The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Had He Been Heeded!

Victoria was Queen and Lord Salisbury the Prime Minister when Sir Winston Churchill entered the British House of Commons at the age of 26. Salisbury was followed by Balfour, Campbell-Bannerman, Asquith, Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Baldwin, MacDonald, Chamberlain, Churchill himself, then Attlee, Churchill again, Eden and Macmillan. Churchill's career in the House of over sixty years spanned them all—longer than that of any other man in British history.

During those years he learned to know triumph and disaster, to walk in the shadows of public forgetfulness as well as in the sunshine of fame. Surely history affords no greater example of the ups and downs of public life than the fact that, just before the Second World War, he was regarded by many as a spent force. Yet those were the very years—when he called upon the world with prophetic but derided wisdom to stop the drift to war—which he himself regards as the most vital in his career.

It was the dramatic war years, of course, that brought him to the fore as the matchless symbol of courage in freedom's cause. Yet he has told us in an unforgettable phrase that he "would have been torn to pieces" if he had counselled surrender at that time. As one commentator has pointed out, the British people did not need Churchill to find their genius for unshaken resistance. They found it in their history and in their own character. It was honor enough for Churchill, or for any man, to be worthy of such a people in their years of mortal peril. That was his great achievement at that critical stage. But the tragedy of the war lay in the fact that it might have been averted had his voice been heeded earlier.

Today, on his 90th birthday, history has already enshrined this grand old man among the immortals. There are few occasions on record when such an event has meant so much to so many people everywhere, as they remember the past and the part Churchill played in redeeming it from degredation. But it is fitting that his pre-war contribution to peace should be remembered as well. It failed in its purpose, but he counts that failure among his proudest endeavors.

Mr. Pearson's Attitude

Prime Minister Pearson has rightly called for a suspension of judgment and condemnation in connection with the bribery and coercion charges levelled in the Commons against the Liberal government. Nor will he find any but a rabid few to disagree with him in denouncing "McCarthyism" as a real menace to the freedom that its proponents claim to be preserving. But if his comments were intended as a rebuke to the Opposition members who raised this issue in the House and forced the government to agree to a full judicial inquiry, then he is wide of the mark indeed.

What is significant about this matter is that it would never have come to public notice at all had not the Opposition exercised its right to make specific charges, and fought against repeated efforts on the part of Mr. Pearson's government colleagues to rule them out of order.

What is perhaps the most remarkable disclosure in the responses elicited to these charges is that the Prime Minister had not been informed of them until last week. As the Montreal Gazette remarks drily in this connection, "a Prime Minister who remains unaware for months that serious charges have been made against the assistants of two of his cabinet ministers, and even against his own parliamentary secretary, is dwelling in curious isolation."

This disclosure, more than anything else, has convinced the public that there has been some attempt, somewhere, to sweep something under the rug in the hope that no one would ever find out about it. And as the Montreal Star well says, if there is evidence of "McCarthyism" in the case, it relates to those who, aware of the facts, proceeded to sit in judgment on them and decide in private that there was no case to answer.

That Mr. Pearson himself should find more pressing business in Winnipeg last week, at a Liberal party gathering, than in his seat in the Commons while this scandal was being aired, is also a matter of comment throughout the country. It was from there that he gave his assurance that all the charges would be investigated "at once and through a full and fair inquiry conducted in a way which will commend public confidence." Words which, had they been spoken at the right time and in the right place, would have ended the controversy much sooner.

$14 Million An Hour

On the basis of estimates in a United Nations report, the world is now spending $14,000,000 an hour on arms—money which could be spent in so many better ways for all mankind. The cost of one new prototype bomber, for example, would pay the salaries of 250,000 school teachers for a year. Or it could be used to build 30 new science faculties, each with places for 1,000 students. For the price of one large atomic submarine, 50 cities could be provided with modern hospitals. And the funds needed to develop a supersonic fighter plane would pay for 600,000 homes to house more than three million people!

But we're caught up in a vicious circle in arms expenditures. The transition from an arms economy to a peace economy would inevitably produce dislocations and would require careful planning on the part of developed and developing nations alike. The conversion after the Second World War was eased by a huge backlog of civilian demand for consumer goods, accompanied by substantial reserves of purchasing power in the form of wartime savings. At present, there is comparatively little unsatisfied demand.

