

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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A Basic Issue

Whatever settlement eventually accrues to the railway unions from the strike which disrupted the nation's business this week, there is a widespread feeling that it should never have been permitted to happen. It is worth examining, in this connection, the federal government's attitude on this point as expressed by Hon. Jean Marchand, Minister of Manpower and former president of the Quebec-based Confederation of National Trade Unions, whose long experience with labor unions should qualify him to speak with authority on the subject.

Mr. Marchand castigated those who would have the government to intervene at the first threat of a railway strike. This, he said, would have abridged the rights of the workers. Their right to strike was a sacred one—taking it away could result in a dangerous precedent. It was "the most fundamental of democratic rights," and no one should think of tampering with it.

Yet the minister went on to say, and emphatically, that it was not possible in Canada to allow the country's economy to be paralyzed by a railway strike. And he, of course, was responsible along with his colleagues for introducing the compulsory back-to-work bill which is now law.

How are we to reconcile these conflicting statements? It seems obvious, as the Montreal Gazette says, that the system followed doesn't make any sense at all. The fact is that the railway workers have not really been allowed to strike, in the sense of withdrawing services until an agreement is reached. They never have been, and never can be granted that privilege. As soon as a strike begins, Parliament will always be called into special session and it will pass emergency legislation to bring it to an end. As part of this legislation, some form of settlement is imposed, whether by arbitration or by other means.

Why prate, then, about the "sacred right to strike"? Such a right is only respected when it is allowed to continue to its uninterrupted end. In the railway workers' case this would impose intolerable burdens on the country, and public indignation would rise so high that no government would dare permit it. When rail strikes happen, they will always have to be stopped in their tracks. What is gained, therefore, by allowing them to begin, and then imposing a settlement, instead of providing machinery for a settlement without a strike?

No one undertook to pose this question, let alone to answer it, in the parliamentary debate. Yet it goes to the root of the whole matter, and is uppermost in the public mind. A good time to ponder its implications would be over this Labor Day weekend.

Hard On Shank's Mare

Every family in Charlottetown is a customer of the City Water Commission and dependent on the service it provides for one of the prime necessities of life. Whether they are in humble circumstances or not, they have to see that their water bill is paid regularly, and the Commission is expected to be concerned about seeing that this obligation is met with as little inconvenience as possible. To the public, we mean, not just to itself.

Heretofore there was no conflict of views on this subject. The Commission's office, being centrally located in the City Hall building, was about as easy of access as could be desired. But now the office has been removed to Kirkwood Drive, a mile or more from the centre of the city, and that not inconsiderable number of ratepayers who do not drive cars, and can't afford taxis, and who either haven't got bank accounts or don't wish to draw on them for the purpose

of mailing cheques for their water bills every quarter, will just have to hike out there or find themselves in default. Winter or summer, rain, sleet or shine, they'll have no option.

So the Commission has ordained, with high-handed indifference to the predicament of older people especially, who may enjoy a little walk to the suburbs occasionally but who see no reason why they should be obliged to do so every so often, at the dictates of civic bureaucrats. No explanation or apology has been given for putting them to this inconvenience. Indeed, the change went into effect early last month and this month's water bills are still addressed from the City Hall. Those who go there to pay up are being informed, politely, by other officials, that they have no authority to receive the money. Nor is there any place, apparently, where payment can be made except where the Commission has chosen to betake itself.

The office of another big utility, that of the Telephone Company, is much more conveniently situated yet for years this company has made provision for its customers to pay their bills elsewhere—at a drugstore farther uptown—if they so desire. The same practice, we understand, is followed generally, and as a matter of course, in other centres. And why not, since it is regarded as axiomatic that the public has a right to such consideration?

We trust that the Water Commissioners will give this matter a little more thought than they appear to have done. They may regard it as inconsequential, but some of the voters who put them there are expressing quite different opinions on the subject.

Lunar Orbiter Report

The moon, it seems, is not round after all, much as its roundness has been taken for granted by generations of earthlings. It is pear-shaped. At least so say the space experts from Langley Research Centre in Virginia, who are in charge of the Luna Orbiter spacecraft that has been orbiting the moon and taking picture for two weeks now.

