

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
W. J. Hancock, Publisher
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Not "Crucial," Indeed!

The rumor mill at Ottawa is busy these days with a report that Prime Minister Pearson is considering the advisability of calling a June election. We carried an Ottawa story on it in our news columns yesterday, in which it was intimated that the excuse for such action could come "if the Conservatives prolong debate, to begin soon, on the formula to permit provinces to quit certain well-established federal-provincial programs."

Emphasis is also placed on the booming economy of the country, the possibility of tax cuts when Finance Minister Gordon presents his budget in a few weeks, and the internal troubles which, Liberals believe, will prevent the Conservatives from capitalizing on government difficulties.

"Some sources," adds the report, "say it would be desirable, but not crucial, for the government to await Chief Justice Frederic Dorian's report on the Denis-Rivard affair before starting the campaign." This should qualify as the understatement of the year.

PROBE COMES FIRST—The idea of any government having the temerity to go to the country with a mess of this kind unresolved is rather frightening. The Rivard escape case has yet to be referred to the Dorian court, as the Opposition parties have urged. This incident, following the flight of Hal Banks, deposed boss of the Seafarers' International Union who skipped \$25,000 bail last year and fled to the United States, is too much for the public to take without a thoroughgoing probe into all its implications. Not on the Quebec provincial level, but on a federal scale.

One would imagine that Justice Minister Favreau would himself be insistent on this point. Rivard was being held on a federal warrant, pending extradition to the United States as a suspected kingpin in the narcotics racket. It was a strange place to have incarcerated him—in a jail with a notoriously bad record as a security institution. There is an urgent responsibility upon Mr. Favreau's department, and on the federal government as a whole, to find out how his escape was engineered and why Canada's most important prisoner was not under heavy guard.

NO REWARD YET—When the question of posting a reward for Rivard's capture was raised in the Commons by Opposition Leader Diefenbaker, Mr. Favreau said it had been the Quebec attorney-general's position that with the degree of co-operation and co-ordination there was between the municipal, provincial and RCMP police an arrest should be quickly effected. They had agreed that if there was "a delay beyond the normal time" in bagging Rivard they would be "happy to consider" a reward.

That was all. Mr. Favreau neglected to say what "a delay beyond the normal time" meant, nor did he explain such curious incidents as the fact that in this day of electronic communication, and with all the degree of police co-operation and co-ordination, the RCMP in Toronto learned of Rivard's escape only from a television bulletin—more than three hours after it occurred.

There were errors of judgment, here, to say the least, that are disturbing to Canadians all across the country. But the public is in no position to decide what is at stake until the findings of the judicial inquiry are completed and tabled in Parliament. It will be soon enough then for Mr. Pearson to consider the "advisability of calling an election—if indeed that is what he is anxious to do.

Record Wheat Sales

Within the next few days, reports a western exchange, cheques totalling nearly \$272 million will be going out in the mail to Canadian wheat growers. The amount marks the final payment on sales made during the 1963-64 crop year, which ended last July. It is the largest final payment ever made by the Canadian wheat board.

Both in the volume of wheat sold and in the price received, 1963-64 will go down in history. Canada exported more than 591 million bushels of wheat and flour—far above the previous record. Some 40 per cent of this went to the Soviet Union. Prices remained equally satisfactory at just under \$1.97 on No. 1 Northern.

The bulk of the \$272 million final payment will make its way to prairie farmers, with consequent beneficial effects on the prairie economy. But, of course, the economy of the whole country will benefit as well, and for this achievement the Canadian wheat board deserves much of the credit.

Equally reassuring are the prospects immediately ahead, if wheat board officials are correct in the estimates they have made. Their objective is to move the equivalent of three crops, each of 550 million bushels, in the three year period which began last August. This would mean that each year the goal would be the sale of 400 million bushels overseas and 150 million bushels for domestic purposes. This is an ambitious target, when it is remembered that not many years ago export sales of 300 million bushels were considered high.

Now that the wheat farmers' problem has been pretty well disposed of, perhaps more attention can be given to the plight of many of our eastern farm producers. The new ARDA agreements are intended as a step in this direction, but there is a wide field to be explored in finding new export markets, in which federal leadership is required and on which federal funds could be well expended.

Old-Fashioned Moral

John J. Deutsch, chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, told a meeting the other day that the time is past when Canadians can expect to do the same work all their lives. An adequate general education would seem to be much more important, therefore, than a too furious pursuit of specialization.

The influence of specialization, remarks the Hamilton Spectator in this context, has pervaded the whole field of education so that the acquirement of facts, often unrelated one to another, has become the aim of learning. General education in other days—now regarded as "old-fashioned" in the light of new methods—gave the individual resilience and adaptability, the very qualities which, if we are to believe Mr. Deutsch, are those which will be most in demand in the future.

