

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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Miss LaMarsh's Reply

As reported in our issue of yesterday, Health and Welfare Minister Judy LaMarsh has emphatically denied having made the statement attributed to her in Preston, Ontario, on Oct. 12 that "a pensioner in Prince Edward Island doesn't need in actual dollars anything like a pensioner living in Toronto." At Summerside on Tuesday night she said she was astonished when she read this report, as it was completely erroneous and preposterous.

This being so, it is regrettable that Miss LaMarsh didn't find occasion to express her astonishment earlier and dissociate herself from the statement as soon as it appeared in the press across Canada on Wednesday, Oct. 13. This, as we stated before, was a report sent out by The Canadian Press, a nation-wide, cooperative, non-partisan news organization which enjoys an enviable reputation for fairness and accuracy in its reporting. Surely this was important enough to have warranted an immediate response from the minister, who has a competent secretarial staff to check news reports of her statements and call her attention to inaccuracies when they occur.

We felt, in justice to all concerned, that we should get in touch with Canadian Press headquarters yesterday. The reply we got from this source was that the reporter who covered the Preston meeting confirmed the accuracy of his quotation, also that an identical statement was published on Oct. 13 in the Galt Reporter, which covered the meeting independently of The Canadian Press. We feel that our readers are entitled to this information, which is all the help we can give them in the matter.

Incidentally we note that another Ontario paper, the Sudbury Star, came out last Saturday with an editorial blast against the minister for presuming to downgrade Prince Edward Island pensioners as being less needy than those in Toronto. Its criticism was doubtless based on the Canadian Press report, which the minister has now repudiated. But it just goes to show how much trouble can be caused by mixups of this kind.

About Those Pensions

About the only political promise Mr. Pearson could make to us in Charlottetown was the rather nebulous one that old-age pensioners who need more than the present \$75-a-month pension will, under the National Assistance Plan, be provided with additional allowances at the joint cost of the federal and provincial governments. He coupled the promise with a warning that voters should not be deceived by Tory or NDP promises to raise the old-age pension to \$100 from \$75 and pay for the increase out of the Canada Pension Fund. That would mean, he said, that as Quebec had a pension plan separate from the Canada Pension Plan, Canadians in the other nine provinces would be playing the increase to Quebec pensioners.

What the Prime Minister didn't tell his audience, and as we are reminded in a trenchant editorial on the subject in the Globe and Mail, is that the Conservative plan was fully presented in the Ontario government's brief to the Senate-House pension committee last January, and brushed aside by Miss LaMarsh's department. This brief pointed out that a million Canadians now on pension and nearly 1 1/2 million shortly to

come on pension would benefit little if at all from the Canada Pension Plan. It proposed to correct this by bringing everybody under the Canada Pension Plan, regardless of income, paying \$25 extra a month to existing pensioners, and establishing \$25 as the minimum payment (in addition to the present \$75) for all future pensioners.

The pension fund could stand this because the premiums have been set at a scale to produce not only what is needed to pay the pensions, but to build a large capital fund for the use of the provincial governments. The premiums were nearly doubled at the insistence of the Quebec government, which was at least as interested in the capital it would get as in the pensions its people would get.

Premier Robarts of Ontario proposed to go part way to meet the Quebec position by recommending that premiums be collected from all, not just those making more than \$600 a year, and that the time before the maximum pensions became payable be extended from 10 to 20 years. At the same time he proposed to meet the need of individual pensioners for larger pensions by determining the pension payable on a worker's last 10 or best 10 working years, instead of on his full working life of 42 years.

Reduced to its simplest terms: Canada has two pension plans, the Canada Pension Plan for the nine English-speaking provinces and the Quebec Pension Plan for Quebec. As set up at present both will collect larger premiums than are necessary to pay the promised pensions. Mr. Robarts proposes (and the Conservatives propose) that some of this excess be used to increase the pensions of those who would not otherwise benefit under the plan.

The next federal government could do this by renegotiating with Quebec. Quebec could choose either to match its plan to the federal plan, in which case its capital fund from premiums would be somewhat reduced, or it could decide that Quebec pensioners would receive \$75 a month, compared with the \$100 paid elsewhere in Canada.

As the Toronto paper points out, the Conservative plan might raise some political problems, but it is certainly not deceitful, and it would have the virtue of assisting nearly 2 1/2 million Canadians whom the Liberals have chosen to forget.

To Be Welcomed

The American Automobile Association has embarked upon a project of prime importance to all concerned with highway safety. An association committee comprising the presidents of the four major auto companies across the border has retained one of the country's oldest and largest research organizations, Arthur D. Little, Inc., to make an analytical review of the present state of knowledge of motor accident causes and prevention. Proposals for in-depth explorations of traffic safety have also been invited from a number of the leading universities.