It is not odd shaped enough so you would notice it, they told newsmen. It bulges a quarter of a mile at the moon's north pole and is depressed about the same amount at the south pole—with a bulge at the equator too. But with the radius of the moon being 1100 miles—a quarter of a mile is just not visible to the eye. Any more, presumably, than the pear-shape of the earth would be noticeable to the man in the moon, if he existed—a fact which earth-orbiting spacecraft had already disclosed.

Why this is so—both of the earth and the moon," Dr. Floyd Thompson, director at Langley, and his associates, do not feel qualified to say. They figured out this irregularity in the moon's features by gravitational studies, which was one of the principal purposes of the orbiter shot. It is imperative that both the gravity and any changes in the moon's gravity at various spots be known before men are landed there.

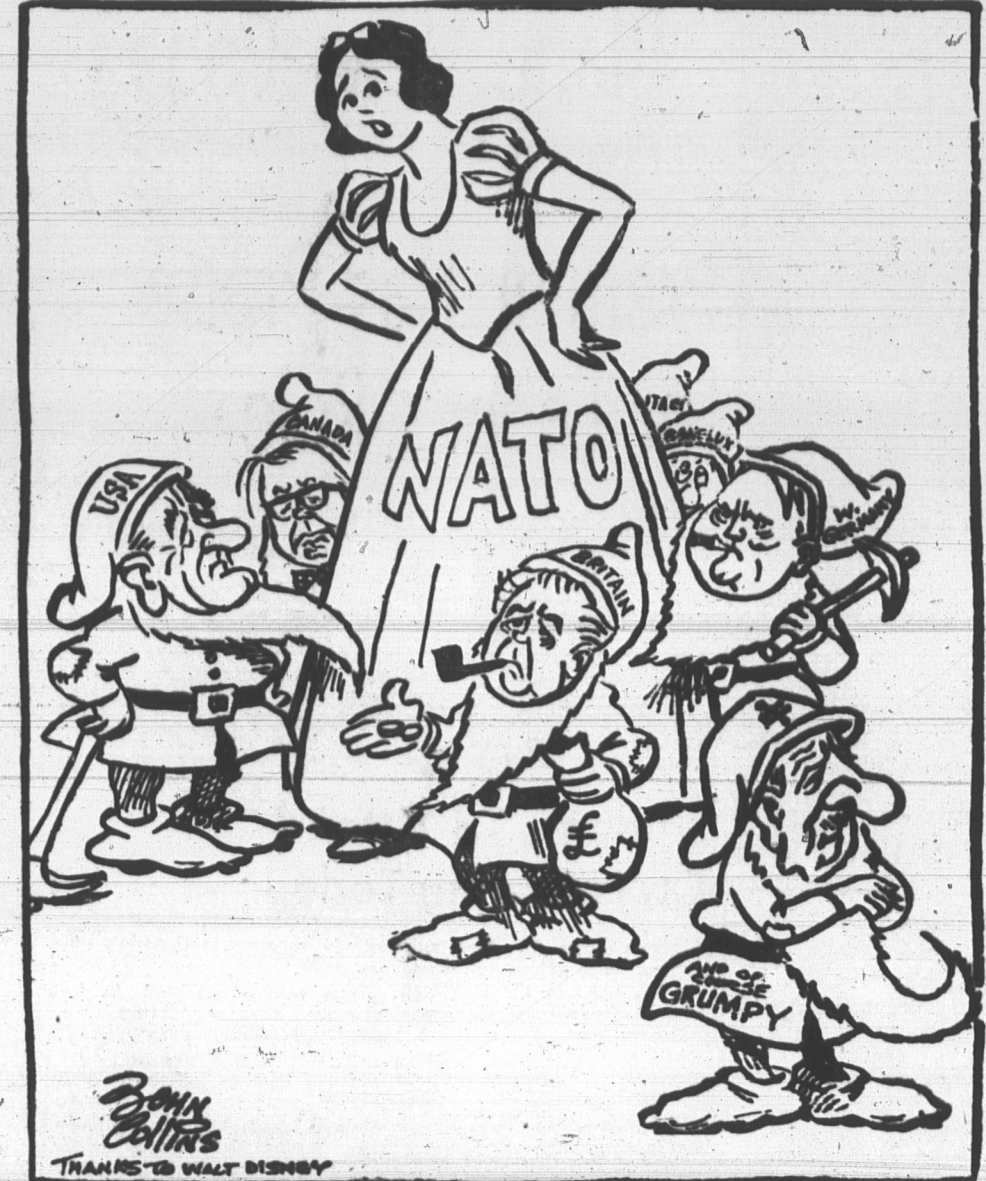
With the picture-making phase of the orbiter probe now over, scientists claim they have learned more from this operation than in the previous 50 years of study of the moon. And from all the moon-gazing that lovers and poets have been doing since the dawn of time, apparently.

