

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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up to now has been illegal in Quebec. Still to be formulated is a basic general program to meet the long-term agricultural crisis resulting from the widening gap between industrial and farm prices. Even though it has been steadily declining in importance, agriculture is still the main primary industry in Quebec, accounting for an estimated \$523 million in gross production during 1963. Yet according to the government white paper, less than one-third of all farms in the province can be considered profitable. Quebec's efforts to remedy this situation will be followed with interest in other agricultural provinces. The problems basically are the same in every area where mixed farming is practiced extensively. Under the new ARDA agreements, there should be closer interprovincial as well as federal relationship in seeking solutions to them.

Those Debt Loads

Too bad, in that sawed-off budget debate in the Legislature last week, our members didn't get round to discussing the implications of a booklet issued recently by Wood, Gundy and Company, investment dealers, who make a practice of figuring up, at regular intervals, how much public debt has been created by the federal government, the 10 provincial governments and the larger municipal governments, then dividing the totals by the figures for the populations that have to carry these debt loads. The figures don't take stock of the latest provincial budgetary announcements, and perhaps we should be thankful for that. They present a grim enough picture as it is.

From this source we learn that everyone in Canada is responsible for \$783.39 debt, as his share of the total Dominion debt of \$15,070,149,452. Then come the debts incurred by provincial government borrowing, expressed in per capita terms. These vary widely, as we all know. But did we know that while the lowest is in oil-rich Alberta, at \$14.42, the highest is in Prince Edward Island, which has spent its future income to the extent of \$384.40 per capita?

Provincial debt per capita in the other provinces is listed as follows: Nova Scotia \$233.21; New Brunswick, \$244.68; Newfoundland \$258.51; Quebec, \$127.24; Ontario, \$204.93; Manitoba, \$172.26; Saskatchewan, \$42.94; British Columbia, \$50.05.

Deficit financing, they tell us, is the order of the day. Nothing to worry about, so long as we keep it within bounds. But can this little Province really afford to head the list in per capita indebtedness, as the above figures show? The coming fiscal year is going to set a new record in this regard, something to stagger the imagination and make our legislators speechless entirely when they get to debating it next session.

Quebec Farm Problems

Quebec's concern over the problems of its rural population was indicated by the announcement last week that a provincial royal commission would be set up by the Lesage government, just three days after a request for such action was made by the powerful Catholic Farmers' Union.

In its annual brief to the government, the union called for a whole series of radical measures to save a rural economy that it said is menaced with extinction if present trends continue. One of these trends is the massive abandonment of farms at the rate of more than 3,000 a year during the past decade. Another is the steady aging of the province's farm population.

The decision to appoint a royal commission was revealed in a 41-page white paper on agriculture, which also announced a series of other interim measures to help the farmers financially. The bulk of the benefits will go to the province's 57,000 milk producers, who will receive grant increases totalling about \$14 million in the form of subsidies for fat production, and for capital investment to improve the quality of their products.

Other subsidy increases will affect the transport of fertilizers, seed grain, and animals for slaughter, while \$1 million will be spent on grants aimed at improving the quality of market hogs and lambs. Additional measures include a bill to encourage the enlargement of family farms and one to make more long and short term loans available to farm owners.

In a move designed to appeal both to apple growers and Quebecers in general, the government will set up a plant to produce hard cider, which

Fine Entertainment

The entertainments provided by the Prince Edward Island Region, Dominion Drama Festival, have always been popular here, and this year's performances, to be staged on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week in the new Confederation Centre Theatre, bid fair to break all attendance records.

The three groups competing for the honor of representing the region at the Dominion Drama Festival in Brockville, Ont. next May are the St. Dunstan's Dramatic Society, Rev. Adrien Arsenault director, the Vagabond Independent Players, Clair Smith director, and the Circle Theatre, Mrs. Vera Millar director. The plays are widely varied in theme, and merit top billings on their own account. They present stiff hurdles for amateur talent, but that, after all, is what drama festivals are arranged for. Something really worth while in the entertainment field, providing a challenge to the players and an experience for the audiences that will not soon be forgotten.