That's the argument, at least. But when we think of the money which could be freed for homes, hospitals, schools, laboratories, farm equipment and a better life for all mankind under a peace economy, it doesn't seem to make sense. Nothing about this mad armament race makes sense, and the more we try to rationalize it the more the angels must be weeping at our incredible folly and stupidity.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Talent of a rare kind was shown by a young fellow in England, who invented an automatic wolf whistle which he installed on his car. On sight of a pretty girl he pulled a chord from the driving seat and the wolf whistle whistled. Passing through a Warwickshire village the other day he spotted two pretty girls together. What he didn't spot was the constable on the other side of the road. Result: an appearance in court and a fine of one pound for using a car horn without good reason.

* * *

British scientists have added a new name to the list of wonder drugs—ceporin. It is said to have major advantages over penicillin in that it is safer, quicker in action and can be used by patients normally resistant to this form of antibiotic. Whatever its claims in this regard, the manner of its discovery affords a staggering example of patient ingenuity. It was developed from a mould made from a piece of fluff discarded as a result of what seemed to be a useless impurity in penicillin. Research was carried on by hundreds of scientists and technicians over a period of years sifting through 440,000 strains of antibiotic mould.

"BUCK" FEVER

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Senate Hurdle Still To Be Cleared

The House of Commons will soon hear the chairman of the special committee on the Canadian flag move concurrence in its report. This will touch off the final days of political debate on the subject which most Canadians rightly consider should never have been made a partisan political issue.

Then what?

Prime Minister Pearson has publicly announced, not once but many times over several months, that the proposed new design "will be placed before Parliament for the decision of Parliament."

Those words may prove to have an embarrassing significance. What is "Parliament"? Our constitution, the B.N.A. Act, says that "There shall be one Parliament for Canada, consisting of the Queen, an Upper House styled the Senate, and the House of Commons." Thus "Parliament" does not mean just the House of Commons; it means all three constituent parts. Thus Prime Minister Pearson has a moral obligation to propose the new design not only before the Commons, but also before the Senate and the Crown.

UNFORESEEN TANGLE?

But the Flag Committee was a committee of the Commons only. The Commons no doubt will ultimately, by a majority on a recorded vote, accept the report of its committee. But that is only one third of Mr. Pearson's "Parliament", and a committee report is not like a Bill: it does not automatically move on to the Senate for passage, and then require royal assent.

Here then the flag will be in a constitutional maze, a maze which appears not to have been foreseen.

The Government Leader in the Senate, Hon. John Connolly, who is a member of the Cabinet, could introduce in the Senate a resolution proposing a flat design which exactly matches what the Commons chooses—but only by happenstance, because the Senate is an entirely separate legislative body so would never rubber stamp a recommendation by a Commons committee.

Then how to get royal assent to a Senate resolution and a Commons committee report is es a problem perhaps unprecedented. The simple machinery would be for the Prime Minister to introduce a Bill in the Commons, formalising the committee report. This Bill could then go forward to the Senate and for royal assent.

But that would open up the whole can of worms for another long debate, raising several new issues.

Item: a recent poll of public opinion revealed that about 68 per cent of the population now favours a plebiscite. This might result in five alternative flag designs being placed before Canadians, for choice by a system of transferable vote.

Item: we would find that time has softened the enthusiasm for "Mike's Maple", just as some Ensign supporters now seek peace at any price. Public opinion might for instance now favour something like the third but hushed-up choice of the committee, which included both the Union Jack and the Fleur-de-lis.

Item: much support is mustering behind a design proposed by a Liberal M.P. from the Maritimes. This is a modified Red Ensign, with three maple leaves where the Jack now is, and the Jack filling an enlarged base of the coat of arms, where the maple leaves now are. This has much support because it would preserve on our flag the symbols of our history and the cross symbolic of the Christian faith, both so sincerely and plausibly advocated by so many good Canadians such as, for example, the sincere and persuasive M.P. for Orillia, Dr. P. B. Rynard.

It is sad that our standard has become a political football first and now a public yawn.

Leave Earnscliffe Be

Ottawa Journal

There's a report that several Canadian government departments are looking at Earnscliffe with the idea that the old home of Sir John A. Macdonald might become a kind of national shrine. It seems they think it might well be accomplished by 1967 so as to become a kind of centenary project.

Why pension off that charming old residence while it is still in active service and has many years ahead of it?

The Sussex Drive "mile of history" is better for having on that prominent cliff-edge the residence of the British High Commissioner. Down river a bit are the City Hall, the French Embassy, the Prime Minister's residence and Rideau Hall. Surely this is a happy and fitting gathering of the five main influences in our national and city life?

