THE GUARDIAN

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"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1955

A Disturbing Trend

Now that French approval has been given to the Paris agreements—by a small workable majority—is is fairly obvious that West Germany will be permitted to rearm within the framework of the Western alliance. Whether the Bonn Government will, in fact, proceed to set up a military machine, that will be of much practical assistance to Nato, is not quite as clear. So long as Chancellor Adenauer remains in office the prospects for West German participation in Western unity may be considered fairly bright; but the results of recent election contests on provincial and municipay levels make it at least doubtful that the Chancellor's hold on public opinion is as strong as it once was. In any event, reports coming out of Bonn indicate with reasonable clarity that militarism in any form is at an extremely low level of popularity. The Social Democrats—the second largest party in the Republic—the labour unions, and many Church leaders have come out boldly against rearmament. More disturbing still is the result of a public opinion poll in which an overwhelming majority of West German women gave an unqualified "no" to the question, "Are you in favour of a new army?"

One reason, no doubt, for this strange phenomenon in a country that brought militarism to its highest historic stature is that West Germans are not too enthusiastic about the prospect of being caught in the middle in any future war between Russia and the West. Another is that, after calling the military tune for close on a century, they do not relish the "second-fiddle" status which they feel is their assignment in present-day power politics. But perhaps the chief reason can be found in their hope of eventual reunification of all Germany; a development which they believe will be hindered, and not helped, by rearmament, since, of course, what happens in that respect will depend very largely on the attitude of Soviet Russia, whose Government has made it plain that the rearming of West Germany will make the border between the two zones more rigid than ever. It is clear that Soviet propaganda has played a major part in the creation, or at least in the furtherance, of this anti-military trend; but the important thing that must be considered now is the trend itself, which Western diplomacy will have to find a way to reverse, if West Germany is to play an effective role in the maintenance of European —and world—security.

Academic Utopias

An American educator, Dr. Edwin Burdell, says that in his opinion the time has come for what he calls "post-high school institutions" which would attract students who want to prepare themselves for business and some other vocations, and leave the universities free to carry out their original function "to conserve, codify, and record the past and present, and at the same time to explore the avenues of change, transition, and innovation, in the future." Briefly stated, Dr. Burdell's plan would reserve the higher institutions of learning for especially gifted students who would pursue advanced scholarship for its own sake. Other students — who are always in the majority—would save time and money by completing their studies in the "post-high schools" and proceeding from them into business or the trades and professions which do not require prolonged study leading to advanced academic degrees.

Anticipating that his views will be regarded as an indication of "intellectual snobbery", Dr. Burdell says that they indicate nothing of the sort, but only "a realistic approach to the problem of providing the kind of education best suited to the student and one which the community could afford." There have been many plans brought forward from time to time for the creation of academic Utopias; and they all seem to have one thing in common—separation of brilliant students from the mediocre ones. There may be something to be said for this arbitrary act without bringing it into the undemocratic place of "intellectual snobbery"; but the difficulty is that neither brilliance nor mediocrity is noted for consistent and abiding qualities. It is right that the very gifted should be encouraged in every way possible; but the fact that a student is a bit slow in getting under way is no indication that he will continue that slow pace for the rest of his academic life. Indeed, it would be easy for anyone to quote many instances to the contrary, just as it would be easy to cite cases where a young "genius" ended up in the academic doldrums. Perhaps some day a scientific formula for gauging intellectual potentialities on a permanent basis, without doing injustice to anyone, will be found. Meanwhile, the innovators, however well-intentioned, will have to use restraint and caution in drawing up their plans.

The Borden Memorial

The monument to be erected to Sir Robert Borden will stand on the southwest side of the West Block at Ottawa, overlooking Wellington street and the old Supreme Court building, almost directly in line with the monument to his great contemporary and antagonist, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which stands east of the East Block. It will be unveiled two years hence.

When the unveiling takes place there are two things it would like to see happen, says the Ottawa Journal: first that Mr. St. Laurent, whether then in or out of office, should be present, and secondly, that one of the speakers of the occasion should be Arthur Meighen, the man who was Borden's great fighting captain, and who today is the only living Conservative ex-prime minister.

"No one need despair of our party system, nor question much its civilized chivalry," comments The Journal, "when announcement comes that a Liberal Government is to erect a monument to the memory of a great Conservative Prime Minister. And The Journal happens to know of the enthusiasm with which Mr. St. Laurent has promoted the project.