The saddest of all modern illusions is the view of man as a financial robot set in an electronic world. Only an education which refreshes his spirit and emphasizes the individual as a unique and essential element in a continuing story can make life a meaningful experience. Now, it would seem, scientific progress itself is making the prospect of a future dominated by button-pushers impossible. They can no longer hope to be "safe" in the turbulent world of tomorrow.

It was in another age that Henry Ford told young people that "the best capital a man can have is a reserve of knowledge, experience and ability." Although times have changed, the ingredients remain the same and are as valid as ever they were.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An encouraging item of news comes from Halifax, to the effect that the federal fisheries culture stations in the Maritimes raised more than 25 million fish last year. Of this total more than 6,200,000 were Atlantic salmon and about 117,000 were seabago or landlocked salmon. The stations also raised more than 16 million speckled trout, 2,200,000 brown trout and 238,000 rainbow.

Liberals are claiming that the province's debt increase last year was actually more than four million dollars and not \$3,183,909 as given by Provincial Treasurer Farmer in correction of a statement published in The Guardian. It is a question, apparently, of how one chooses to interpret the figures set forth in the Public Accounts. In any case, there should be no doubt as to the fact that the increase is much more than we can afford, and that additional sources of revenue are urgently needed.



KING MIDAS
AMONG THE GREATS

Decibel Honors Inventor Graham Bell

National Geographic Society

The slim list of scientists whose names have become English words numbers Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. The words bell and decibel, used as units of measuring sound, honor the telephone inventor. In the course of an ordinary day, a person may hear sounds ranging from a faint whisper, 15 decibels, up to a thunderclap of 110 decibels.

Similar words taken from proper names are watt (Sir James Watt), farad (Michael Faraday), ampere (A.M. Ampere), and curie (Marie Curie), a unit quantity for certain radioactive atoms. The words bell and decibel, used as units of measuring sound, honor the telephone inventor.

PUBLIC FORUM

SCHOOL WORK BOOKS
Sir.—Now that our Members are busy revising laws and making new ones, why can't we teachers do something right away about the unnecessary and time-consuming so-called work books.

ROWDYISM
Sir.—Rowdiness in Canada must be curbed or else an irreparable element will become such a menace to our towns and communities that it will be unsafe for respectable citizens to go on their way unmolested.

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Queens County.
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Medical Browsing

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
Serious injury from escalator accidents is not common. However, the Otis Elevator company recorded 2,897 injuries of this nature, of which eight per cent were serious. The most dangerous areas are the narrow spaces between the moving step and the stationary comb plate at the top and bottom of the stairs and the space between the moving handrail and the fixed balustrade.

Four such injuries in children were reported in the New England Journal of Medicine. They said the escalator industry has included narrow gauge step treads to discourage falling, along with handrails that extend beyond the moving surface to improve entrance and exit passenger stability. Automatic switches are incorporated to stop the stairs when an object is caught in the lower landing to safety. Some of the old escalators do not have these features.

Insulation in a rose garden does not appear to be as risky as driving while drunk but a certain steelworker may disagree. His experience was reported in the Annals of Internal Medicine by three Pittsburgh physicians. He enjoyed roses and whisky and the more he drank the more rosy he got. He suffered many deep pricks from the rose thorns because of carelessness. On one occasion he was pricked so deeply on the lower arm that a fungus on the horn entered a tendon. The wrist became swollen, painful, and red.

What happened? He spent more than a year in and out of hospitals before recovering from this unusual infection. Several operations were done and he received all of the modern drugs known to kill fungi.

It is unusual to be struck by lightning and even more so when pregnant. This occurred to a young Welsh woman during the first three months of pregnancy; she recovered and delivered a normal child. She was standing with her husband and father-in-law inside a sheep pen covered with a corrugated metal sheet. The edge of the roof was near the nape of her neck. The lightning knocked the three several feet from where they were standing. Despite extensive burns, they managed to get to a nearby farmhouse.

SCALP IRRITATION
P. T. writes: About three years ago, after I had my hair bleached, my scalp broke out in scabs and sores. This irritation continues, no matter what kind of shampoo I use. Could you recommend something for this condition?

REPLY
See a dermatologist because your scalp condition may be unrelated to the bleach. The cause may be psoriasis, ringworm, or allergy to soap or cosmetics.

RECOVERY AFTER MENINGITIS
A. O. writes: Can health be regained completely after an attack of spinal meningitis?

REPLY
Yes. Residual brain changes occur but the majority of victims recover completely.

FALSE ALARM
E. P. D. writes: Is it true that after a false pregnancy, it is more difficult to carry a child to term?

REPLY
No. SKIN CANCER
Mr. H. writes: Do physicians still agree that skin cancer cannot be passed to others by contact?

REPLY
Yes. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—
Excessive smoking may cause heartburn.

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

The New Approach

Montreal Star

Mr. Davis Fulton is beginning to talk as this country has not heard an important Conservative talk since the days of Arthur Meighen. He is appealing by implication directly to what he calls the Frederickton Family of the recent Conservative conference in that city—by seeking through debate to define these goals intelligently and then, through the normal processes of party government, to achieve them.

