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But every great event in time becomes encrusted with myths; and it would seem that malicious tongues have woven an evil mythology about the circumstances of our reception of the delegates to that first memorable conference of a century ago—a mythology implying, for example, that we Charlottetownians were more interested in the goings-on at a visiting circus at that time than in hosting the big political gathering; that our Colonial Secretary had to go out by himself in a row-boat—"with a barrel of flour in the stern," they say—to greet the Canadian delegation on its arrival in our harbor; that when the Nova Scotians landed there was no one at the wharf and they had to find their own way to their lodging houses, or the pubs, at best they could; and so forth and so on.

Envious rumors, all of them calculated to undermine the fair name of our Province and strike a blow at national unity and that kind of thing, about which so much is being heard today. We have been waiting for the Centennial Commission to come here and dispense of this antiquated gossip once and for all.

How pleasing, therefore, to note that the directors of the Commission, in approving a federal grant of \$100,000 to our Island Centennial Committee for its celebrations this year, have shown that they don't believe a word of this rigmarole! That at least is how we choose to interpret their generous gesture.

We can assure them that if there were the vilest, the meanest, the most slanderous references to our forebears and to our province, the slate now has been wiped clean.

Now have we any doubt that the Confederation Fathers themselves would have heartily approved of this grant, of the purposes of national significance for which it was bestowed, and of the plans we have in mind for expending it in the same spirit of hospitality they experienced here below, and which played so big a part in making their Charlottetown Conference the resounding success it turned out to be.

Commonwealth Conference
Attention has been focused on the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London next July by expression of good wishes to Prime Minister Pearson in discharging his responsibilities thereat. This is taken as a sign that Mr. Diefenbaker has ruled out the prospects of an early general election in Canada—which brings him into line with the views entertained by most citizens across the country. It also serves to underline the importance of the conference itself, and the gravity of the problems it will discuss.

The main purpose of the British Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, in calling the conference is to hold the Commonwealth together as it rides out the impact of the new African upsurge in Commonwealth membership. This year the nonwhite states will hold an overwhelming majority among the score or so of members attending.

It was at the 1961 conference that South Africa quit the Commonwealth as a consequence of condemnation of its racial policy by other Commonwealth countries. There was no meeting of prime ministers last year. This year the stresses within the Commonwealth are very considerable and highly complex.

There is Southern Rhodesia's pressure on Britain for full independence and the counter-pressure from African and other Commonwealth members that there must be no independence without the way being made clear for an African majority in Salisbury, Malaysia's confrontation with Indonesia is another topic of concern. Non-white prime ministers are expected to step up their pressure for economic sanctions against South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, a policy which the present British government has so far rejected.

Unlike Mr. Diefenbaker in conceding the right of Mr. Pearson to represent Canada at this conference, British Labor Leader Harold Wilson says the present British government leader speaks with little authority in view of the approaching autumn election and the public opinion poll figures suggesting a Labor government may be in power there in a few months.

According to a London correspondent, both the two main parties in Britain—Conservative and Labor—are presenting themselves as Commonwealth champions. Sir Alec is expected to offer the representatives of the emerging Commonwealth nations closer economic and trade ties, and a major extension of British educational, technical and economic aid. Mr. Wilson also is emphasizing opportunities for increased Commonwealth trade.

Mr. Pearson hasn't yet outlined Canada's policies in this connection. We may expect that Mr. Diefenbaker will insist on knowing something about them before the conference meets.

Within Her Rights
Mr. Justice Sam Hughes of the Ontario Supreme Court, in attempting to deny a witness the right to testify in French in an Ottawa court case the other day, was indeed pretty far off base. His contention was that the witness, who could also speak English, was trying to make a propaganda point; but what right had he to assume that? The witness insisted that a French was her native language, that this was Canada, where there are two official languages—and she wished to speak French. The judge then ordered her to leave the box, but later allowed her to proceed.

It is well for all of us to remember the Act of 1867 which brought Confederation to British North America. Speaking Canadians their language—Section 133 states: "Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in debates in the Houses of Parliament of Canada... and either of those languages may be used by any person or in any pleading or process in or issuing from any Court of Canada."

