The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1956

Gatt-OTC

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, commonly known as GATT, has been in existence now for nearly eight years, without accomplishing anything significant towards the goal prescribed for it, namely, the working out of reciprocal trade agreements through reduction and adjustment of tariffs. The United States took the principal part in drafting the agreement; yet, ironicaly, its ineffectiveness is due chiefly to American reluctance to take the lead, or even an important part, in reducing tariffs. This, in turn, can be traced to wide differences of opinion between the Administration and a strong protectionist segment of Congress on the whole subject of freer trade between the United States, on the one hand, and the other 34 countries, including Canada, which make up the GATT organization, on the other.

As a matter of fact, although the Administration has taken certain steps, most of them minor ones, under the President's powers in the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, Congress itself has never so much as expressed formal approval of GATT's objectives. Whenever the matter has come up, there has been enough anti-GATT sentiment to thwart a clear cut affirmation of the Administration's wishes to make the organization a really effective instrument for advancing world trade. At the present time a movement is on foot to establish a subsidiary of GATT to be known as the Organization of Trade Co-operation.

This, if approved, would be a full time agency for working on goals set by the parent organization. But since, under present rules, it cannot be brought into operation until countries which together make up 80% of free world trade approve it, and since the United States is accountable for more than 20% of it, it looks as though the OTC will be no more useful than GATT itself, if indeed it ever gets beyond the planning stage. President Eisenhower is reported to be for it, as he was reported to be in favour of GATT when he assumed the Presidency. However, the protectionist wing of Congress is still strong; and with a general election in the offing, it will probably be another year or more before anything definite is done about it one way or the other. Meanwhile, it would be as well for other countries in GATT not to rely too much on any American tariff-reducing formula.

Hominid Vs. Hominoid

Nearly a century ago certain fossil remains were dug up in Southern Italy. Specialists have been working on them ever since, and just the other day a Swiss scientist, Dr. Johannes Hurzeler, announced that he had solved their identity—to his own satisfaction, that is. They are, so he says, relics of a "hominid" creature, a direct ancestor of man (not through the intermediate ape), who lived upwards of 10 million years ago. This was hailed as a "great discovery" in certain European scientific circles. Dr. Hurzeler's newly won prestige has been slightly dimmed, however, by the scepticism of two American scientists, Dr. George Gaylord Simpson of the American Museum of Natural History, and Dr. J. Franklin Ewing, director of research services at Fordham University, both of whom are well up in the fossil-detection branch of science. They say that their own examinations led them to believe that the 10 million year old relics are the remains of "either a man-ape or an ape-man" (there is a difference, apparently) who might have been an ancestor of modern man and of living apes—in technical language, "hominoid" rather than "hominid". In any case, they argue, even if the remains did come from a creature with certain human characteristics, that fact in itself would not have any adverse effect on the theory of evolution. In rebuttal, Dr. Hurzeler said that, although it might not shake the theory of evolution, per se, the finding, if substantiated, "would change the belief that man came from an ape--like creature".

While most people will be content to leave the controversy with the scientists and let them fight it out among themselves, it is intriguing to speculate on what the apes, from whom man is reputed to be descended (or is it "ascended"?) think of it all. Do they find it merely amusing? Or, as they ponder the havoc man has done to his world, do they hope that some day their alleged part in it, however remotely it may be fixed by science, will be disproved once for all?

Dr. Kirk's Views

It is generally assumed that if the Western nations are generous enough in their economic assistance to Asiatic countries, these countries will reciprocate by throwing in their lot with the free world. This, in fact, has been a major consideration in all aid programs. The Soviet leaders, of course, are playing their own version of this role; and, in the opinion of Dr. Grayson Kirk, President of Columbia University, who has been on an extended tour of Asia, the advantage thus far is clearly on the side of the Soviets, and for this reason: While the West is making no secret of the hope that sooner or later the so-called "neutralist" countries will come over to the side of the free world, the Soviets are contenting themselves with offering economic aid in large and impressive quantities without stressing the political angle, at least in their public utterances. Meanwhile, Communist infiltration is proceeding at a rapid rate—behind the scenes, that is. Dr. Kirk seems to be of the opinion, although he did not express it in exactly those words, that while Secretary of State Dulles and other Western diplomats in effect are saying to the Asians: "We are giving you this aid and hope you will appreciate it by giving us your goodwill", the Soviets are saying, "We are giving you this aid, but you must please yourselves in the matter of political friendships". Doubtless, many of the political leaders of Asia can see through this Soviet subterfuge; but to the masses who have only just emerged from colonial rule, there is all the difference in the world between the two approaches.