"It is a good thing to honour our famous men. And Sir Robert Borden was a public man, a leader of Canada in peace and war, who deserves commemoration. Indeed there are those who believe that when the story of Canada's constitutional development is happily removed from controversy and written with authority Sir Robert will stand out as one of the great architects of its growth."

This Province already has a memorial to Sir Robert in its carferry terminal, named after him in tribute to the improved transportation service he was instrumental in establishing for Prince Edward Island.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Week of Prayer.

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Epiphany; Twelfth Day.

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It is to be hoped that this Island's scallop bed resources will not be overlooked in Ottawa's plans for scientific development of this important east coast fishery.

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Our western wheat growers and eastern dairy farmers are particularly interested in Trade Minister Howe's appeal to the United States to support reductions on import tariffs. Still wider issues are involved, however, in the threat to the free world's trade pact under the Geneva General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

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President Tito of Jugoslavia, who recently paid a visit to India to preach the doctrine of "peaceful co-existence", has been doing everything he could think of to show his hosts that, despite his stern manner, he is at heart a pleasant fellow. His most spectacular demonstration of bonhomie took place in a small Himalayan village where he danced with the natives to the music of pipes, flutes, and drums.

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St. Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans, was born this date 1412, in the village of Domremy on the borders of Champagne. She persuaded the French authorities to let her lead an army to relieve Orleans and entered that city in April 1429. Charles was crowned the same year but the Maid was captured by Burgundians and sold to the English. She was tried and burned for heresy but later the sentence was revoked and in 1920 she was canonised.

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The farmers of Lebanon Co., Pennsylvania, are hoping that President Eisenhower will not run for re-election in 1956; not, however, because of any political grievance, but only because the President and his wife have bought a farm property in the area, on which they plan to live when Mr. Eisenhower retires. "It can't come too soon," said one resident, "we are looking forward to having them as neighbours." That sort of tribute is better than a lot of votes given merely out of loyalty to the party.

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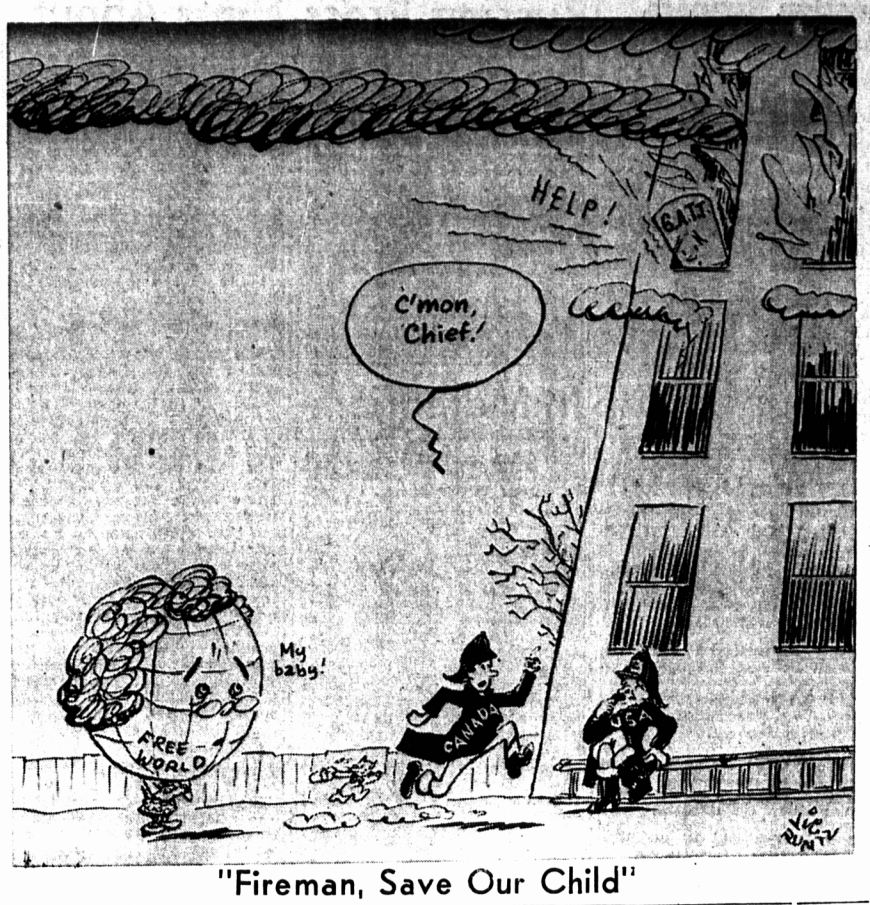
Pity poor Mr. Dulles! A year or so ago his critics at home and abroad were blaming him for interfering too openly in Asiatic affairs. His "massive retaliation" speech was quoted as an example of unrealistic diplomacy. Now, some of the same critics are saying that he is neglecting Asia for Europe. In any discussion of Mr. Dulles's diplomatic ability, however, it is well to remember that under the American constitution the Secretary of State has no responsibility for the formulation of foreign policy. That belongs to the President himself.



