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 strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 4 — THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1964

Aids To Education

Spokesmen for the four Opposition parties are quoted as being critical of the Pearson Government's approach to the problem of federal aid to education. The student loan plan, says Mr. Diefenbaker, is just a stopgap. To NDP Leader Douglas it's "a pretty shabby piece of legislation—very largely window dressing." Social Credit Leader Thompson complains that too few university students will be able to get loans under the plan, while Creditiste House Leader Gregoire is against it because it invades provincial jurisdiction over education.

The Government, according to Finance Minister Gordon, is prepared to guarantee bank loans totalling up to $40,000,000 for needy university students in the first year of operation. It will pay interest charges while the student attends university and for six months after that. Surely—except to those sharing Mr. Gregoire's views—this is a step to be commended, if for no other reason than that it creates a precedent for further responsibiity by Ottawa in a matter of vital concern to the provinces and municipalities.

Another forward move in the matter of aid to education is the government's youth allowance bill for the payment of $10 per month to the parents of boys and girls 16 and 17 years of age, provided they stay in school or suffer from some disability. This measure has been passed in the Commons, and it is hoped that the incentive it provides will prove sufficiently attractive to bring many children back to school or otherwise cause them to pursue job or career training. Here again, the amount is modest—but it could be enough, as Health Minister Judy LaMarsh remarked in introducing the bill—"to make the whole difference between children leaving school too early and staying on for further training."

How Do They Do It?

Those who have become pessimistic over Canada's bicultural problem should take a look at Switzerland, which this year is celebrating its existence and survival with a national exhibition at Lausanne. This is a thing it has done twice before, and it is going in for it this time with an enthusasm that should put us to shame. For Switzerland has achieved an unassailable unity based on profound differences that would long since have caused any other nation to fly apart. We have been reading about it in a dispatch by Patrick O'Donovan in the London Observer—an Irishman's comment on a Swiss success story that is tinged with envy as well as admiration.

Switzerland has no more than 5,500,000 people. Yet it encompases 25 separate and almost sovereign governments. It has four languages (the fourth a strange imperial survival called Romansch) and two historically opposed religions, here expressed in extreme and perfervid form. It has no common culture.

It has the weakest possible central government. It has no raw materials, except water and cement. Yet if you look at it closely you find a state that has somehow avoided all the great modern sins of absolutism, statism, nationalism and class consciousness. It seems almost too good to be true.

It is a union of small sovereign states or cantons which came together at different times, not to form a state but to preserve their identities and differences. It began in the 13th century. The last canton—the ancient city of Geneva—joined the union in the 19th century, and the system is still valid. It includes cantons whose language and tradition are overwhelming French, Alemannic or Italian. All of them have freely chosen, time and again, to cleave to the confederation.

The cantons jealously decide on major questions normally left to central governments. A man seeking Swiss citizenship must be acceped by a canton, not by Switzerland. And in each canton the citizens vote and vote and vote, on Sunday, in almost monthly referendums that vary from the building of a road to the sending of help to the Congo.

Yet the country does not in practice divide politically on race or religion. On major issues it is united. This union is most eloquently expressed in Swiss neutrality—a ferocious, armed neutrality. The army is the great national institution that unites and equalizes and indoctrinates. Every fit man serves in it and year after year goes back to train with it. Twelve divisions can be called up in 48 hours. And its aims, its strategy and its training are limited solely of Switzerland.

Back In Business

Cheering news comes from beleagered Aberdeen, to the effect that the grand old town is back in businss. The tourist business, that is. It is to celebrate its deliverance from the recent outbreak of typhoid with a Festival of Thanks on July 25.

This will be the beginning of a fortnight of festivities when it confidently expects to see holiday-makers from Europe, the .S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the world joining with thousands from the rest of Britain flocking to this gateway to one of the most attractive parts of Scotland.

The city estimates that it lost £3 million in trade in hotels and ships during June, when the epidemic was at its worst. Visitors have come back. The airport is busy again as planes fly in from Glasgow and London, or call on the way to the Shetlnd Isles.