This year the services of a provincial drama advisor have been provided in the person of Ron Irving, of the department of education. The adjudicator will be Andrew Allen of Toronto, well known TV star, who was here last summer for the Centennial celebrations and who has had 33 years' experience as actor, writer, announcer and producer.

Tickets for the series are being offered at special prices, and it would be well not to wait too long to pick them up. "Stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once," as the fellow said in Shakespeare.

The Way They Do Things

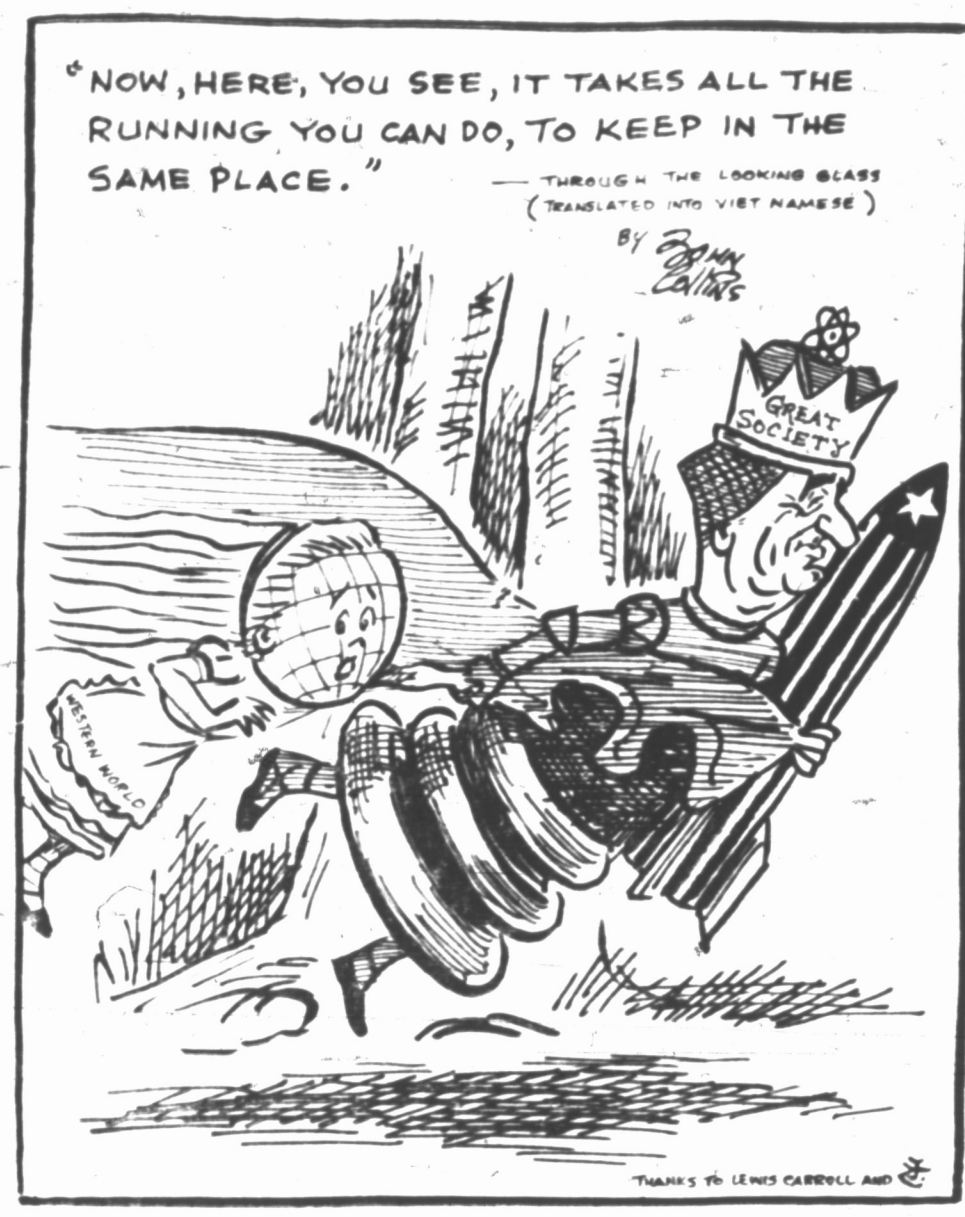
Richard M. Nixon, former U.S. Vice-President and now senior partner in a legal firm which is interested in a New York-based company planning to build a \$50 million pulp and paper complex in Newfoundland, visited Ottawa last week and got the red carpet treatment as a distinguished visitor as he sat in the gallery of the House of Commons. Prime Minister Pearson referred to him as such, and Opposition Leader Diefenbaker, not to be outdone, called Mr. Nixon a "great parliamentarian" as well as a great American and a "great world statesman."