From what he saw and heard on his trip, Dr. Kirk concludes that, unless the Western nations are prepared to treat the Asians as equals and to accept without evasion the principle of Asian "neutralism", whether it be realistic or not, the whole of Asia will eventually go Communist. "Instead of trying to coerce or persuade these peoples into close association with us", he told an audience the other day, "we should do what we can to strengthen them in their chosen positions".

EDITORIAL NOTES

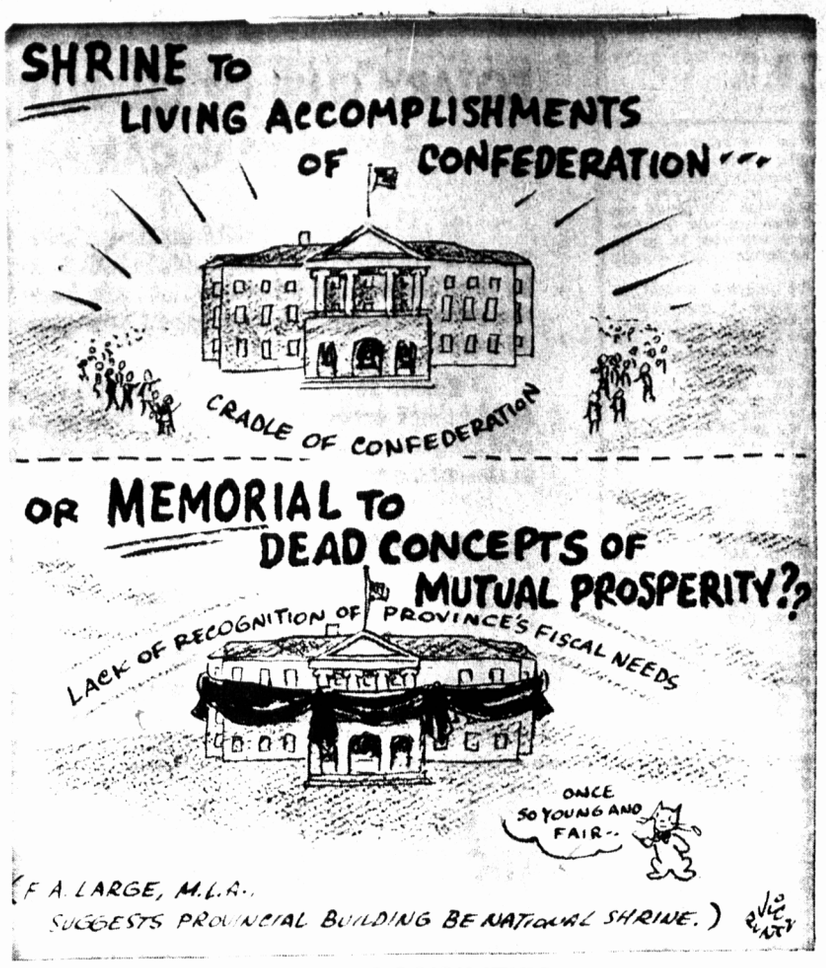
Mrs. A. P. Wells, who passed away in Summerside on Thursday, had the distinction of being born on the first Confederation Day, July 1, 1867, at Greenmont. She lived to a grand old age, but, comparatively speaking, the nation that was born with her is still only in its youth.