To make a Macdonald museum out of Earnscliffe would be looking too much backward and too little ahead. A couple of rooms in the new national museum would contain all the beds and desks and books and bric-a-brac a Canadian will ever want to see—and more people would see it there than would make a special pilgrimage a mile-and-a-half from the city's centre.

Someone has spoken of Earnscliffe being made a kind of government guest-house for distinguished visitors. That would entail maintaining a costly household 365 days a year for use perhaps one day of the time. If ever we do need a guest-house it need not be on that precious site.

This centenary business must be kept in hand. A hundred years in the life of a country is nothing to grow excited about. Proper celebration of that birthday should be directed towards improving what we are doing rather than remembering what we have done.

Many an Ottawa person showing the town to visitors glows with pride on reaching the distinguished area: "that's where the Governor General lives, that's the Prime Minister's home..." To drop the British High Commissioner from that roll call in favor of a museum would in our view be stuffy nonsense.

International Finance

Christian Science Monitor

It is the degree of control of the great Western currencies that is illustrated by the raising of bank rates—not a disarray like that of the past.

The British did what they had to do, faced with a run on the pound sterling. The Americans responded with only the minimal correction. After all, it was only a short while ago that the Americans were in similar trouble and everyone up and down the Atlantic community came to the rescue.

There is a remarkable degree of group action in the world of international finance today. It is based on great advances in knowledge of the economics of trade and currencies, and on a growing wisdom in directing them. It parallels the similarly striking enlargement of knowledge and agreement on domestic economic policy in the United States and elsewhere.

Behind the scenes, today's international bankers and finance ministers use the many techniques of balance and stability that are available to them with virtuosity.

Their genie is the international telephone. They consult on a first name basis with the utmost speed and co-ordination.

This doesn't mean that political strains do not impinge on economic. They do. And the inaudible voices flicking across the Atlantic have problems. But the panic seems almost to have been drained out of them. Certainly the anarchy and misunderstanding and competitive throat- cutting of the past have been largely drained away.

One almost begins to hope that economics is becoming the servant of men.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WARMLY COMMENDED

Sir,—We have read with much interest in your paper about the Senior Citizens project for Montague. We feel we cannot let this opportunity pass without commenting on the generous gift of land, donated by one of Montague's leading citizens, namely Mr. George Gordon.

This has been in our minds a most generous and thoughtful gesture and feel sure the people in that area must appreciate his wonderful gift to the Town, which will make this project possible. Citizens such as he should go down in history.

We are, Sir, etc.

THE WIGHTMANS

(Mr. and Mrs. E.K. Wightman,)

The Unsung Heroes

Milwaukee Journal

The unsung heroes of international diplomacy are the interpreters.

These nameless men and women work behind the scenes, patiently tending the lines of global discourse, smoothing the path for greater understanding.

You find them in Paris, London, Geneva, New York, in every capital of international talk.

Their interpretation is sometimes so fluent and polished that it is more effective than the original.

The United Nations employs about 80 staff interpreters, most of them in New York, the rest of the UN's European headquarters in Geneva.

There are at least 500 other professional interpreters spread over 25 countries, most of them free lancers.

Secrecy is the byword of the professional interpreter and a keystone of the code of the International Association of Conference Interpreters, established 12 years ago.

The IACI stoutly maintains that members make few mistakes. But those few can be dandied.

Oscillating Eyeballs

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Nys-tag'-mus is an ocular condition in which one or both eyeballs jerk back and forth, independently of other eye movements. These rhythmic oscillations or tremors are little more than a flicker. They result from a variety of conditions and are useful to the physician in diagnosing certain diseases.

The movements usually are from side to side but may be up and down, oblique, or 'round and 'round. The frequency varies from 40 to 100 per minute. Now and then they are too weak or slight to be seen and are detected only with a sensitive instrument (electromy stagmograph or ENG).

Most people with nystagmus are unaware of it. Others are annoyed by the apparent swaying of objects as they look at them. In some instances, nystagmus is associated with head nodding or tilting and dizziness. These oscillations represent a relfex from the balancing mechanism of the ear. In Meniere's syndrome, for example, the victim not only has nystagmus but dizziness, nausea, and ear noises. Nystagmus also is associated with a variety of nervous disorders.

Children with poor vision may develop these ocular movements as a mechanism to obtain the best fixation on an object—a sort of discriminate vision. Babies born blind and those who lose sight shortly after birth all have a noticeable nystagmus. This does not occur when blindness comes on later in life. Youngsters who have lived in dark surroundings may be afflicted after their third birthday and often the condition is associated with head nodding. Many albinos develop nystagmus and so do miners from working continuously in dim light.