Right To Road Space

A spokesman for the Ontario Safety League makes the point that every driver has the moral right to as much road space as is necessary for safe travel. But he seldom gets it when traffic is thick. Cars consistently press so close behind each other that a sudden application of brakes will inevitably lead to a rear-end collision somewhere along the line. It doesn't take anything more unusual than a dog running on the roadway to start a chain of braking that can result in smashed front-ends, and whiplashed necks.

But to come back to the Ontario official's argument. Every driver has the right to an adequate protection space behind him. If you steal that space, you imperil him, you imperil yourself, and you imperil the cars behind you. Further, the loss from a collision is not confined to the cars actually involved. Even a minor rear-end collision in rush hours delays hundreds of other motorists, robbing them of time, temper and gasoline.

When driving, says this authority, do everything you can to avoid being robbed of safety space by light-fingered—or should it be heavy-toed?—fellow travellers. Do everything, that is, except keep your hands in your pockets.



SNOW WHITE AND THE DWARFS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Here And There On Parliament Hill

Hon. Allan MacEachen, now Minister-of Health and Welfare, has just been honoured for his services to Canada in his previous post as Minister of Labour. Acadia University, in his native province of Nova Scotia, awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Common Law: the citation said: "His achievements in the settling of major labour disputes, in steering the Canada-Labour Code through Parliament, and in establishing the first Manpower Consultative Service in North America mark him out as a constructive statesman of unusual gifts."

In an unusual move to make the brain drain flow in reverse, from USA to Canada, the Toronto Board of Education has advertised in a New York newspaper for attendance counsellors and social workers, in the salary range \$9,289 - \$11,836 and with such fringe benefits as four weeks vacation, and car allowance. The qualifications sought are a Master's Degree in Social Work and—this will jolt the advocates of bilingualism—fluency in the Portuguese and Greek languages. PEARSON PATTERN AGAIN

Approximating to the Pearson

of a 30 per cent wage boost, a technicians' union in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is seeking a 27 per cent wage boost over a 3-year contract. If this pattern is conceded for one union, it will follow throughout the whole CBC staff, organized and otherwise. By 1970, this would represent an increased burden on Canadian taxpayers of \$82 million per year; total subventions paid last year by the taxpayers to the CBC—that is, over and above its commercial earnings—were \$99 million; this year they will be \$113 million. Can Canadian taxpayers afford an extra \$82 million on top of that already soaring cost? Obviously the CBC needs competent and courageous top management, which would effect economies by slashing the empires within the CBC, starting with its head office staff.

There will be mourners all over the world because the United States has not found it possible to spend any more money on Mohole. Some of them will be scientists, and some of them will be those who believe that crossing a great frontier is still the most exciting adventure in the world.

Mohole would have been one of the great explorations of all time, comparable to the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the new world and to the thrusts of Russia and the United States into space. For instead of looking up or sideways, Mohole was going to look down, into the heart of the earth that gave life its being.

Great Project Abandoned

Toronto Globe and Mail

But Mohole is not to be. The U.S. Congress has stopped it, so to speak, in mid-bore. Some \$40 million spent on preparatory work will be largely wasted. Congress has decided that other priorities—Vietnam and space exploration—need the \$127 million that was to push Mohole deeper into the secrets of the earth than man has ever reached before.

The United States has its reasons, but it is a sad abandonment of one of the last great adventures, and it invites the Soviet Union to lead again. Russia is engaged in similar geological explorations, and it is going ahead.

Fateful UN Session

London Free Press

The United Nations General Assembly reconvenes next month in New York and Canada reluctantly may be induced to accept a seat on the security council.

At this juncture, this at best would be an onerous role. It also could be a source of acute embarrassment. However there is little doubt that if preferred, it would be accepted by the Canadian government, providing with prior claim can be found to accept the responsibility.