EDITORIAL NOTES
The life expectancy of white American men who are now 50 years of age would be 1.4 years greater if they were asked the Harvard School of Public Health declared recently. Such an increase in life expectancy, he said, would be comparable to that achieved from all the medical advances of the last 40 years.



SAFETY ZONE KEEPS GETTING SMALLER
A BIG CHALLENGE

University Requirements Rising Sharply

The total of Nova Scotia Monthly Requirements for graduate study and in the number of graduate students, the main potential source of teachers. Yet the problem of securing an adequate supply of fully qualified teachers remains most acute. Indeed it seems unavoidable that the soaring enrollment of the next few years, some expedients will have to be adopted—facilities that may be less than ideal, teachers who are less than fully qualified and with possibly more intensive use of both.

Plus And Minus

Globe and Mail, Toronto
Canada's exports continue to soar. The total for January and February was \$1,183 million, a 20 per cent improvement over the figure for the same two months of last year. With imports up 18 per cent, to \$1,045 million, we had a healthy trade surplus of \$88 million.

Our Emblem Dear

Toronto Telegram
Prime Minister Pearson is reported to be regarding with favour a design for a new Canadian flag—a twig bearing three maple leaves on a white ground between two blue bars.

PUBLIC FORUM

CITY TAX ASSESSMENT
Sir—A recent press report states that many of the property values have been questioned concerning the New Tax Assessment by R.P. Corporation. The citizens of Charlottetown are anything but satisfied, they are right to be. The overvaluing and the general overvaluation of the business and property owners is called to may have a right to get through to the assessors.

CIVIC EXPENDITURES
Sir—More power to the writer of a letter in your Public Forum on Civic Taxes and sign "Overburdened Taxpayer". I would like to see more letters from our taxpayers giving their views.

JOHN W. MACKENZIE
The suggestion made that instead of interchangeable letters now proposed, photographs of our City Fathers including the Mayor added the structures with the caption for 1964: "Welcome to Charlottetown in the Big Assessment".

Sir—There seems to be no end to the schemes that suggest themselves to our City Council to spend the taxpayers' money. The latest outbreak of two arches which no doubt will cost in excess of \$100,000 when erected and I presume will be considered a capital expenditure calling for an extra provision of around \$1,200 each year to provide for the interest alone.

Opinions On Dark Glasses

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen
A few months ago I received a letter asking why some people wear dark glasses at night. I replied that the practice is silly and psychiatrists contend those who do so "are neurotics who are trying to hide or escape from the public gaze."

A few days later an Indianapolis, Ind., woman wrote: "I am neither silly nor neurotic, but the psychiatrist's couch but I use dark glasses not only on bright days but at night. The reason is that I have had cataract surgery on both eyes and sunlight and even headlights practically blind me. A friend who has diabetes also finds it necessary to protect her eyes this way on an extremely bright day."

Another rebuttal came from a Chicago area, who wrote: "Your answer made me see red. I use dark glasses to protect my eyes infections and one eye pains when exposed to light or movement. I need dark glasses to hide the unsightly damaged eye."

The follow-up in a letter came from Alexandria, Va., reader: "People who wear colored glasses at night are not necessarily neurotic—just vain. I use contact lenses and sometimes wear dark glasses at night when it is windy or dusty. They act as a shield."

STICKY EYELIDS
G. T. writes: "When I awaken in the morning I can hardly open my eyes because they are sticky. Can you tell me what this is due to?"

REPLY
Inflammation of the conjunctiva, the membrane that lines the inside of the eyelids, may be caused by infection, irritation, or allergy. Your sounds like conjunctivitis.

WANTS POSITIVE GIRL
There is a good chance that you will, considering that 43 per cent of the population is RB positive. I also predict that when you fall in love, your silly idea will be forgotten.

REPLY
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NOTES BY THE WAY

Forgotten man in the disclosures about crime in Ontario is the former Liberal leader, Joan Wintermyer. He suffered ridicule when he suggested there was organized crime in the province.—Brookville Recorder.