It was the first time, notes an Ottawa commentator, that Mr. Nixon had ever visited our federal capital. He didn't pick a particularly good day for his introduction to the ways of Canadian parliament even by the dismal standards of the current session. There was a boring little cock-fight over extending the hours of sitting; a sarcastic exchange between Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Pearson; and a limp "I thought so, anyway" statement by Immigration Minister Nicholson about that ferocious arch-anarchist, Professor Mulford Q. Sibley and why, on a speaking engagement in Winnipeg, he had been denied admittance to the country.

Both Prof. Sibley and Mr. Nixon are Quakers, and somebody in the press gallery remarked that it was a wonder they let even Mr. Nixon in!

EDITORIAL NOTE

It is predicted that the number of foreign governments to be represented at the big World Fair in Montreal in 1967 will break all past records. Provided everything is constructed in time, there could be as many as 80 foreign countries participating officially, which is nearly twice the number represented at the Brussels Fair, the largest Class A international exhibition up to now. Compared to this the present New York World Fair—a strictly commercial venture—is a piddling affair, boasting only six genuinely national pavilions.



ALICE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

OTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Most Amazing Evacuation In History

This year is the 25th anniversary of The Miracle of Dunkirk. I hear from a friend who was one of the miracle-makers that the anniversary will be appropriately marked, survivors of the world's most historic armada of little ships will sail once again across the 80 miles of open sea, from the mouth of England's River Thames to the beaches of Dunkirk in France. On Sunday, 26th May 1940, a service of intercession and prayer for the trapped British army was held in Westminster Abbey. At 7 p.m. that night, Operation Dynamo was put into action to evacuate British and French troops from Dunkirk, already encircled by the German Panzer divisions. Winston Churchill, after a hearing, comments and advice from his military chiefs, came to the sad conclusion that it would only be possible to evacuate about 45,000 soldiers in 48 hours, before the Germans would overrun the perimeter defences protecting the already damaged harbour and the open beaches of Dunkirk. CALL TO BOAT-LOVERS The next day, it was realized that evacuation only from the small and heavily attacked harbour was insufficient. Somehow the army must be lifted directly from the beaches. So an appeal was made for help from a tiny small craft capable of ferrying soldiers from the beaches to larger ships which would wait in deep water off-shore. The result of this appeal was in Churchill's words, "the brilliant improvisation of volunteers on an amazing scale." For eight days, the evacuation was carried on, under devastating aerial attack and continuous shell-fire. But a total of 338,226 soldiers were brought across the sea to England—in everything from destroyers to a three-seater canoe. That miracle of Dunkirk was made possible by the great armada of little ships. There were motor-buses, and sail-boats manned by their civilian owners, who in previous summers had spent lazy weekends cruising or sailing in them with their families on the rivers and coastal waters of south-east England. There were tugboats from the busy River Thames. Even oyster-men from the commercial fisheries of Essex loaded their boats with unusual human hauls lifted from the French beaches. VETERANS SAIL AGAIN In the words of Churchill, "everyone who had a boat of any kind, steam or sail, put out for Dunkirk." In all, 372 miscellaneous private craft set sail voluntarily for the beaches of Dunkirk, manned by their owners in most cases, making up the greatest civilian navy ever known. 170 of them were sunk by bombs, bullets or shells. Enquiries at boatyards have disclosed more than 100 of those little ships still afloat. They are all veterans now, all 25 years older and less sea-worthy than at their moment of glory, and not all capable of again making the hazardous return trip, hazardous even without hostile attack. But the owners of nearly three-quarters of these survivors will sail their boats again to the beaches of Dunkirk, to attend the anniversary services and the ceremony of dropping wreaths in the sea in tribute to that half of the armada which lies there. "We must be very careful not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of a victory. Wars are not won by evacuations," Churchill warned, pronouncing this epilogue on the Miracle of Dunkirk in the British House of Commons on 4th June 1940. But more recently German historians have listed Dunkirk as the first of the 10 decisive battles of World War II.