Awaiting the session is an agenda cluttered with old, outstanding problems such as disarmament, that of financing the organization and its peace-keeping operations and the possible seating of Red China with the vexing question of Formosa, or more specifically the status of Nationalist China, so interlocked.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (September 3, 1941) Berlin was shaken by enormous explosions in a long attack delivered by the strong Royal Air Force units.

Tensely awaiting the approach of a United States tanker with gasoline for Russia, the Japanese nation heard a solemn warning from Premier Prince Konoye that Japan faces the gravest crisis in her history.

TEN YEARS AGO (September 3, 1956) Stanley Willis of Cornwall for the fourth time in his career as a contestant in the Queens County Flowering Match emerged the winner.

Russia and Ceylon agreed to exchange ambassadors and to negotiate early trade and economic pacts.

Too Little Thyroid

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

An underactive thyroid is a common cause of fatigue in the elderly. When the deficiency is corrected with thyroid extract vigor often returns. Some authorities believe that the product also has a tendency to retard the aging process.

Hypothyroidism is not always easy to detect. For this reason metabolism and blood tests are suggested whenever there is the slightest clue that the organ is lazy. Fatigue, the most frequent manifestation, begins so insidiously it may go undetected for months or years. The victim has trouble getting started in the morning and in time finds he has to push himself to perform the daily tasks. Others lack ambition or feel drowsy most of the day. They find it difficult to withstand the cold; each succeeding winter appears to be more severe than the previous one. More clothes are needed to keep warm, and the thermostat is given an occasional nudge to overcome the chilliness of the room.

An inadequate amount of the thyroid hormone also impairs the circulation to the hands and feet, which are cold despite all protective measures such as woolen socks and gloves. There is a tendency to gain weight even though the diet remains the same. Co-existing signs include indigestion, flatulence, vague aches and pains, and stiffness of the muscles of the back and extremities. Menstrual disorders, insomnia, and sterility may occur. Anemia that fails to respond to iron and liver shots may be associated with a shortage of thyroid secretion.

Hypothyroidism is not always this obscure. A small percentage of individuals develop myxedema, which is easier to detect. Puffiness of face, eyelids, and tongue occurs, and skin is dry and rough, and the hair is brittle and coarse. As metabolism falls lower and lower, mental and physical inertia deepens. The majority of victims are apathetic and have all they can do to get going.

Thyroid extract is the remedy, and the response is miraculous when the substance is used properly. However, a careful dosage is not easy to determine because it varies from person to person. Too much induces nervousness, increased sweating, and palpitation of the heart, chest pain and diarrhea. Small doses usually are successful in older persons, because, as a rule, the deficiency is slight.

NAIL BRITTLNESS

A reader writes: My fingernails are very brittle and lack lustre. What could be causing this condition?

REPLY: Brittleness of the nails may be caused by polish removers, nail polish or injury. Poor nails also may be due to emotional tension, a deficiency of protein in the diet, and hypothyroidism.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

M. M. writes: Is multiple sclerosis considered a disease of youth?

REPLY: This disease rarely appears before age 15 or after age 55.

HAIR-CURLER

A. L. R. writes: Please send me a list of foods that put a very slight wave to head hair? Fresh parsley is one.

REPLY

My mother's list included carrots, but not parsley.

HONEY AND ULcers

P. S. writes: Will pure honey help cure ulcers? I eat plenty of it.

REPLY

NO. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Use regulated drugs sparingly.

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

CHARGE SLAVERY

DAR ES SALAAM (AP)—Police have arrested nine timber contractors from Kenya in a raid on the Lushoto forests north of here in Tanzania, where youths from Kisii, about 160 miles west of Nairobi, were handed over to Kenya police Friday to be sent home. Tanzania already has repatriated 38 other youths who formerly worked in the forests.

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.

NEED FOR UNIONS

Sir,—A recent newspaper add "Awaken Canadians" indicates to me that you the writer is exceptionally naive, or slightly neurotic. I prefer to believe that his "interment" in the armed forces has left him grossly uninformed about matters of economy and the reasons we have labour unions. When unfair profiteering, nepotism, and the exploitations of the workers are removed from our democratic way of life, labour unions will automatically disappear. Until this happens, although I am not a union member, I will remain thankful that they are well organized and willing to fight for their share of the thriving economy that they made possible.