"Fireman, Save Our Child"

OTTAWA REPORT

The Parliamentary Session

By Patrick Nicholson

Senators and Members of Parliament are pouring back into Ottawa for the opening of what will be the most significant parliamentary session since Confederation.

Its significance will lie less in what it does than in how it does it. For this is the session when the drift of power—note that I do not say "the struggle for power"—from Parliament to the Cabinet could and should be halted. Alas neither Members of our House of Commons nor Senators have so far made more than a token gesture to retain the power which is their's by right of our constitution.

For the past fifteen years, things have been going our way. All the government had to do to maintain the nation's pleasure cruise was to avoid rocking the boat. But the year 1955 will disclose rocks in our course. Will our Parliament steer the ship of state around these rocks? Will it, as it has tended increasingly to do over recent years, sit back and hope that the Cabinet will perform this task for it? Or will Parliament and Cabinet alike bury their heads ostrich-like in the sand, and hope that the current and eddies will carry the ship safely around the rocks which they prefer not to look at?

The most obvious rock in our course is labelled quite plainly and truthfully "Economic collapse." This is threatened by the rising price and diminishing quality of our products, with a few notable exceptions. Our foreign buyers are fast waking up to this trend, and as our export figures show, they are ceasing to "Buy Canadian." Our smaller market of course accounts for some of this disparity, but it is unpatriotic to ignore a rise in this disparity which is intense enough to jeopardise our export markets. Our over-priced dollar continues to aggravate this unhappy situation, which is still partly hidden by our government's heavy defence spending and by American investment in our stock market. Hot peace replacing the cold war, and a stay-at-home American dollar would bring economic trouble right inside our front door.

So Parliament's first test will be whether it recognises this situation and makes any effort to avert the probable crisis.

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The second rock is the abrupt end to our universal agreement on foreign policy. There has been no serious difference between the government party and any of the three parties in opposition about any major aspect of our foreign policy, during the past generation. But in this session, the government will find disagreement with its policy in Europe, for some voices will seek talks with Russia before rearming West Germany. It will also find acute disagreement with its parsimonious increase in the modest anti - Communist insurance premium we are paying through the Colombo Plan.

Finally, and here will come the real test of whether Parliament will allow the Government to muzzle it. There has been a lot of talk about altering the rules of debate in the House of Commons. This is a strictly Liberal proposal. All three parties in opposition disagree in whole or in major part with the proposal. In effect, it will restrict the number of Members who are able to speak, and the length of time for which they may speak, on most topics.

This curtailment of Canadian democracy has been dressed up by the government as a parliamentary virtue, under such misleading phrases as "streamlining procedure" and "shortening the sessions."

Members of Parliament have a right to be heard whenever they want to speak; they have an obligation to represent their voters to the full extent of their ability, their wakefulness, their lungs and their eloquence. Far from shortening the session, Members who themselves voted to be paid by the year rather than by the session have a duty to sit here in Ottawa until every M.P. has had his say. If they come back to Ottawa after their six months vacation-with-pay ($5,000 of it for the vacation period, per member), and permit the introduction of rules aimed chiefly at prolonging their annual vacation, then they will not only finally abdicate their power to the Cabinet, they will also be admitting that the Cabinet aided by its civil service advisers can run the country without the aid of Parliament. In that case, all that will remain will be for M.P.s to vote themselves into a Museum of Early Canadiana.

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Another important issue facing Parliament is the threat of rising unemployment and falling exports Some harsh criticism on these subjects will be flung at the Government. But the truth is that these problems are not misfortunes visited upon us by Providence, nor because of government fumbling. They are, separately and together, the inevitable and predictable result of irresponsible wage demands by some union leaders; demands made in spite of warnings such as that recently issued by A. R. Mosher, head of the Canadian Congress of Labor.

Wage demands not matched by greater output have now priced some Canadian goods out of world markets, and have forced them above the cost of competitive imports. Leaders of the men whose jobs have thus been destroyed are now demanding help from other Canadians; either by paying wages for their employment on public works projects, or by paying unnecessarily higher prices, caused by increased tariffs, in the stores.

