The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Burton Lewis, Executive Editor — Frank Walker, Editor

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The Reason Why

From now on, says Mr. Real Caouette, he and his Creditiste supporters in the House of Commons will do everything they can to block passage of any bills which originate in the Senate. He has no use for the Upper House because its members are not elected, and this is the reason he gives for his proposed blockade.

It sounds very democratic. A lot of people are dissatisfied with the services rendered by the Senate, and see need for its reform. Not all of them, however, will agree that it should be changed into an elective body. It would then become subject to the redistribution that goes on in the House of Commons after every national census, and that would defeat its purpose entirely.

It is well to remember that when the Commons was being established, with the more populous regions naturally being given more members of Parliament than the less populous, the latter ran the danger of being always out-voted on important issues by politicians from the larger provinces. Therefore they wanted a Parliament in which the major regions of the country would have equal representation; and this they obtained in the Senate.

The senators come from the different parts of Canada on a fairly strict mathematical basis. Quebec has 24 senators. Ontario has 24 senators. The four Western provinces have 24 senators, each province having six. The three Maritime provinces have 24 senators, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick having 10 each, and Prince Edward Island four. Only Newfoundland breaks the regularity of the "twenty-four" pattern, for Newfoundland became a province long after the pattern was established, and was simply given six senators when it joined Canada in 1949.

Because MPs are elected and cabinet ministers are always concentrated in the Commons, most important parliamentary business originates in that chamber. The British North America Act says, in fact, that all bills that require the spending of the taxpayers' money must originate there. The Senate has important functions of its own, its chief one being to act as a check on hasty legislation.

Unfortunately, senators are too often appointed as a reward for partisan services rather than because they are distinguished citizens who as senators may render important services to their country. This is the real point at issue, and it is an important one. Every Prime Minister has it in his power to make non-partisan appointments when vacancies occur in this body, if he chooses to do so. That is where Senate reform should begin, as Mr. Caouette very well knows.

Breeding More Trouble

Berlin has the sad reputation of holding top place in the suicide statistics of the World Health Organization. In West Berlin, more than 800 people take their own lives every year. The reasons are widely varied, but from farewell letters and other documents, it is clear that since the Berlin Wall was built in August, 1961, loneliness and despair have increasingly led to the final tragic decision to commit suicide.

In East Berlin, the picture is even blacker. Since 1961, cases of suicide have no longer been specifically entered in statistical records as such, but under the heading "miscellaneous other causes of death." This is to cover up the fact that the number of suicides has increased greatly since the Berlin Wall went up three years ago.

This is the symbol of a divided Germany which it is Communist policy to maintain indefinitely, regardless of the consequences in human suffering on both sides. Why? The answer commonly given is that the Russians are afraid of a German resurgence and revenge. But is their dividing Germany a guarantee against this?

The new German Federal Republic is incorporated in the Western defense alliance which pledges it automatically to consultation with the NATO governments and to the restraints which all those governments accept. It has accepted limitations on arms production and armaments. The Western Powers, moreover, have put forward plans for satisfying Russian nervousness on this score. If there is anything that can create a threat of extremism to the democratic controls of post-war Germany it is the violent sentiment and distress which partition must breed.

It is unrealistic to imagine that there can be a lasting settlement in Europe so long as this situation prevails. In past history Poland, a smaller and weaker country than Germany, was partitioned three times. The Poles never accepted partition, and it did not last. Nor it is likely that history will give a different answer in this case. But for the immediate future one can only predict a continuance of the situation resulting in the grim statistics of which the World Health Organization has taken note.

Pest War Continues

Our Island legislators who have been confronted with the problem of pesticide control will be interested in a recent news item from Washington. President Johnson has asked Congress for $29 million to intensify research on pesticides, and the Senate appropriations committee has included the sum in the farm money bill. Much of the money will go for research on nonchemical insect killers.

The U.S. secretary of agriculture, Mr Freeman, said recently that the real goal is to avoid the use of chemical insect controls altogether, if possible. Some of the new techniques, which smack of science fiction, offer real hope for the future in this regard.