Consumers, too, help the economy thrive. When the consumers cannot afford to consume the economy no longer thrives. I suggest that you advertiser sell some of his stocks and bonds and join us consumers, and subsequently avoid the harassment he claimed to be subjected to. I am, Sir, etc. JAMES M. LONG Georgetown, P.E.I.

Thant Makes Decision

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff Writer

The major powers who urged U-Thant to stay on as secretary-general of the United Nations were often less forthright about providing effective cooperation. U-Thant's statement of intention to quit Nov. 3 after a five-year term stressed in particular his deep opposition to the war in Viet Nam.

The scholarly Burmese statesman was the first non-European to hold the problem-prone job, succeeding Scandinavians Trygve Lie and the late Dag Hammarskjold. His statement Thursday could be read as a rebuke to those nations whose policies can dictate the effectiveness of the UN. No better recent example exists than the UN success in halting the fighting last year between India and Pakistan, a success chiefly because the United States and the Soviet Union for once cast their united weight in that direction.

U-Thant in the last year, moving from capital to capital to take soundings, was urged on all sides to take another term. His advice and his objectives frequently were ignored or flouted. He and President de Gaulle of France could see eye to eye on how to achieve a Vietnamese settlement, a formula requiring U.S. action. But France still nurses its suspicions of the UN as a supra-national body, ignores the limited nuclear test-ban treaty and boycotts efforts

to strengthen the UN peace-keeping devices. While the Soviet Union was better disposed to U-Thant than to either of his predecessors, it remained a major contributor to the UN's near-bankruptcy. Moscow also halted all efforts, publicly at least, to intervene on the Communist side to get the Viet-Nam war stopped.

China for its part abused U-Thant freely, refused to let him enter last year on a peace-seeking mission and seems farther away than ever from accepting UN membership should that become available. U-Thant Thursday was blunt as usual in his views of the Asian war and the grave threat to world peace. The U.S. has consistently ignored his views on the war, which he has called one of the most barbarous in history, and on working to get China out of its isolation by means of UN membership.

"The cruelty of this war and the suffering it has caused the people of Viet Nam are a constant reproach to the conscience of humanity," U-Thant said Thursday.

"Today, it seems to me as it has seemed for many months that the pressure of events is leading toward a major war while efforts to reverse the trend are lagging disastrously behind.

"In my view the tragic error is being repeated of relying on force and military means in a deceptive pursuit of peace."

Getting Their Number

Vancouver Sun

The vulnerability of crank telephone callers is news that should be spread abroad. Even if prosecutions can't yet be conducted on the basis of traced calls alone, the electronic detection devices now employed by the telephone industry are bound to make this sick and increasingly common game of our times too hazardous for comfort.

Scientific identification of voices—which are said to be as individualistic as fingerprints—soon may give police the iron clad case against telephone exhibitionists now lacking. But the tracing and identification of phone pests should be a major deterrent in itself. It has been the anonymity of these creatures with their threats and foul mouthings and ominous breathings that has given them

The Little Lakes

New York Times

Big pond, small lake, the name doesn't matter. It is water, fresh water cupped in a hollow among the green hills, cool haven from summer's heat and hurry, a priceless heritage.

All over America we have been rediscovering the little lakes, and with care and wisdom we can save them from the fouling that has made sewers of our rivers and has ruined so many of our ocean beaches.

What is such a lake? It is a green shore lapped by clean, clear water. At night it is filled with stars and moonlight. Dawn and it is gauzed with mist. Sunrise begins to lift the mist and the water dances and glitters as the morning breeze begins to clear the air.

Noon and it is lazy as the damsel flies along its shore. Warm afternoon brings swimmers to its beaches, and small sailboats make their quiet, leisurely way like exotic butterflies. Evening and fishermen are out or a last cast or troll. Sunset fades, but dusk lingers, shimmering with reflected light. Then darkness, starlight again, moonlight, and the slow lap of water at the moored boats.

Man is not an aquatic animal, but set him down on the shore of such a lake and he becomes amphibious, a leisurely swimmer or sailor or fisherman. His tensions begin to ease and wash away.

Clean, clear water is a solvent for worries and problems. Perhaps we have begun to learn this, at last, as we have come to know the shimmering retreats from beleaguering pressures.

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