This is economic civil war. The battle is ranged chiefly between factory workers whose operations have become uneconomic, and primary producers whose export sales depend largely on Canadian imports. That underprivileged member of our labour force, the farmer, is hardest hit.

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To its credit, the government is standing fast in face of these demands. Its spokesman, Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, repeats that "the government is determined to continue its world-wide fight against restrictions in trade."

Mr. Howe and his cabinet colleagues confidently expect that this policy will bring better conditions to all Canadians in the long run. They reject the palliative of higher tariffs to bolster ailing uneconomic and indeed artificial industries. There are however certain obvious steps which the government perhaps should take to ease their conversion pains.

Clamour for government help for the unemployed has now become even more insistent than the demand for tariff protection for plants. Emergency relief, higher benefits and government jobs are being sought. Some of the salves — none of them are permanent cures—would entail increased taxation. The Prime Minister recently rebuffed such requests for aid from B.C. and in doing so he made the government's policy quite clear.

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So 1955 is seen here as the year of decision. The farmers are getting less of the consumer's food dollar. Yet in industry generally, workers again got more wages for less output in 1954. This is economic civil war, for if any Canadian worker demands more pay without a corresponding increase in his production, he can only get this at the expense of some other Canadians, probably in the form of higher prices for his product.

The government is adamant aginst any steps which would increase taxes; it is adamant against higher tariffs which would increase the cost of living. The farmer and other primary producers who export their surpluses naturally want Canada to spend on imports as much as other countries pay for those exports. The time has come for organised labour to cease its envious glances at our neighbour across the back fence, or else to roll its sleeves a little higher. That, in plain language, appears to be the message of the trade and economic experts in the government.

NOISY WELCOME

WELLINGTON N.Z. (Reuters)—A young husband was fined £10 Monday by a court for firing a rifle at his wife and other guests at a New Year's party "to wish them a Happy New Year."

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE CHINESE

Chuang Chou in a dream became
a butterfly,
And the butterfly became Chuang
Chou at waking.
Which was real—the butterfly or
the man?
Who can tell the end of the endless
changes of things?
The water that flows into the
depths of the distant sea
Returns soon to the shallows of a
transparent stream.
The man, raising melons outside the
green gate of the city,
Was once the Prince of the East
Hill.
So must rank and riches vanish.
You know it, still you toil and toil,—
What for?

—Li-Po, (701—762).

Alas, Poor Flea

(The Times, London)

Once a traditional enemy is laid low our sentiments toward him undergo a change: hatred gives way to compassion. After all he was an honest foeman who played the game according to his lights and we are sorry to see him brought down to this.

So there is a moment of something like sadness in hearing from an eminent naturalist in Vienna that the man-eating flea is almost extinct. He has become scarce even in the Balkans, which had been a "paradise for fleas."

The flea can, in the modern idiom, do his stuff. It is all very well to speak of some trifling discomfort as a mere fleabite, but he can tickle. Then for numberless years he has been a source of humor. If John Leech could not have drawn a family rather lumpy and bumpy in the face, having suffered severely in their first night at a seaside lodging house, the world would have been the poorer.

A first glance at this news from Vienna may have caused us to exaggerate its tragedy. Knowing that "a reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog—keeps him from broodin' over bein' a dog, mebbe," we have perhaps pitied the dog. We may have thought that life would be very, very dull without scratching, than which there can be no better exercise for the hind leg.

If we did, that was our lamentable ignorance; science is apparently still trying to discover how to wipe out the dog-eating flea. Our flea is the man-eater, a title which seems to put him on a proud level with the tiger.

We must not forget, moreover, that the flea is a fine athlete. We may never have actually watched an Olympic contest between the fleas of all nations nor found any exact records in the books of reference, but we know that he has an immense reputation as a jumper. In Hans Andersen's story we are told that he jumped so high that nobody could see him and so the spectators said he had not jumped at all, but this was scandalous and untrue.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Two cheese sandwiches a week eaten by every Canadian would lift the cheese business out of the doldrums and add a health-giving item to our diet. It would make the difference between the cheese industry being in the red or in the black. As things are now Canadians eat 5.8 pounds of cheese a year. Norwegians consume 18.7 pounds. "You can do many things with cheese — it makes sandwiches, rarebits, salads and flavoring. It comes in assorted types and many flavors. It is nutritious, satisfying, available and Canadian-made. We should eat more of it." —London Free Press.