Parasites, predators and insect diseases may be used to whittle down undesirable insect species. At the University of California they are using hybrid wasps, bred from parents obtained elsewhere, to destroy house flies. The wasps deposit their eggs in adolescent flies. The offspring feed on the flies and kill them.

"Black" or ultraviolet light has been tested with some success to attract cotton pests to fans which suck them into traps. A highly refined mineral oil, not considered toxic to wildlife, has been sprayed on orange and grape fruit trees. It kills pests by suffocation and then disappears. Consideration is also being given to use of synthesized female sex attractants to lure a variety of insects into traps where they can be destroyed by conventional insecticides.

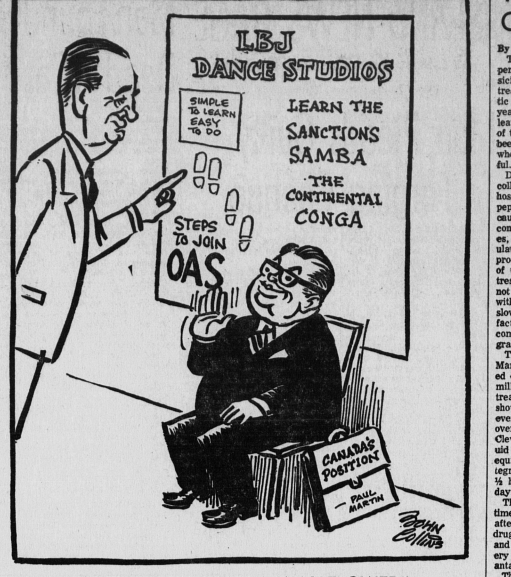
However, it will take research, manpower and far more money than even the United States is prepared to spend at present to bring such techniques to the practical stage and permit their widespread use in agriculture. The alternative is the continued poisoning of the country with persistent, toxic chemicals.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Republicans are trying to force President Johnson into a yes or no decision on a television debate with Senator Goldwater. As they see it, they can't lose either way. If the President agrees, the Republican candidate shares the presidential spotlight. If he refuses, it will be a campaign issue.

* * *

A Durham, England, farmer reports that he used soap powder to produce a banner crop of spuds. He injected it—mixed with a certain fertilizer—into his seed potatoes, with very satisfactory results. A spokesman for the Royal Horticultural Society contents himself with remarking that the achievement was "unusual and interesting."



"I THINK I'LL STAY A WALLFLOWER"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Continuing Chaos On Parliament Hill

The chaos on Parliament Hill has led Prime Minister Pearson to establish a very unusual annex to the House of Commons. This is private meetings of the leaders of the five political parties now represented in Parliament, summoned to negotiate the terms and conditions on which they will permit the Commons to handle the nation's business.

"We have had useful meetings with the party leaders, and I hope the procedure can be continued," Mr. Pearson recently told the Commons.

Normally this routine negotiation is handled, swiftly and amicably, by periodical meetings of the House Leaders of the various parties. But this system broke down in the present parliament, apparently for two reasons. First, the House Leaders of the other parties realised that their Conservative opposite number, Gordon Churchill was later broken. A well - known example of this occurred when the government moved to increase the remuneration of MPs. And secondly, Churchill has refused to attend meetings of House Leaders.

DICTATOR-LIKE SECRECY

Not everyone will agree that closed meetings of party leaders are the ideal way to conduct parliamentary negotiations; or even that they are in keeping with the democratic institution of parliament, whose purpose is to govern by open decisions openly reached in public meeting.

But at least there has been one hope that such meetings might provide the setting where Messrs Pearson and Diefenbaker could both withdraw gracefully from their foolishly over - extended positions on the flag. And this despite disagreements as to the past, present and future.

For example, on such summit meeting was held two weeks ago. At it, it was told, this three-point compromise was urged:

1. Mr. Pearson should withdraw his 3-leaf design, and substitute a 1-leaf design.

2. The Red Ensign should be adopted instead of the Union Jack as the flag symbolizing our membership in the Commonwealth.