To End Injustice

IT IS wholly gratifying that the government should be willing to amend the Citizenship Act so that an intending citizen may choose between an oath of allegiance and an affirmation. The parliamentary secretary to the Minister told the House on Monday that the act may have to be amended as a result of the Bergsma case. This is the case of a Dutch couple who are professed atheists. For that reason an Ontario judge rejected their application for citizenship and seemingly denied them the right to make an affirmation under the Canada Evidence Act rather than take an oath which ends with the words, "So help me God." This rejection and its confirmation by an appeal court has caused a public outcry. It seems quite clear that the Canadian people are for freedom of conscience, although they do not by their support for the Bergsmas thereby support atheism. What they support is a principle of freedom. Mr. Nicholson's parliamentary secretary did not say how quickly the government proposed to act. It should act just as quickly as possible to prevent further injustice being worked on applicants for citizenship. The existing act vests considerable discretion in the Minister. We do not know whether he could go so far as to override the two judges who have held the Bergsmas ineligible for citizenship, but it would gratify Canadian public opinion if they could be declared to be citizens notwithstanding the two judgements against them.

Kenord Is Welcome

The mayor of Kenora has requested the oft-made proposal that his town and a large chunk of surrounding territory (extending to Dryden in the east and to Hudson Bay in the north) should wave goodbye to Ontario and join up with Manitoba. Undoubtedly if this happy state of affairs ever became reality, all the far western Ontarians involved would get a warm welcome from Manitobans—even though the suggestion is born not so much from a love of Winnipeg as a dislike of Queen's Park. But the change would be scarcely noticeable. After all, Manitobans don't regard that part of our sister province as really belonging to Ontario; it's just as eastern extension of Manitoba that happens to be beyond the first Highway No. 17 sign Kenora, Clearwater Bay, Minaki, et al.—in summer at least—are as ethnically Manitoban as Plum Coulee. Manitoba certainly would gain from the change. 50,000 people, a handful of towns and villages, a lot of lakes and rocks and trees and summer cottages (the most of the latter owned by Manitobans) are not to be sneezed at. And apparently the Kenora mayor believes that the area would benefit as well, presumably on the grounds that Kenora is more clearly heard in Winnipeg, 130 miles to the west than in Toronto, 850 miles to the southeast. But perhaps the residents of the area should mull the matter

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Irritable Bowel

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Spastic colitis is a common condition and a week rarely passes in the life of a busy physician without encountering one or more patients with this disorder. It is a nervous phenomenon producing intestinal spasms. Abdominal soreness, gas pains and cramping are the most troublesome manifestations. In some instances, bouts of distress are associated with diarrhea. In other, there is constipation. Now and then the pain is so sharp the victim holds the abdomen and bends forward trying to obtain relief. Cramping may occur only during a trying situation, a period of anxiety or sustained tension. Other patients never are comfortable and remain aware that all is not well within the tummy. Symptoms are far from imaginary, as they are caused by a forceful contraction of the muscular wall of the colon. This occasionally can be demonstrated via an X-ray, provided the muscle is in a state of spasm when the film is made. Knowing the cause helps to control the disturbance. In some assurance that nothing serious exists is enough to relax the sufferer and his bowel. The solution is easy when the source of trouble is obvious. A Chicago surgeon closes his office and leaves the city to paint and relax when he begins to develop abdominal pain. This is the signal that he is working too hard and is tense and tired. The cause may be a social or economic crisis, fear of disease, lack of security, or problems with a spouse or child. Irritable eating habits, laxative abuses, and too much coffee, alcohol, or cokes may play a role. There are several medicines that are useful in calming the individual and relaxing the bowel. A combination of belladonna and phenobarbital is time-honored. Tranquilizers also are useful. Drugs that divorce the bowel from the brain are most successful in relaxing spasm. There are dozens of these on the market and the majority are prescription products. A bland diet eases the bowel a rest.