It is perhaps not too late to think about the helplessness of humans when confronted by some meteorological event such as the snow storm which swept through this area last week. As layer after layer of snow covered the ground, traffic became slower and slower. Soon it was almost completely blocked, and there was little that could be done about it. Snow storms of varying intensity are to be expected at this time of year, and we can only make the best of the situation as we find it. For in the face of a driving wind, all our efforts to keep streets and roads open are almost useless. Stranded cars were not uncommon, and the snow banks became deeper and deeper. —Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

The Mahone Bay town council on motion in meeting decided to pay the mayor $200 for his services and the councillors $100 each. If you come down to brass tacks that is mere peanuts compared to the work involved but this is only the beginning and where it will stop is anybody's guess. Maybe the Town Manager idea is the answer. — I see where some one has written a letter to the Kentville Advertiser asking the question why don't we play bingo to cut town taxes? This was probably prompted by the fact that the Kentville baseball club cleaned up a few thousands in a very short time and wiped out their debt. If you are going that far might as well go the rest of the way and organize a Sweepstake system like they have in Ireland and make many thousands. —Liverpool Advance.

Examinations have been conducted in a Denver hospital involving a Negro who had reached the age of 117. The authorities wanted to learn what may have contributed to his longevity. For one thing, they found he had been a slave, that he was noted as a bare-knuckle pugilist who fought other slaves at the command of his master. In 1948 he sustained a broken leg when struck by an automobile. Presently he is raising turkeys and chickens in Oklahoma. We are not told that examiners reached any specific conclusions after looking this man over. But the rest of us, without looking at him, can be sure he was equipped with an excellent heart, that his arteries were not the kind that harden, nor thicken, and that what he ate throughout a century and 17 years agreed with him. —Fort William Times-Journal.

The cart that is being put before the horse is that the observance of a holiday should lie in the day itself, not in a mere cessation of work. Any significance of a holiday so celebrated becomes subordinated and eventually lost. Much of the confusion is due to the value unions place on time off, rather than on work to be achieved. And if the five-day week is to continue, and there is no reason to believe that it will lose momentum, it would be well for some degree of uniformity to be agreed upon. Absurd as it is for the people to require a day off for the sake of observing a holiday that falls on a day on which they are not working, it is even more far-fetched that some should have a Friday and others a Monday, while still others observe only the holiday itself. —Moncton Transcript.

In the gloomy days last autumn when the French National Assembly had voted down French entry into the proposed European Defence Community, it was the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Anthony Eden, who saved the day. It was upon his initiative that the western powers so promptly met in London, and it was his offer of a large permanent British force on the Continent which made possible the rapid creation of another plan designed to bring Germany as an equal into the armed forces of the free world. It was this new plan, worked out first in London and then in Paris, which Premier Mendes-France was able to carry through a reluctant Assembly last week. It was, and is, first and foremost an Eden plan. Others have found the limelight, and have delighted in it. Sir Anthony is well satisfied that this should be so. There are those, however, who do not forget the role he played with such modesty and distinction. —Montreal Star.

A hard-cover book that sells 40,000 copies is a best-seller, but readers have bought 6 million paper-backed copies of Erskine Caldwell's God's Little Acre, over 5 million of Dr. Benjamin Spock's Pocket Book of Child and Baby Care and 4.5 million of Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary. Erle Stanley Gardner's 50 paper-backed mysteries have sold more than 75 million copies. Some 600,000 copies of his latest, The Case of the Negligent Nymph, are being distributed to retailers this month. Mickey Spillane's seven sex-and-violence detective novels have racked up sales of 26 million. Kiss Me Deadly, published last year, already is close to the 3.5 million mark. Western writer Luke Short, whose Man on the Blue recently went on sale, has accounted for more than 16 million sales. The publisher's profit on each book is a tiny one. On a 25-cent book, the distributor gets 11 cents, the retailer five cents. The production cost is about seven cents, and another cent goes for royalties. That leaves the publisher a one-cent profit.

—Wall Street Journal.

The Age Old Story

The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

Refrigeration
Repairs To All Makes
APPLIANCES
SALES & SERVICE
MOTORS
Rewinding and Repairs
ELECTRICAL
Repairs
Palmer Electric
Phones 8543 - 8544

FOR
Tailoring
and
Alterations
RITE - WAY
CLEANERS
7387

Evangeline
Gives You the Most...
of the Best...
for the Least
GINGER ALE
ORANGE
ROOT BEER
OTHER
FLAVORS.

Evangeline
BEVERAGES
BOTTLED IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.