanish, however widespread and practical the use of these may be. . . .

"We recognize fully the advantage for most people to know several languages, particularly those of numerically important neighbors. But one should not have to abandon one's own for that! That is evident for us Nordics, but apparently incomprehensible for many members of the big nations."

WANT BRETON TAUGHT

As for the Bretons, the bureau reports the 11th annual collection for the Breton language held on the public roads and squares of Britanny. The sponsors want Breton taught in the public schools, Breton books, magazines and records were displayed, in many places under the Breton flag, in the windows of 90 shops of Rennes. "The population of the capital was thus aware of the existence of a modern Breton literature, a fact which is assiduously concealed by the French propaganda machine."

This should give President de Gaulle something to think about. A suppressor of minorities, indeed!

CRAYFISH EXPORT

Third largest item of Australia's exports to the U.S. in 1961-62 was crayfish, worth $13,300,000.

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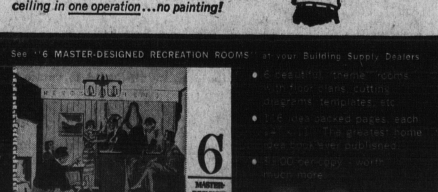

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