With eighteen Highland Games, agricultural shows and sheep dog trials alone taking place within a radius of some fifty miles between now and early September—to say nothing of the historic and festival attractions within Aberdeen itself—the city should go far to make up for the visitors who earlier stayed away.

The climax of the season in these parts comes with the Royal Highland Gathering at Braemar on September 18, usually attended by the Queen and her family, who will themselves be on holiday at nearby Balmoral. After that, of course, we shall have Her Majesty and Prince Philip with us for our biggest event of the year, when she officially opens the Fathers of Confederation Memorial Building here on October 6.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A 4-volume collection of 18th century songs by Robert Burns has returned to Scottish ownership. The collection was bought for £5,000 from its American owner by the trustees of the Burns' Monument and Cottage at Alloway, in Ayr.

* * *

After two stationary months, Canada's living cost moved ahead again in June to a new high. The increase was modest, from 135 in May to 135.3 last month. The spiral was 2.5 points above the June 1963 level. Food was blamed for the increase along with clothing and housing. Increases in municipal taxation, prevalent in so many cities and towns, are reflected in home costs.

* * *

According to an answer given to a query in the Commons the other day, it costs $50,000 each time an Air Canada plane stops at Trois-Rivieres, Quebec. On the average there are 2.4 passengers who disembark from each Air Canada flight there. The airport was built in 1960 and the runway cost $700,000. It is in the riding of Hon. Leon Balcer, former Conservative transport minister. It wasn't Mr. Balcer, we note, that asked the question.

OTTAWA LAOCOON

OTTAWA REPORT

"A Right And A Great Privilege"

(Patrick Nicholson's guest columnist today is Alfred D. Hales, Progressive Conservatime MP for Wellington South.)

In travelling around my Riding keeping in touch with my constituents, I am often confronted with the remarks: "My opinion wouldn't count for anything", "What's the use?" or "What can I do, my views would only be lost in the shuffle".

In the democratic form of government the individual and his views must and do count because the government is the people. As a Member of Parliament, I for one can say that I do appreciate receiving letters from individuals expressing their views. When the postal arrangements are such that people can write to their member postage free, there seems little reason why more people do not sit down and take time to write. There is no doubt that their views are of great help to MPs.

One only needs to think of some of the controversial issues that have come before Parliament lately and their effect on the number of letters that have been sent to MPs. The views expressed have gone a long way towards helping to form the opinions of MPs. One example which immediately comes to mind is the great flood of mail which all MPs have received concerning the adopting of a distinctive Canadian flag. Never in my time as a Member, nor I expect in history, has so much mail been received on any subject. Every letter received presents an individual's view.

FRANK FAN MAIL

Another case which comes to mind concerns the Liberal Government's proposal to enact legislation concerning the rules and regulations as they would apply to the owners of cable television. When a person has TV programs wired directly into his home and he is told that this privilege is going to be denied him and that there may be regulations passed whereby he will only be able to view one American station and conceivably that the programs on cable TV would be limited to certain hours of the day, when one's right and freedom is threatened to be taken away from him, letters begin to pour in protesting. This has had the effect that the members of all parties have persuaded the government to delay any action in this regard.

The many letters I received on the CATV question carried interesting observations and unrestricted views. I quote a sentence or two from some of them: "Is it going to be a criminal offence to watch any TV program except the state TV? It's like under Hitler. Who is boss of the CBC?" "It doesn't seem fair to take away our leisure, it's like taking away our freedom." Another, "We hope you may be able to prevent the Pearson outfit from cutting out this simple pleasure with which we old folks pass many pleasant hours." Another, "Continue the fight, the TV men have gone to heavy expense to set up here." These letters came from as far away as the West Coast, and many from the Lakehead and other parts of Ontario.