3. Party leaders should permit their followers to vote freely in accord with their individual conscience, rather than under direction by their party and the Prime Minister would not consider a rejection of the flag proposals to be a vote of non - confidence in his government necessitating another election.

Party leaders were to consult their followers about these hopeful proposals, and report back to a later summit conference.

PUZZLING DENIAL

But within a few days, Mr. D. asserted in the Commons: "There was no question raised at any meeting regarding the nature, kind and design of a flag."

Where lies the truth — in the report I quote, or in Mr. D's contradiction? Is there some other explanation? Or had Mr. D., as so often, failed to hear what was said because he had not adjusted his hearing aid?

To use the word which Mr. Pearson himself uttered in somewhat similar circumstances another day, he — and at least some other party leaders — appeared to be "flabbergasted" But nothing was said * why?

And still the talk in the Parliament Building reveals the uneasiness and the lack of trust which this and other episodes or misunderstandings have built up in this unhappy parliament.

Finding The Real Riel

Ottawa Journal

A University of Waterloo history professor has announced he and three French-Canadian colleagues are writing a new Canadian history textbook. Whether Louis Riel was a good guy or a bad guy depends upon whether the history book you read was written in Quebec or Ontario, the professor says. The intention of the new text is to overcome the discrepancies between the French- Canadian and English - Canadian viewpoints which occur in existing histories, he says.

A new Canadian history textbook which brings fresh insight, based on scholarship into the nation's past will be a welcome achievement But we are a little suspicious of the professor's declared intention. We hope he and his colleagues have not set out deliberately to reach a compromise between the two opposing views. History, particularly at matriculation level, should not be rewritten, even in the worthy cause of promoting national unity.

Interpretations of the events of the past will always vary. Studies on the Reformation will continue to be written from the Roman Catholic and Protestant points of view. Assessment of men and ideas will continue to change with time. Not every historian today would agree that King John was not a good man. What the Victorian scholar found shocking in earlier societies is not dealt with so harshly by today's writers. Let us, by all means, point out discrepancies in historical interpretation, but let us not "overcome" them.

Cuban Exiles Offensive

Fort William Times-Journal

Spokesmen for the Nationalist Cuban Association in New York, a group of exiles from Castro's country, boldly announced yesterday that their demolition squad had damaged a Cuban freighter at a pier in the harbor of Montreal. Verification of the fact that an explosion had occurred came from Royal Canadian Mounted and Montreal police who investigated.

The government at Ottawa should be on its toes, hopping mad. What the Cuban exiles do against Fidel Castro's ships in international waters may not be the immediate concern of Canada. When these exiles send their agents into this country, violating the sovereignty of the Dominion, and then boasting about it in New York, stern action by the authorities in Ottawa becomes imperative.

History's Jewel Thieves

Hamilton Spectator

Some of history's greatest jewel thieves might have twisted in their graves if they'd heard about the man who searched Buckingham Palace for a missing $11,000 diamond brooch. The man used an electronic device which he ran over the Queen's lawn, her carpets and furniture.

Raffles, the notorious jewel thief of Riviera fame, would have been particularly amazed. In his day, he had to risk his life jumping from balcony to balcony at posh resort hotels, sneaking by watch dogs and burgular alarms, crawling through darkened rooms, hiding behind lush curtains, delicately opening wall safes, leaping from windows to the ground 20 feet below, rushing through thorn-filled gardens and climbing huge fences with the intrepid gendarmes close at his heels, and dashing madly down narrow streets in stolen sports cars.

It was exhausting, and Raffles deserves his rest.

But with an electronic device that detects diamonds, life could become awfully easy for jewel thieves. A really strong one could work like a giant magnet and rip the diamonds from a titled lady's neck, or tear the tiara and her pale blue wig from her noble head.

A smart thief could make a killing by merely flying a helicopter low over a garden party. By deft use of the electronic device, which would look like a huge vacuum cleaner, he could amass a fortune in diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and other valuable jewels within a few minutes. He could retire for life and invest his savings in helicopters.