• • •

It is to be hoped that eventually the suggestion made in the Legislature by Mr. Frederic Large will materialize, and our Provincial Building will be converted into a national shrine. Certainly we need adequate museum facilities, and our historic connection with the birth of Confederation could well be perpetuated in the same building, as it already is to some extent in the Confederation Chamber. Our legislators do well to bring matters of this kind to the public notice.

• • •

There is no denying that Prime Minister Eden is going through a period of severe testing, or that his popularity with the British public has deteriorated in recent months as the result of Government policy in the Mediterranean. It would be premature, however, and probably incorrect, to suggest, as some of his outspoken critics have done, that Sir Anthony's political career is approaching an inglorious end. More than once during his long incumbency of the Foreign Office, his policies, for a time unpopular, vindicated their worth and wisdom. There is little reason to suspect that the Prime Minister has lost the diplomatic skill which brought him to the front in statesmanship.



THE POSSIBILITIES

Clam Digging Mechanized

National Geographical Society

Clam digging, long synonymous with back-breaking labor, is being mechanized in Canada's Maritime Provinces.

Elimination of human toil, however, is not the principal object at present of the labor saving device. The machine is expected to reduce the toll of young clams that results from hand digging.

The digger is about 90 per cent efficient in taking small clams but less so in gathering large ones. Made for the Canadian Department of Fisheries, it is being tested as a device for removing smaller specimens from poor growing areas into places where breeding methods can be scientifically studied.

MADE INDIAN MONEY

The salt-water clam has been an important food source for centuries. Indians of the North Atlantic coast gave the name quahog to one edible hard-shell variety. Belts from quahog shells were respected treaty symbols. Shell fragments, polished and rounded, were strung into ornamental beads, and shells were passed as money by the tribes.

Another popular variety, the pismo clam, is found on sandy beaches of the West Coast. Commercial digging has greatly reduced their numbers. They require from four to seven years to reach marketable age.

Razor clams are widely favored for their flavor. Found in shallow sand banks between tide marks, they are dug for family and commercial use. Living vertically in the sand, the knife-shaped clams feed with part of the shell thrust above the surface. Many are found along North America's Pacific coast.

Shallow, muddy bottoms are preferred by soft-shell clams. Tasty and popular, they are also known as steamer clams and long clams. They have been introduced into the San Francisco Bay area. The variety is abundant along the Atlantic Coast.

Clams are attractive to fish and gulls as well as to people. Fishes crush the shells with their jaws and swallow smaller clams whole. Gulls, after seizing a clam, ascend 50 to 100 feet and drop the shellfish. Striking the beach, the shell usually breaks, particularly if it lands sidewise. A fatal instinct of the clam aids its enemies. When alarmed, it contracts the muscles so strongly that a strain is imposed on the shell, leaving it vulnerable even to a slight blow.

CLAMS MOVE SLOWLY

The clam has feeble powers of locomotion. They move over sand or mud by extending and contracting foot muscles, causing the single foot to act as a spring. Some species can leap 12 inches in this manner.

Long attrition has depleted supplies of clams, affecting particularly beds of New England and Long Island. Predatory green crabs have made incursions into the clam beds off Maine and caused some destruction. Fences are being erected to keep out the intruders.

Hansard Stays Put

Norman Ward in The Winnipeg Free Press

The recent incident in which Rt. Hon. James Gardiner, with the co-operation of the Speaker of the House of Commons, caused some words which he had spoken to be removed from the printed record (though subsequently re-inserted with an appropriate apology) is by no means an isolated occurrence in the history of the Canadian Commons.

In the years immediately following Confederation, in fact, when there was no official Hansard, the unofficial one run by an Ottawa newspaper was often criticized because members changed whole speeches under the guise of editing them for the press.

Undoubtedly the most spectacular single incident involving tampering with Hansard, so far as the story can be reconstructed today from letters and clippings in the public archives, actually did not result in any change in the printed record at all.

1878 SESSION

The parliamentary session of 1878, the last before a general election, was a strenuous one for both Liberals and Conservatives, and ended in a spirited last day during which the Speaker lost control of the House entirely.