YOUR VIEWS DO COUNT

I think, however, it should be said that individual letters to MPs are of much greater value than the organized blitz method of relaying views. By this I mean the plans whereby some group has 4,000 or 5,000 cards printed and all the writer has to do is to fill in the name of the MP, sign the card and drop it in a mail box without a stamp. These are not nearly as effective as the private personal letter. Many views and ideas expressed at caucus meetings of all parties, I am sure, come from views expressed by constituents either by mail or personal interview.

In conclusion I would say that your views do count and without them there would be great danger of an MP getting out of touch with his riding. The people of Canada have a right and a great privilege under our democratic system of government to express their views and I think they should use this right and privilege to a greater extent.

From The Past

Hamilton Spectator

Out of a past so unsophisticated by comparison with today that it has a unique charm, leaps the name of Pola Negri. She is starring in a new film.

You have to be 50 or so to savor the full meaning of this comeback. In the first half of the 1920s when silent films were in full bloom — and what a gorgeous bloom it was! —Miss Negri was a dazzling star in the Hollywood firmament. And Hollywood was not the sad, memory - echoing place it is today. It was the dream factory of the world. There has never been anything like it. Film stars were adored by millions and they were paid in millions.

In her film roles Miss Negri was adored, hated, hissed, booed and applauded by countless millions in theatres around the world. She was the sinuous vamp who lured dutiful young husbands from their wives. Between 1921 and 1927, when her star began to set, she made 19 pictures. Some of their titles are enough to describe their contents— "The Forbidden Paradise", "The Secret Hour", "The Charmer", "The Lily of the Dust". One was called simply "Men."

Pola believed in "mystery". Her dogs were not ordinary dogs, they were "Saluki hounds descended from the hunting dogs of the pharaohs of ancient Egypt." For Rudolph Valentino, the handsome hero whose hair was as sleek as a phonograph record, she confessed undying love, although Valentino was silent on the matter.

By 1927, the market for vamps was declining and a rival had appeared, Gloria Swanson. Tales of the feud between the two women were gulped down by fans the world over.

After 1928 Pola appeared only rarely in films. On her arrival in Hollywood there were so many flowers on the train that other passengers had difficulty getting off. When she left it was without special fanfare.

Now, aged 67, she is starring again. Those who remember her great days will be inspired by this example of courage and by the imperishability of spirit and talent.

Congo Strong Man

Montreal Star

Moishe Tshombe was able to take over the government of the Congo so easily that his "spontaneous" return from exile must in fact merely have been the culmination of a well- developed and deep- rooted plan. So far the skilful engineers behind it all have not been identified. Short of proof to the contrary, meanwhile, an admiring glance must be cast in the direction of the rich Belgian mining men who were Mr. Tshombe's principal sponsors in Katanga.

There never was a doubt about the young republic's need for a strong leader. And in many respects Mr. Tshombe was the logical choice of his sometime friend, President Kasavubu, to lead the transitional government of reconciliation.

The new government may indeed be merely a transitional one. It is not one of reconciliation, however. It is notable chiefly for the concentration of power in Mr. Tshombe's own hands. Existing political parties, which might have been expected to share portfolios, have been ignored. Men never before in office, save for one of his old Katanga strong men— were chosen instead.

To accept this as an indication of how things will develop may be pessimistic. Still it is frightening to think that so much authority might not only remain in Tsombe's hands beyond the rather vague reconstruction period, but be concentrated further. It could happen with a man of his ambitions. What happened when Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba was delivered into his hands in 1961 still brings shudders.

Perhaps things will be better. Perhaps the start of an orderly existence, brought about by international arms and vast sums of money, will continue. The week's developments in Leopoldville, however, do not provide a happy augury.

Has A Hard Life

New York Times

A young man in Florida has just taught a computer to write poetry. He feeds the machine 78 words, including 20 simple phrases, sets it to use nouns, adjectives and verbs in orderly sequence, and the machine grinds out 30 poems a minute.

Here is a sample:

Darkly the peaceful trees crash
In the serene sun.
While the heart heard
The swiftmoon stopped silently.