In announcing the inauguration of this project, AAM president Ray Abernethy observes that the initial study will provide direction as to where research efforts can be applied for maximum benefit to the public. Other steps will be taken in the near future as part of an intensive industry-wide safety program. A safety administrative committee has been charged with implementing overall industry policy in this connection.

With the services of the best and most experienced persons who can be secured, it is felt that a co-ordinated effort of this kind will provide a solid base for more aggressive action in the fight to cut down highway accident tolls. While the plan is to be carried out mainly in the United States, the outcome and the recommendations will undoubtedly be of value to Canada as well.

EDITORIAL NOTES

United States troop strength in South Viet Nam has topped the 130,000 mark, the American Military mission reports. Of a total of 131,700 troops now stationed there, 75,000 are Army personnel, 38,900 are Marines, 13,100 Air Force, 5,830 Navy and 270 Coast Guard.

Latest news from the water fluoridation front comes from Connecticut, where the department of health has set deadlines for water suppliers in the state to file fluoridation plans. This is a follow-up to a law passed at the last session of the legislature, requiring fluoridation of all water supplies in communities with more than 20,000 population.



THE ELECTION SYMPHONY

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Concern Over Diversi on Of Water Supply

The basic difference between wheat and water is that a moderate annual supply of the latter will produce in Canada a huge exportable surplus of the former. The reverse does not apply; by scattering a few grains of seed wheat on our Great Lakes, we cannot raise levels.

I have referred in this column to the losses which Canada and Canadians are now suffering through the draining of water from our Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway water system. Ralph Cowan, the all-Canadian MP elected as a Liberal in Toronto, has made a special study of this problem, and his voice has been the loudest of the few raised in warning.

On the other side, we have heard some gigantic engineering proposals to redesign the face of Canada to meet the needs of our prodigal neighbour. One such proposal, to divert rivers which now flow into the Arctic Ocean, caught the imagination by its engineering daring. But now it is beginning to cause national fear by its economic rashness.

Canada's outstanding authority on this subject is General A.G.L. McNaughton. Knowing my previous interest in it, he kindly sent me an advance copy of a speech dealing with water resources which he recently delivered before the Canadian Club of Montreal.

"My thesis is a simple one," the General declared. "It rests on a basic premise that is self-evident to any thoughtful person, namely that water is the fundamental resource in any civilization. There is NEVER too much water; the amount of water available determines the upper limit of a nation's development. In Canada, our upper limit of development is high largely because of our water resources. This fact should be an inducement for us to speed up our progress rather than to relinquish the fundamental asset that makes it possible. It is therefore nonsense to talk about a surplus of water in Canada, and it is dangerous folly even

to contemplate selling our water." PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS While the General thus insists that he who would sell Canada's river water would be selling Canada down the river, Prime Minister Pearson has disclosed that his government plans to discuss with the USA proposals to export our water to that country.

The General said that the North American Water and Power Alliance, proposed by the USA is "a monstrous corporation which would drain our water resources and distribute the benefits across the continent at a cost of some hundred billion dollars." "If our friends to the south

have a hundred billion dollars to spend on the problem, let them spend it to process their abundant supplies of dirty water. This scheme would dispossess Canada of her water while the fact is that USA does not need clean Canadian water. The real problem, the General suggested, is the scarcity of clean water, rather than a shortage of water. If Canada plans to take any steps with USA about water, those steps should be to insist upon measures already planned to halt pollution. "It is a matter of great urgency, and the sooner it is dealt with, the cheaper it will be." But sell our water to the USA? No, Mr. Pearson.

Drilling With Music

West German Features

The dental patient who hears Beethoven's "Ninth" instead of the noise of the drill cannot elude the suggestive effect. He concentrates on the music, is distracted from thinking of the pain, loses his fright - and the treatment does not seem to be so bad after all.

3,500 dentists from 28 countries were recently able to witness the effectiveness of "musical drilling" in Stuttgart. But this was not the only novelty at the West German Dentists' Convention and International Dentistry Show. This great technical exhibit displayed dental instruments that document the high standard of dentistry technology today.

In addition, the convention offered a scientific program with 96 lectures mainly on the problem of parenthesis. This disease that affects the tooth bed and which becomes apparent through bleeding and shrinking gums and finally by the loss of healthy teeth is, in addition to caries, one of the most frequent tooth illnesses today. An entirely healthy set of teeth is a rarity in Europe. Sick teeth and teeth anomalies are the rule. 90 per cent of all persons are treated by dentists and especially the number of children and young people is continually on the rise.