The problems which Mr. Fulton has set out, those of the constitution, of the transition of Canada from a rural to an urban society, of large scale planning of Canadian cities, of Canadian education, of our culture in general, are all matters which a political party, as he pointed out, must take into account if it "seriously seeks to form a government in modern Canada."

These are the reasons for a political party, not, as he said, answering his own question, "to fight campaigns only, to get into office and then cling to office."

Mr. Fulton mentions the Frederickton conference and the new broad policy committee being established by the party. His detailed ideas are not for discussion here at this time, but the tenor of his thoughts can be seen in the summation to his Calgary speech: "Our goal must be the liberation of men, and that is the just and presiding concern of all the nation. It is our reason for being in society. I believe that more and more the attention of the national government must turn to questions of the content and the quality of Canadian life."

Violence Again

Montreal Gazette

Racial violence is creeping back into American life after the recent breathing-spell, which was perhaps connected with the passing of the Civil Rights Act. There have been brutal assaults upon Negro demonstrators by police in Alabama. There has been teenage Negro rioting in New York City. A fantastic plot to blow up the State of Liberty, the Washington monument and the Liberty Bell was exposed. Malcolm X, the Negro extremist leader, has been murdered; this is being followed by violent retaliation against the Black Muslim movement.

These events should have dispelled the considerable, and unreasonable optimism which accompanied the passing of the Civil Rights legislation. It can take years for legislation to have practical effect. And there are, in this case, many problems which the legislation does not cover and cannot help.

In the context of American history, continuing violence has to be expected. Habits cannot be changed overnight. Extreme sections of both White and Negro communities have often resorted to violence to ease their insecurity and satisfy their hatred.

But it is still worth saying that the racial problem in the United States is one that violence cannot solve, but only perpetuate. However unrealistic it is to expect calm and good sense from those who have been extremists all their lives, that is what must be hoped for. As long as Whites and Negroes cannot meet each other as equals, and in peace, the American problem will remain the American tragedy.

The Energetic Dutch

New York Times

Now the figures are in, it appears that, once again, the Dutch port of Rotterdam has outstripped New York in becoming the world's largest shipping centre. Rotterdam's port turnover for 1964 was about 120 million tons. This is twice the tonnage of Antwerp, its closest competitor in Europe.

The energetic Dutch people are largely responsible for this as they have developed a harbor extension program second-to-none in Europe. Also responsible is the rapid growth of Western Europe's economy especially the growth in the industrial heart of the Ruhr Valley. From this heart, near the Dutch border, flows most of Rotterdam's outgoing traffic. Switzerland is another of Rotterdam's important customers and when the connection between the Rhine and Rhone river systems is completed it will open important markets in Northern Italy. This could mean Rotterdam could become the most important "Mediterranean" port.

By 1970 the Dutch are estimating the deep-water Europort will be completed. This dock complex, west of the pre-war installations, will cost \$165 million. It was started in 1958 but already the world's largest tankers and ore carriers are being handled in the new basins.

Many will remember the destruction of Rotterdam's harbor. The fact that it has been rebuilt and enlarged in less than 20 years is a tribute to the Dutch people.

The Facts, Please

Toronto Telegram

Hansard purports to be an accurate record of parliamentary debate. It is also permanent record of the wit and the bluntness of our politicians.

Yesterday, Peter Bruton, The Telegram's Queen's Park columnist, raised a critical eye at the practice of deleting or changing remarks made in the Legislature in the best of debate, but reconsidered overnight.

Reporters, for example, thought they heard Reform Institutions Minister Allan Grossman refer to NDP leader Donald MacDonald as getting up and down "like a two bit Grit." That's how it appeared in the galley proofs next day.

But when Hansard was published it turned out that officially what he said was "like a two-bit grip."

Yesterday Mr. Grossman said that the word he used was, indeed, the word grip. Not Grit. This being the case, one wonders what in the world he meant. Last August Finance Minister Walter Gordon got himself into trouble in the House of Commons when Hansard quoted him as saying, "What is the one hundred million?"

Reporters and MPs thought they heard him say "What is one hundred million?" and it recalled the infamous remark of the late C.D. Howe: "What's a million?"

Very bad for elections, remarks like these. Members of the Legislature enjoy the privilege of "correcting" official transcripts. Mr. Bruton points out, "They are allowed to correct grammar, polish phrasing... They are, however, on their honor not to change the meaning or intent of their remarks."

Hansard is a valuable record of debate only if it is as accurate as it is humanly possible for the Hansard reporters to be. It must be sacred.

Parliament is the core of our system of government, and in parliament elected members are expected to exercise their judgment in the interest of the people they represent. They are responsible for what they say and the public is entitled to know what they say—not what they decide a next morning they should have said, or intended to say.

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