Contemporary newspaper accounts describe how one member, hat and stick in hand, danced in the aisles, "daring the Government or any member to fight him, yelling at the top of his voice." Other members indulged in catcalls, whistling, singing, throwing books, and generally acting as if they were on a modern sports excursion.

Very little of this shows in Hansard, for that document, limited to picking up the spoken word when its short-hand reporters can hear over the din, then as now, tended to dismiss noisy passages with a simple "Oh, Oh" or some similar term.

But the last few inches of the 1878 Hansard do show a few "mean, treacherous cowards" as having come from the lips of Dr. Tupper, and the very last sentence, spoken by Sir John Macdonald, contains a crisp characterization: "That fellow Smith is the biggest liar I ever met." (Mr. Smith later became Lord Strathcona).

LIBERAL CHARGES

The newspapers, and especially the Grit journals, had commented unfavorably on the wild last day of the parliamentary session, and as a result of one widely-circulated account Macdonald had begun a libel suit against at least one Ontario paper. (The offending account did not hint at anything, but stated flatly that Macdonald and his colleagues had been drunk.)

The last sentence of the Hansfod was therefore of some potential importance to more people than Mr. Smith, and one Thomas Richardson, a provate printing contractor who was responsible for the handling of the short-hand reporting and the printing of the final record, took steps to have the sentence deleted.

He reckoned without the devotion to truth of one of his own employees, however, perhaps because under the Liberal regime that was in power in 1878 most of those connected with the Hansard were almost certainly Liberals too. After Richardson had removed the offending sentence, one of his own people put it back in, "without"—as he subsequently tried to explain to Macdonald—"my knowledge and consent."

After the Conservatives had won the election of 1878, Richardson encountered some difficulty in getting the Hansard contract for 1879.

He kept up his interest in Hansard, however, and in 1882 wrote to Macdonald to nominate himself as the first editor of the Debates.

The unedited version then in use was good, he admitted, but often transcribing them rapidly for the Chief Reporter, like the other members of the staff, is occupied in taking notes in the House and transcribing hem rapidly for the printer, and the office assistant simply revises the proofs for the first publication. The subsequent amendment to the report, if any is needed, is left to members. . ."

Richardson had as much reason as anybody to know when it came to amending Hansard for publication, members could be as unreliable as anybody.

The Poets Corner

BEYOND THE SEEN

While winter's day and wintry way
May flaunt the threat austere
The sap is rising in the tree,
Spring whispers "never fear".

In every leaf in springtime
There lies the promise clear
That Life, not Death, shall triumph,
The song shall dry the tear.

From each lone star in darkened skies
Comes strangely to the ear
"Though the day may end, the night descend,
The dawn must re-appear."

Then lift your gaze beyond the maze,
Believe in the unseen.
The far-off is the truer realm;
Cares vanish as we dream.

—W. Lloyd
in the Ottawa Journal.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 24, 1931)

Mr. S.R. Earl promoter of development work in the fishery industry here since 1928, has returned to the Province after attending a fishermens course at Halifax. Mr. Earl, working under the Department of Fisheries, has encouraged the packing of boneless cod fish, and has advocated modern up to date methods in packing.

At an exhibition held at the Ontario Agricultural College recently, Lloyd Yeo of Central Lot 16, P.E.I., a third year student here, won first prize in the keenly contested senior Percheron class with his mare "College Elgin".

The repair work on Old Government House is progressing satisfactorily. The heating system is now in full working order and the plumbing is well advanced. The general contractor is now plastering and is expected to finish the work in contract time.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 24, 1946)

It has been learned that the City does not propose to assume any financial responsibility for the airport housing project after May 31. Officials said that since the project was primarily a Dominion Government affair the City cannot be expected to continue to underwrite such a venture.

A native of Prince Edward Island, J.G. MacPhail, 68, director of Marine Services in the Department of Transport and a public servant for more than fourty years has gone of leave prior to retirement at his own request.