The president of the Association of German Dentists Dr. Erich Muller really "blew up" on the subject of the civilized persons phlegma in regard to taking care of his teeth. He called him a "lazy chewer". Despite numerous technical, medical and cosmetic aids, he is still not able to take the proper care of his teeth. Dr. Muller suggested forbidding all sweets to children and to give them fruit and carrots instead. He also spoke out in favor of forbidding shops located near schools to sell sweets to children.

The conventional dental chair will disappear one of these days from the dental practice. The patient will no longer sit in a chair but lie relaxed on a hydraulically moveable couch. And the dentist will not drill, grind or fill teeth while standing but while sitting next to his patient.

A further improvement in the dental-technical field is high-power drills. The development of the so-called turbine instruments has increased the number of revolutions from a former 8,000 to 40,000 per minute. And the West German dental industry has already developed drills that work at a speed of 350,000 to 400,000 revolutions per minute. Drilling is decisively faster and the painful vibrations are avoided. Discussed but hardly experimented with is the use of the Laser ray in dentistry. Tests have shown that the Laser ray is able to drill through the tooth socket with great exactness in record time.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (October 22, 1940) Hitler received vice premier Pierre Laval of France somewhere in French territory it was announced, climaxing indications in Berlin circles of a developing attempt to mass the surviving French warships with those of Germany and Italy for a showdown with the British fleet.

One of Britain's newest destroyers, the 1,600-ton Kimberley, completed since the war began, engaged Italian destroyers in the Red Sea between Africa and Asia, early Monday, the Admiralty announced, trapped the 1,058-ton Italian destroyer, Francesco Nullo, driving it ashore and blowing it up.

TEN YEARS AGO (October 22, 1955) Ian Hunter, artistic director of the famed Edinburgh festival arrived in Ottawa to make a survey of possibilities for an annual international festival of music and arts in the capital.

The Black Death

Winnipeg Free Press

Throughout the Middle Ages the threat of bubonic plague hung like a sentence of death over the crowded cities and towns of Europe. Far back into history we find records of wave upon wave of the pestilence sweeping at intervals across the continent and the islands offshore and leaving behind it decimated populations, disordered commerce and terrified survivors.

The last great plague to sweep London broke out in stinking houses around the Longacre early in the year 1665. Throughout that dreadful year and into the year that followed the weekly death counts were alarmingly high and cries of "Bring out your dead" rang like alarms in the night.

In pits all over London and in the fields around, the flood of plague-deformed bodies rotted and added the stench of their decay to the already polluted air of the city and the man who felt the hard plague sore forming in his groin gave up hope for the future and prepared himself for the pain and the hideous black vomit that marked the stages toward the final agony of death.

The horror of 1665 was the last great plague epidemic to sweep northern England. A gradual improvement of sanitary conditions lessened the possibility of a return of the black death in its old, gigantic forms. Man's memory of horror is, however, long and so it is that modern outbreaks of plague strike a dreadful chord deep within us. The plague bacillus endures on a flea carried by certain wild rodents and the possibility of a return of the old pestilence is present provided conditions for its spread are available.

To think that such conditions are to be found in a rich country like the United States almost staggers the imagination. The Journal of the American Medical Association reports, however that six cases of the disease, five in New Mexico, and one in California, have been identified. The American authorities, no doubt, have the situation well in hand. Only one death has so far been reported. News of an outbreak of plague, however minor, cannot fail to strike a chill into the hearts of those who know history. The shadows of old terrors still lie across the world, however faint time may have made them.

MANY HAVE WHEELS There were about 5,122,000 automobiles in use in Canada in 1964.

The Active Teen-Ager

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen The teen-ager leads an active life but does not have a boundless store of energy. Wise parents recognize these limitations and lay down the law when signs of fatigue appear. This means more rest at the expense of the young person's social activities.

Most high school students have a busy schedule. They carry a heavy academic program and are active in numerous extracurricular affairs including athletics and band. Homework keeps them occupied at night and some work to supplement the family income. The weekend is open for social activities and rest. Both have their place but, of the two, rest is more essential to health.

This is why I believe the teen-ager should be allowed to sleep late on Saturday morning unless there are better reasons why he should get up. A physical examination is in order when the youngster looks pale or complains of fatigue.

He may have a chronic sinus infection, diseased teeth or tonsils, diabetes, or a heart or kidney disorder. Low metabolism slows him down and thyroid tablets will perk him up and improve his grades. Anemia also is a possibility.

The importance of diet in this period of rapid growth cannot be overestimated. Some youngsters add six to 10 inches in height. The demand for food, particularly proteins, is tremendous. Some is allotted for growth and the remainder for energy and the replacement of worn-out tissues. The young adult needs at least one quart of milk a day, meat, cheese, fish, eggs, vegetables, fruits, and cereals.