CLANKING NECK

Mrs. E.C. writes: For the last year whenever I shake my head up, down or sideways, I hear a metallic click. This doesn't pain me but I am annoyed by the mysterious sound. Did you ever hear of such a condition?

REPLY

This sound comes from clicking vertebrae or scarred muscle and fibrous tissue in the neck. Arthritis or injury to the structures in this area is responsible.

EAR FLUID

Mrs. F. writes: Why does fluid collect in the middle and inner ear?

REPLY

Pus collects when the ear is infected, whereas serum accumulates if the eustachian canal is obstructed.

OTHER USES OF INSULIN

Mrs. N. writes: Is insulin given for anything besides diabetes?

REPLY

Yes, to stimulate appetite and to produce shock in certain mental conditions. Careful shampooing helps combat dandruff.

Nazi Criminal Trials

By Joseph MacSwiney Canadian Press Staff Writer

The new decision by the West German Parliament on war crimes prosecution will likely earn Chancellor Ludwig Erhard only criticism and faint praise abroad although it may win him votes in the forthcoming general election. The Bundestag voted 344 to 96 Thursday in favor of the shortest possible extension—4½ years—of the legal deadline for new prosecutions of Nazi criminals. It seems certain this decision was received with disappointment around the world by people who had been expecting extension of at least 10 years. Observers feel the action of the German law-makers can be traced simply enough to the fact an election is scheduled for Sept. 19 with Erhard's coalition government already in trouble for its handling of foreign policy, particularly involving East Germany, Israel and the Arab countries.

The uneasy coalition was formed between the Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats following the last election when the ruling Christian Democratic party failed by eight seats to obtain an over-all majority in the 521-member lower house, or Bundestag. In the current controversy, the Free Democrats have been opposed to any extension of the statute of limitations where war crimes are concerned and their voice was powerful since Ewald Bucher, the justice minister, is a member of the party. Bucher, who has tendered his resignation rather than sign the bill, contended the measure violates the German constitution similar to the way in which Adolf Hitler enacted retroactive legislation to suit his own purposes. Other legislators have hit this argument by noting 76 professional lawyers at West German universities stated there was no constitutional bar to the legislation. It was significant the most impassioned plea against Nazi criminals came from a member of the younger generation of Christian Democrats, Dr. Ernst Benda, 40, who said to the applause from all sides of the house March 10 the German people would have to live aware there were murderers among them. But the Bundestag's ardor had cooled by Thursday. Politicians were keenly aware of public opinion polls indicating further prosecution of Nazi criminals has grown unpopular. The polls show widespread sentiment in favor of closing the books on the Nazi past, not out of sympathy with offenders but primarily out of concern over damage that current trials may be giving to Germany's name.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 30, 1940) Last Thursday, the Charlotte-town Little Theatre Guild presented three one-act plays: The Monkey's Paw, directed by Vera Millar; Mount Omelette in Spain, directed by Janet Townshend; and A Mad Break, directed by R. Brough Taylor. On March 27, David Lloyd George started his 51st year in the English House of Commons.

TEN YEARS AGO (March 30, 1935)

Last Friday, the students of Acadia University held their annual election at which they elected Gordon Sammons, of Summerside, as president of their Students' Representative Council for the year 1935-36. Bob Giggey was elected president of the Centennial Y's Men's Club at their annual supper meeting held in the banquet room of the YMCA. An ordinary elm tree of moderate size will transpire about 15,000 pounds of water on a clear, dry, summer's day.

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