Mr. John Peterson, Superintendent of the Halifax Shipyards Ltd., formerly manager of Swan and Hunter Shipyards, Newcastle - on Tyne, was in the City Saturday to complete arrangements with the directors of Northumberland Ferries Ltd., for the remodelling of the "Sankaty", which will leave Sydney for Halifax within two weeks. The vessel, taken over by the Dominion Government as a minelayer during the war years, will resume operations on the Wood Islands - Caribou route.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

BURPING IS NECESSARY FOR BABY'S COMFORT

While belching or burping when dining may be extremely impolite for an adult, it's a very necessary function for a baby.

Whether he is bottle fed or breast fed, your young infant will gulp a lot of air along with the milk. Crying also causes him to swallow air.

This is apt to give him a stomach ache and make him fussy.

In addition, it fills his stomach and will take up room needed for milk.

Unless he is belched-call it burped, bubbled or whatever you want he may sleep poorly and a good portion of his food may come up with the air bubbles after he has been put to bed.

If you're tired when you give your baby his nighttime feeding, you can usually talk yourself into believing that he gave a small burp which you could barely hear. Don't make this mistake.

SCREAMS OF PAIN

Keep patting him until you get a good loud belch. Otherwise, he is apt to wake you during the night with his screams of pain.

Now, about the method to be used.

Holding him against your shoulder probably is the easiest and one of the most effective.

Pat him gently on the back until he belches. It may take several minutes. Or, place him over your shoulder. Bending him at the waist this way forces the air to be expelled in a burp.

PAT HIM ON BACK

Still another way is to sit him on your lap and pat him on the back.

I think you'll find the burp comes a lot easier if you burp a young baby when he's about one-third through with his milk. Burp him once more about two-thirds through and again after he's finished.

For some youngsters, two burps per meal is enough. Generally, you can cut down on the number of burpings as he grows older.

Eventally he'll burp himself This makes things a lot easier for both of you.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

E.O.: Is it possible that a skin ailment is the result of nerves or worry?

Answer: Many skin diseases can be caused by nervousness or worry. It is believed that one of the most common skin diseases, known as neurodermatitis, is caused by nervousness.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If she's at the awkward age, she's too old for dolls and teddy bears and too young for the wolves and the hyenas.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald

A British judge has died who was, we read "famed for his wit". The examples produced in evidence were unconvincing, and deepened our conviction that anything a judge says is likely to seem funny to everybody but the prisoner.—Peterborough Examiner.

Education is going to require millions of dollars of expenditure in Ontario in the next few years, if the increasing needs of a growing population are to be met. That is going to call for increasing care on the part of municipal school boards to keep spending down, still giving all the essentials but forgetting some of the frills.—St. Catherines Standard.

Newspaper circulation in the United States last year broke all previous records, and the same probably will be true of Canada when figures are out. The things which at one time were thought of as possible substitutes are found to serve like the old-time bulletin boards drawing attention to what would be found in the newspapers.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle

Parliament in the role of ardent admirer has brought a blush of pleased surprise to the countenance of Ottawa, pallid with the growing pains of a gangling Capital. Youthful as yet among the governmental centers of the world, this city has apparently won something of the nation-wide approval for which it may secretly have hoped. It was only a compromise, disparaged as uncouth, when it was chosen to be the political heart of Canada, and it has been bashful—suffering, perhaps, from an inferiority complex—where a Western city would have been bold. —Ottawa Citizen.

Some persons seem more interested in learning the tricks of the trade than the trade.—Cornwall Standard.

A safety expert says that you should drive five car-lengths behind th car ahead when on the highway. That sounds like a quick way to get yourself passed by five other cars.—Peterborough Examiner.

Times have certainly changed since grandmother was a girl, and once again it was proved out Glenella way when one man acted from force of habit and suffered a slight embarrassment as a result. According to reports, a farmer from Glenella district pulled up in front of his favorite gas pump to "fill 'er up." However, his face no doubt turned slightly red upon the realization that instead of driving his truck, he had driven to town with old dobbin and had pulled up to the gas pumps by force of habit. —Neepawa, Man., Press.

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