Heavy drinkers are said to have nystagmus that persists up to 12 hours after drinking, even though the blood no longer contains alcohol. It is not marked; an ENG is needed to detect the movements. They are noted when turning the head and may present some problems for the individual when he drives a car on the day after imbibing.

SHIVERING INDUCES HEAT

R.-M. writes: Whenever I go outside in the cold from a warm room, I shiver for about five minutes. What can I do to prevent this chilling?

REPLY

Wear warmed clothing. Shivering is a warming mechanism; rapid contractions generate more heat.

POOR NUTRITION

M. M. writes: What are the usual results of malnutrition?

REPLY

Weight loss, weakness, mental apathy, and swelling of the legs. In addition, specific deficiency diseases may develop. These include beriberi, pellagra, scurvy, rickets, kwashiorkor, goiter, some anemias, and certain neurological disorders.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Many foot problems start with improper shoes.

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

NOTES BY THE WAY

Time may be the great healer but it is no face lifter.— Brandon Sun.

If our kids don't learn as much as they used to do at their mother's knee, it is probably because they aren't bent over it often enough.—Sparta Herald.

A Chilton housewife answered the doorbell one day recently and found a pretty female pollster. "May I see the gentleman of the house?" the pollster asked. "No," snaped the lady of the house. "But I only want to know what party he belongs to," explained the pretty caller. "Well, gake a real good look honey," the housewife answered. "I'm the party!"— Chilton Times-Journal.

A Jersey cow was auctioned off at a price of $4,000. That can impress a city man who realizes that this is more than he paid for his automobile— Fort William Times Journal.

No character- building institution ..as lost its reputation quite as thoroughly as has poverty.—Calgary Herald.

Deeply Mired In Viet Nam

By Arch MacKenzie
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The United States position in South Viet Nam resembles the problems of a man digging a hole in a swamp.

Every shovelful of earth is replaced by water. Bedrock, if it exists, is a long way down.

How much farther can the U.S. afford to dig?

After 10 years of supporting South Viet Nam against Communist infiltration, the U.S. is more deeply mired than ever. Having given aid amounting to more than $3,000,000,000, about one-third of it for military help, it has no easy choice between keeping it up and dropping it.

This situation now is drawing another penetrating analysis in Washington amid signs that if the U.S. gets tougher militarily, a more aggressive reaction will come from both China and the Soviet Union.

TAYLOR HOME

Gen. Maxwell Taylor, U.S. ambassador to South Viet Nam, is back in Washington for high-level consultations that will include President Johnson next week.

Taylor, on his return, south to play down reports of broader military action, especially the notion that the war may spread beyond South Viet Nam.

Some of those reports sprang directly from statements attributed to him in Saigon before he left.

"There is no such thing as a simple solution in South Viet Nam," he said. "There are too many variables to attempt to put through any one program.

Spokesmen for the White House portrayed the Viet Nam consultations as a review, with no "horrendous" decisions contemplated.

But the fact remains the U.S. is faced with the alternatives of expanding its role or watching the internal situation in South Viet Nam continue to deteriorate.

Since President Ngo Dinh Diem, leader since 1955 was deposed and killed a year ago, there has been a succession of coups, government realignments and riots. The last time Taylor visited Washington, in early September, there was an abortive coup.

Student and Buddhist rioting and the subsequent declaration of martial law followed his departure this time.

There is considerable speculation he intends to argue for an extension of military action to block aid coming to the Viet Cong inside South Viet Nam from North Viet Nam and Cambodia.

In Moscow this week there was an aggressive warning from the new men in the Kremlin Russia would supply the "necessary assistance" to the Vietnamese Communists if the U.S. attacked them.

This was a change from the attitude of Nikita Khrushchev, at least in his last years as premier. To the U.S. air strikes on North Viet Nam in August, Khrushchev reacted mildly, drawing a bitter Chinese blast for his reticence.

Khrushchev's successors seem to be taking a sterner line.

There is ample evidence the South Vietnamese themselves perhaps care a good deal less about the fate of the war than the U.S. itself or other Southeast Asian countries, such as Thailand, that fear the U.S. may write off the country.

Viet Nam was occupied by the Japanese during the Second World War. The French returned after the war, and left again after inability to cope with the Communists. Now the U.S. has the same problem, as more than 20,000 of its military advisers are in the country and American casualty lists mount daily.

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