There's only one serious catch to all this. That electronic device that was used at Buckingham Palace did not find the diamond brooch.

No Squawks

Toronto Globe and Mail

Society, ever on the alert to halt the inhumane treatment of animals or birds, stepped in quickly at Brantford when suspicious were aroused that cockfighting was going on. During a police raid on a farm, 26 game cocks were taken into what might be termed protective custody. Then, according to the law, their heads were chopped off. All in the name of humane treatment?

The Poet's Corner

TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Island of tranquillity
Your aura has enchanted me,
In boundless beauty you enfold
The very essence of my soul.

I love your red-earth rocks and rills,
The sweeping splendor of your hills,
Embroidered in pastoral scene
A patchwork of verdant green.

Lovely island of the sea
So gratefully I take with me
Your captivating memory.

—Pauline Israel Woodmere, New York.

Treatment Of Ulcers

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

There is no substitute for experience. A Cleveland, O., physician had the opportunity of treating 6,900 persons with peptic ulcer during the last 18 years. All had positive X-rays, leaving no doubt of the existence of the lesion. The majority have been followed up to determine whether treatment was successful.

Dr. Edward A. Marshall and colleagues at the Huron Road hospital are of the opinion that peptic ulcers heal slowly because it is difficult to neutralize continuously the stomach juices, including pepsin acid. Granulation tissue, which looks like proud flesh, forms on the floor of the ulcer and relieves distress. But complete healing does not occur until it is replaced with scar tissue. The process is slow because the victims manufacture too much acid, which competes with the formation of granulation tissue.

This sequence is logical. Many ulcer patients are relieved of pain with antacids and milk within a few hours after treatment is started. But X-rays show the presence of the crater, even after weeks of therapy. To overcome the handicap, the Cleveland group administers liquid aluminum hydroxide or its equivalent in tablets that disintegrate rapidly in water, every ½ hour for 16 or more hours a day.

The dosage is doubled at bedtime and in two and four hours after retiring. In addition, a drug that relaxes the stomach and the individual is given every two hours along with an antacid laxative tablet.

This regimen of almost continuous suppression of pepsin activity is maintained for 4½ to 6 months. Meanwhile, the person is allowed to eat anything he could before the ulcer developed, including fried foods, cabbage, pork, tomatoes, vinegar, and spices. Those who smoked or drank before are permitted to continue.

These physicians believe the results speak for themselves. Virtually all who were free of pain after the first 24 hours of treatment, despite the full diet, had no recurrence at the end of one year and 90 per cent after two years. Sixty per cent remained cured at the end of 10 years.

TYPES OF COLITIS

G. T. writes: How does ulcerative colitis differ from colitis?

REPLY

Ordinary colitis is an over-all term for a wide variety of infections and irritations of the colon. The ulcerative type is one of the most serious and is so called because ulcers develop on the walls of the colon.

ULTRAVIOLET EXPOSURE

Mrs. E. writes: Why are victims of lupus erythematosus advised to avoid exposure to sunlight?

REPLY

No. Bacilli are true bacteria that are rod- shaped microscopic structures. Fungi are plants and vary in size from that of microscopic parasites to mushrooms.

RECONSTRUCTED NOSE

E. S. writes: Are bad after effects to be expected after the nose is remodeled?

REPLY

No, provided the surgeon knows (pun) his business and complications do not occur.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We used to settle our problems over coffee and cigarettes —now they're our problem. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Sports success comes so early these days that many a champ will be eligible to retire and open a tavern before he is old enough to get a licence.— Calgary Herald.

Oysters lay 500 million eggs apiece yearly, a fact that should yield some comfort to some TV comedians who lay one only once a week.— Fort William Times-Journal.

At a party, novelist Ben Ames Williams was introduced to a fellow guest. "Ben Ames Williams?" he exclaimed. "I never expected to meet you in the flesh." "Indeed!" said Williams, "I'm never without it." —The Reader's Digest.

Floridan (picking up a melon) —"Is this the largest apple you can grow in your State?" Californian — "Stop fingering that grape."— Sarnia Observer.