The commercials show automobiles running along beaches, through fields and perched on tops of mountains. There's no room for them on the road.—Calgary Herald.

A Manitoba mother and former teacher has assailed final examinations as "a cross between a nervous breakdown and a brainwash" for both students and parents. May it be because parents didn't insist that students begin studying early enough.—Ottawa Journal.

The Almaguematist Journal (U.S.) has gone to the government with a demand that chicken soup sold in dehydrated form must, when ready to serve, contain at least 2 per cent chicken. Give these fellows as much as you'll take a mile. If it comes in a can, the next thing will be hearing is that they want a clam in the clam chowder.—Toronto Free Press.

alpi, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has suggested that such pesticides be banned from agriculture and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has told Congress it is responsible for the use of such insecticides are needed.

This concern comes late, after vivid demonstration of how faulty the Federal Government's alertness to this problem and how inadequate the co-ordination among its agencies in this area have been. Last June the Fish and Wildlife Service reported that very small amounts of one of these pesticides, endrin, could kill fish. Yet so little attention was paid to this warning that conservation and surprise were the prevailing reactions among Federal officials when the Public Health Service recently identified this group of chemicals as the agency responsible for the Mississippi fish killings.

This problem arises from the fact that these insecticides do not break down in nature. They retain their potency long after their initial use. Once put into the environment by farmers and others, these chemicals are ultimately to enter the food chain of living creatures. There is evidence suggesting that the degree of their concentration in organisms increases as contamination increases, for example, are eaten by birds. Since human beings complete such food chains, there is some ground for suspicion that such increasing concentration can result in dangers to human health.

A delightful social evening for the competitors in the Morrell Bowling League was held in the Community Hall. Ailing, the spacious Community Centre of its capacity. Mr. Harvey Douglas, M.L.A., presided as chairman.

PURITY DIARY
"Parents Prefer Purity Diaries"
317 Kent Disal 4-1215

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For Action On Pesticides

The bureaucratic anarchy hitherto prevailing in the pesticide field seems finally to have been corrected by the evidence that minute amounts of chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides have been responsible for killing millions of fish in the lower Mississippi.

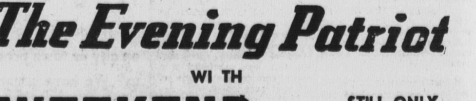
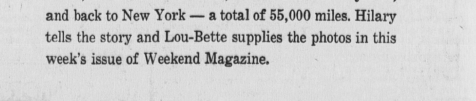
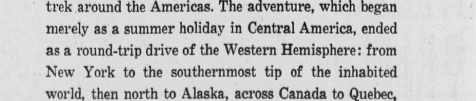
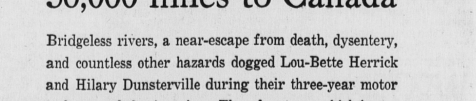
Our Yesterdays

Twenty-Five Years Ago (April 25, 1939)
Hon. B. W. LePage, Charlottetown, president of the executive council of the Prince Edward Island Legislature, and Mr. Angus McPhee, New Haven, member of the legislature for past four years, were renominated to represent 2nd district of Queens County Liberals in the provincial election to be held in May.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 28, 1954)
Drawing up a tentative program of street paving was the primary matter under consideration at a special meeting of the Monague Town Council. It was proposed to reconstruct the streets already paved, and to measure other streets to determine cost of paving.

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50,000 miles to Canada
Bridgless rivers, a near-escape from death, dysentery, and countless other hazards dogged Lou-Bette Herrick and Hilary Dunsterville during their three-year motor trek around the Americas. The adventure, which began merely as a summer holiday in Central America, ended as a round-trip drive of the Western Hemisphere; from New York to the southernmost tip of the inhabited world, then north to Alaska, across Canada to Quebec, and back to New York—a total of 55,000 miles. Hilary tells the story and Lou-Bette supplies the photos in this week's issue of Weekend Magazine.

The Evening Patriot
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MAGAZINE
and Colored Comics
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