The author of these lines is IBM-7090. Capable of only 42,000 mathematical additions per second, it is considered obsolete. Nevertheless, IBM-7090 will eventually be able to turn out 500 poems a minute, according to forecasts.

The pity is that there is no practical use for this talent. Poetry nowadays sells little better than horse collars, and any poet who cannot fortify his income with a curmudgeon act or lecture- circuit jokes is hard put to pay the milkman.

IBM-7090 can expect nothing but contempt from his fellow computers. It is painful to imagine him turning up at class reunions and computer conventions.

"That's old 7090," the high speed boys will whisper, "he's down to writing poetry."

At the bar, running tetrameter through his tubes, he will be hounded with subtle sneering questions. "How many poets have you put out of work this year, 7090?"

And, "why don't you come up to Washington this fall and help us call the election six minutes before the polls close?"

KILL 17 IN AMBUSH

SAIGON (AP)—A Communist Viet Cong battalion ambushed a government truck convoy rumbling into a South Viet Nam valley killing 17 and wounding 21. It was the second major ambush in two days.

Single Cause Is Outlined

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Shingles (herpes zoster) is caused by a viral infection in the root of one or more nerves. The outcome is a painful blister-like eruption on the skin just above the endings of the involved nerve, generally several inches from the source.

The nerves of the body come in duplicates; one set is on the right, the other on the left side of the body. For this reason, herpes zoster generally develops on one side, usually the chest or face. The lesions rarely extend across the midline. An old wives tale has it that shingles is fatal when it encircles the body. This is not true. The only way the line of blisters can meet is when a nerve root on both sides is infected, leading to a rash on both sides of the body.

On the other hand, there often is a basis for many of these traditional tales and this one may have stemmed from the serious nature of disseminated herpes zoster. This is an unusual form of the disease in which the typical eruption crops out all over the body.

Three New York City physicians recently reported a series of 175 patients with herpes zoster who were admitted to a New York City hospital. Seventeen (9.7 per cent) had the disseminated type and of these, 11 cases (65 per cent) were suffering from serious underlying diseases, including cancer.

This is what happened to these 17 patients: All developed ordinary shingles located on one side of the body. At the time the condition started, 11 had cancer or leukemia, unrelated to herpes zoster. The extra stress produced by the other diseases was believed to have brought about spread of the rash.

Nine of the 11 had received a cortisone- like hormone, X-ray, or tumor therapy prior to dissemination of the eruption. It is not known why it occurred in those without other illnesses except that two of the six had received cortisone before the eruption became generalized. Was it the weakened condition of the patient, the hormone, or both that led to the spread of the eruption?

RECURRING INFECTIONS

E. R. writes: How many times can a person develop a staph infection?

REPLY

Over and over again. Boils are a good example. Some individuals are plagued with crops of these staphylococcal infetions over a period of years.

LEAD PENCIL TATTOO

H. Z. writes: Can an accidental tattoo (from a lead pencil puncture) be removed successfully from the skin of the face?

REPLY

Yes, with a small wire brush or via surgery. A scar may be left if the tattoo is deep.

SHOES AND CORNS

L. S. writes: Is there any way to eradicate a corn permanently?

REPLY

Yes — obtain shoes that fit and learn to walk properly. Corns develop because of friction between the shoe and the toes.

DESK EXERCISE

A. S. T. writes: Is the isometric type exercise safe for a man of 46 who works at an office desk?

REPLY

Yes. No better exercise can be done at the office desk.

NO HARM

A. D. writes: Is it safe for a person with a spastic bowel to drink a bottle of beer a day?

REPLY

Yes, especially if it induces relaxation.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Good vision is important for safe driving.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, co Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

Looking back through life we are apt to discover that we put on our greatest bursts of speed when passing up golden opportunities. — Financial Post.

Note to those rushing into matrimony: the three R's, are rent, rations and raiment. — Brandon Sun.

A Montreal artist uses peas, corn, beans and spaghetti to make startling murals. Many young mothers have been startled when tiny offspring tried the same thing on the walls, table and floor during a balky feeding. — Ottawa Journal.