A little girl said there was a new baby at her house. "Has the baby come to stay?" she was asked. "I think so," she said, "he's taken all his things off."— Montreal Star.

Australian students put on a riot outside the United States consulate at Sydney. With brawling and a fiery cross they were protesting against prejudice in this country. Unless your skin is white you can't get into Australia. The only colored skins in Australia are worn by its aborigines, well back in the bush. Of such stuff is the righteousness of the self- righteous often made.— Detroit Free Press.

Ineffective Watching Brief

By Joseph MacSween
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The "watching brief" that the North Atlantic alliance undertook over Greece and Turkey last May has turned out to be no more effective than was expected.

Greece's decision announced Monday to withdraw forces assigned to NATO gives a futile look to the "watch" which, in any case, never seemed a particularly powerful device in view of the deep enmity between the two countries.

The 15 NATO foreign ministers at their May meeting in The Hague spent much of their time debating the darkening quarrel between Greece and Turkey — sister members of the alliance — over Cyprus.

They finally evolved the compromise under which the secretary-general, then Dirk Stikker of the Netherlands, was to maintain the so-called watch over the two. The task now has fallen to his successor, Manlio Brosio of Italy.

Cynics commented that it would be odd if the NATO executive chief did not "watch" a developing danger of war between two member countries.

FIRMER ROLE OPPOSED

There seems no doubt the meeting would have attempted a firmer role but for opposition by the Greek foreign minister, Stavros Kostopoulos, who at first rejected the idea that the quarrel was any of NATO's business.

Canada and other countries raised the possibility of invoking a section of the NATO charter which empowers the secretary-general to offer "good offices" to disputing member countries.

It provides that, with their consent, the secretary - general can "initiate or facilitate procedures of enquiry, mediation, conciliation, or arbitration."

This envisages something much stronger than a "watch" but an obstacle raised at the time was that NATO must in no way appear to be usurping the prerogative of the United Nations as the mediation agent in the Cyprus dispute itself.

JOB LIMITED

NATO's job was aimed specifically at avoiding conflict between Greece and Turkey, its member countries, and had nothing directly to do with Cyprus, not a NATO member.

Yet most observers were convinced the path taken gave the secretary-general little hope of arranging, for instance, peace talks between Kostopoulos and Turkish Foreign Minister Cemal Erkin.

All this underlines the importance of the UN mediator — Finland's Sakari Tuomioja, stricken seriously ill last weekend when he was about to travel to Ankara, Athens and Nicosia.

Even though the trip in itself may have lacked great significance, his position in the general context of negotiations was both delicate and important.

Various countries — including the United States — have been making political initiatives toward a Cyprus solution. With the mediator removed, such initiatives have no United Nations aura.

Wonderful World Of 'O'

Portland Oregonian

The late James Thurber once wrote a story, "The Wonderful 'O'," in which he demonstrated, to the enlightenment of readers young and old, the marvelous qualities of the circle variously as a letter or cipher. Well, Bolivia has outdone Mr. Thurber in fantasy.

Once a few years ago the Bolivian unit of currency, the bolivian, was worth about two cents or 50 to one U.S. dollar. Then came a hurricane of inflation, violent even by South American standards. It now takes 12,000 bolivianos to make $1.

Government printing presses in La Paz have been overtaxed. Bills were turned out in higher and higher denominations. The ciphers multiplied. A few years ago, the government decided to dispense with three ciphers and print a 100,000-boliviano bill as 100, although it would be worth 1,000 times as much as the old 100-boliviano bills still in circulation— a pretty confusing situation for Bolivians who pack their inflated currency around in over-sized bags in order to buy even small items.

Now, the government has promised to end the confusion by reclaiming all currency in circulation and replacing it with new bills in 1, 5, 20-denominations all eliminating the last three ciphers. In short, the new cipher-shorn boliviano will be higher in value than it was a decade or so ago after shrinking to 1-240 of its former worth. The trick will be performed merely by erasing the ciphers.

James Thurber never conceived of such a zany "O".

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