The best tonics for the sluggish adolescent are fresh air, sunshine, good food, and rest. The only exception is when psychological factors are responsible. Some develop an inferiority complex when they do not make good grades or live up to their parents' expectation. The same occurs when they are shunned by friends or jilted in a love affair. Others are unhappy or weighed down with fear or anxiety. A little help at the right time goes a long way to bring them back to normal.

SLOW LOSER J. S. writes: I have osteoarthritis and am overweight. I've tried dieting but cannot shed more than two or three pounds. Walking is difficult because the pain is mainly in my knee. When watching TV or reading, I'm in the habit of lying down. Could this be the reason for my failure to lose weight?

REPLY No. The combination of inactivity and not adhering to the diet over a long period is responsible.

TENDENCY REMAINS T. S. writes: Does allergy ever disappear as suddenly as it appeared?

REPLY The allergic tendency remains but the manifestations, such as hives or asthma, often disappear abruptly.

TYPHUS DEFINED A. C. K. writes: Exactly what is typhus?

REPLY A disease of filth, with symptoms resembling a super flu. The organism is transmitted through an infected louse or rat flea.

O. B. writes: Is it safe to drink milk that has been in the refrigerator four days?

REPLY Four-day-old milk should be safe, but it may be sour. The only way to find out is to taste or smell it.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Man Run Over by Tractor Greatly Improves" - Headline it must be that this straightened him out. -Guelph Mercury.

Jackson and his wife were doing a little fly hunting about the house. Wife (after a while): "How many have you killed?" Jackson: "Six, three males and three females." Wife (smiling): "How absurd! How could you tell if they were males or females?" Jackson: "Easy, my dear! Three were on the sugar and three were on the mirror." -Montreal Star.

"My goodness," the wife said finally. "It didn't always take you this long to make up your mind. Why, you married me two weeks after you met me!" "Listen," said the husband, "buying a car is serious business!" -Financial Post.

Mrs. Newlywed - "Normal, my dear, I know something is troubling you; and I want you to tell me what it is. Your worries are our worries now." Mr. Newlywed - "Well, dear, we've just had a letter from a girl in Boston; and she's suing us for breach of promise." -Montreal Star.

Increasing Junk In Space

Last Feb. 22 the Soviet Union shot Cosmos 57 into orbit and, according to our scientific checks, it exploded. Our experts counted 160 pieces of it. For some days each piece orbited separately.

A fortunate thing about junk in space is that - unlike junk on earth - it automatically disappears in time. It falls back into the atmosphere and burns before it reaches earth.

However, some of it orbits for a long time, and at the rate we are launching - and soon other nations - will be sending up satellites and other space vehicles, space may in time offer some terrific hazards.

The experts say that there are 261 American and 80 Russian pieces of junk presently tearing around the space over the earth at 17,000 or more miles an hour.

Space, of course, is limitless. And scientists don't see much danger to future manned satellites as far as colliding with orbiting junk is concerned.

But the danger may come - maybe on the day that man becomes so buried in junk on earth that he starts blasting it into space to get rid of it.

No Snakes In Newfoundland

The old gag that whisky is helpful in cases of "snake bite" has been shot down, once again. This time it is in an interesting, authoritative booklet, just published by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, entitled "The Massasauga Rattlesnake."

Its author, Miss Barbara Froom, gives sensible instructions on what to do and where to go for antivenom serum if you are bitten by one. She feels it necessary to add: "Alcoholic stimulants should never be given."

Some of the incidental information in the pamphlet is intriguing. It is no surprise to learn that rattlers are Canada's only venomous snakes and that Manitoba, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces are free of them.

What caught our eye is the statement that Newfoundland has no native snakes whatever.

Do we detect the birth of another legend, here? If Newfoundland, like Ireland, is free of snakes, who is to be cast in the role of St. Patrick, the oyster of reptiles? So far as future generations are concerned, we have a candidate for that honor.

Will it not attach to the Newfoundland who has become legendary in our times, even while he is still alive? In years to come, will Newfoundland mothers soothe their children with tales about their own St. Patrick, Premier Joey Smallwood?

Art Treasures On View

Six hundred art treasures representing the cultural achievements of all the civilizations from which the nations of the Commonwealth have developed are on view at London's Royal Academy until November 13.

Another superb centrepiece exhibit is a gold strip recording a treaty between one of the branches of the Royal Family of Calicut and the Dutch East India Company in 1691.

Worth more than £1,000,000 musical instruments, arms and armor, precious jewellery, silver and gold plate, paintings and sculpture from past ages and modern times comprise the "Treasures From The Commonwealth" exhibition which is part of the Commonwealth Arts Festival.

The largest single collection is from Canada and includes wood carvings and silver work from early French Canadian churches as well as Eskimo sculptures from the Arctic.

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