Tiny Clara heard her mother say that a neighboring lady had a new baby. The tot puzzled over the matter, and at last sought additional information: "Oh, mumsy, what is she going to do with her old one?"— Financial Post.

Montreal is testing a way to learn a new language in a matter of hours. Sometimes a similar result is had by listening for a matter of seconds to an amateur carpenter who's just bashed his thumb.Windsor Star.

The oldster who thought retirement would bring freedom is almost as badly disillusioned and disappointed as he was when as a youth he thought he would be free when he reached 21.— Galt Reporter.

Every language and every age has had its platitudes. But the speed and convenience of communication today has multiplied the dulling effect of them. It is possible for an intelligent person to live his life without ever putting a listener to the labor of considering an original phrase, or an original thought.— Peterborough Examiner.

Unhappy HMCS Provider

Ottawa Journal

Short and dismal is the record of HMCS Provider, ordered for the RCN in 1960.

The initial tender presented by Davie Shipbuilding and accepted was for $11,040,960.

The present cost to the navy, that is, the taxpayer, is $16,-382,904.

The extra cost of $5,341,944, Mr. Douglas Fisher was informed in a return given him in the Commons, was due to sales tax, escalation allowed for labor and materials, additional spares, construction and material requirements not covered by the tender documents, and design changes.

The sales tax added an estimated $1,537,510. The tender had allowed extra charges for the escalation of labor and material and those added another $1,300,000 while changes and spares made up the rest of the extra bill of $5,341,944.

The building agreement permitted such charges but the Commons should interest itself in finding out whether anyone, at any stage, started back in alarm and protested that his ship was to cost very much more than had been bargained for in the beginning.

The taxpayer would accept the Provider bills with better grace if he felt the RCN had obtained a fit ship ready for years of service. The fact is that the navy had hardly taken delivery of the Provider before she had to be docked for repairs; defects were found in winch pumps and motors. Meantime, the shipbuilder has told the Government he should be paid an additional $685,600 for work performed which, he claims, was not covered by the contract.

The taxpayer deserves an assurance that the whole Provider enterprise has not been improvident.

Borodin Rehabilitated

Milwaukee Journal

Back in the 1920's the model of an international conspirator was Mikhail Borodin. He was clever, suave, tough and imaginative. He was a favorite of Stalin.

Borodin was exiled from Russia in 1906 because of anticzarist activities and came to the United States, where he attended Valparaiso university in Indiana. He lived for a time in Chicago. After the Communist revolution he went home. For several years he was a Communist agent in Spain, Mexico, Scotland, the United States and other nations. Then came his biggest job of all, in China. He was the chief comintern agent there and an adviser to Chaing Kai-shek. Mystery and intrigue shrouded him.

When Chiang broke with the Soviet Union in 1927 Borodin went home. In the thirties he disappeared. It is thought that he had been sent to a concentration camp in Siberia. His death was announced in 1953. He had died in disgrace, labeled a traitor.

Now the Khrushchev government has rehabilitated Borodin. For what good it does him, he is now a hero. Stalin is attacked for having so misused this true patriot.

Thus Khrushchev has another case with which to smear Stalin. By hailing Borodin as a hero he also likes a swipe at the Communist Chinese, for it was Borodin who talked Stalin into dealing with Chiang Kai-shek, now the bitter enemy of Mao Tse-tung, instead of with Mao. Borodin's name is anathema in Communist China. Its propagandists are sure to go to work with new vigor because of this latest insult from the Kremlin.

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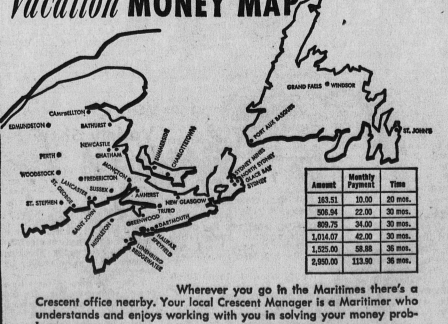

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