

The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1956

The Naval Barracks

Good news to all interested in naval training is the announcement from Ottawa last evening that an appropriation of \$275,000 is being placed in the estimates this year for the new Naval Barracks in Charlottetown, that the plans have now been prepared and that it is hoped to have tenders called during the present fiscal year, which ends in March 1957. This assurance was given in Parliament in reply to questions asked by Mr. Neil Matheson.

The site for the new barracks was acquired last August on the corner of Water and Haviland Streets, and it is deemed a very desirable one from every standpoint. The premises now occupied by the H.M.C.S. Queen Charlotte are in any case unsuitable, and it would have been impossible to have carried on naval training there much longer. The new barracks will afford the facilities required, and will provide for expansion of activities in the senior branch of Her Majesty's armed services in this Province. Undoubtedly this will serve to encourage recruiting, and give added incentive to the officers under Lieutenant Commander Kennen in the excellent work they are doing. They have been operating under great handicaps, and can look forward now to up-to-date accommodation on the waterfront, facing one of the finest harbours in Canada, where training can be carried on much more realistically.

United Front

An important piece of news in recent days was the announcement that Roman Catholic and Moslem leaders have been discussing the formation of a worldwide united front to combat Communism. It is important because it shows that the antagonisms between Christians and Moslems are not as bitter as they once were. This does not imply any weakening of traditional beliefs on either side. It does imply a growing realization that most of the great religions have some fundamental convictions in common which can serve to moderate the divisive tendencies of their many differences. As between Christians—Protestants as well as Catholics—and Moslems, for example, there is the essential belief in the Oneness of God.

In its social aspects, Communism is not merely a system which includes anti-religious sentiments among its tenets. It claims to be a religion in its own right; and it is, in the sense that it requires its adherents to worship its god, the all-powerful State, with all the mind, heart, soul, and strength. Hence, its violent antipathy towards all religions which teach the primacy of the spiritual over the material, and which proclaim the Fatherhood of the universal God and its concomitant truth, the Brotherhood of all men.

It is in the face of this antipathy, which is being forwarded by every device available to the leaders of world Communism, that Christians and Moslems are seeking a common ground of defence. In the process they may find other agreements which heretofore have remained hidden.

A Political Analysis

A quite common opinion is that should President Eisenhower run for a second term he would be elected but that any other Republican nominee would have little chance against Democratic power. Even some highly placed Republicans are reported to have said as much—not, of course, out loud. However, the political strategists of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., most of whom normally lean towards the Democratic party do not share that view. This was made fairly plain in an analysis of the political situation submitted to the executive council of the combined unions at its recent winter session.

The report states frankly that "The Republicans will have an edge in the 1956 Presidential campaign regardless of who their candidate

may be". The main reason for this appraisal is found in Mr. Eisenhower's recommendation for increased congressional allocations for schools, housing, health, social security, and highways, which, in the words of the report, "have to a large extent deprived the Democrats of some of their most appealing issues". It is admitted that declining farm prices present a real problem for the Republicans; but in that field, too, strenuous efforts are being made to ally the anger of the farm bloc, which in any event, is more inclined, ordinarily, to overlook Republican failures than they are to excuse Democratic ones.

Events may prove this analysis worthless. At the moment it is a newsworthy one for the simple reason that it comes from a source which can scarcely be charged with Republican bias. It is bound to make Democratic leaders a bit waver; than they have been in the past few months. Perhaps that is its primary purpose.

Fish And Record Playing

A report from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution makes good news for fishermen; for those fishermen, that is, who are in a position to purchase some pretty expensive electronic equipment. The idea on which scientists are working is to entice fish into the net by sounds produced under water. According to the men working on the project, full effectiveness awaits only "appropriate methods of application."

Fish, biologists say, have very quick and efficient hearing. Most of them can hear even better than humans. What is more, each species has its own type of calls which are now being reproduced in the laboratory preparatory to putting them to work in the sea. The one big difficulty is that most sounds seem to have no effect once the fish get used to them and there is no consistent reaction. This, however, is a small matter really, and it is expected to be worked out satisfactorily in due course. It is generally supposed that sounds made by sounding gear on vessels scare the fish away. This, the Woods Hole report says, is a mistake.

So, it looks as though one of these days fishing will largely be a matter of record playing!

EDITORIAL NOTES

An educator says that the surprising thing about youngsters is not that some of them learn slowly but that any of them has any interest at all in school, there being so many more attractive things to occupy their attention. It is to be hoped that this radical view will not be talked about too much. The power of suggestion is very great.

Further evidence that French political prestige is declining rapidly is seen in the way the anti-nationalists in Algeria treated Premier Mallet on his recent visit. They kept him a virtual prisoner until he consented to fire the newly appointed Resident General. What is even more significant is the fact that soldiers stood by without interfering on behalf of the Premier.

Notwithstanding the ease with which liquor can be bought legally in the United States, it is reported that more than one quarter of all spirits consumed in that country last year was of the illicit, moonshine variety. Considering there is a liquor store on almost every corner in most of the States, the report seems unbelievable.

American manufacturing concerns in increasing numbers are said to be considering building plants in Japan to take advantage of low labor rates which, at the present time, average about 13 cents per hour. There is a snag, however. The Japanese Government is considering raising tariffs on imports of raw materials.

English cartoonists have a way of extracting humor from even the most distressing conditions. In the recent extremely cold spell, accompanied by a serious shortage of fuel which kept thousands of homes unheated, one cartoon depicted a well-to-do Londoner and his wife wading through drifts and towing a dog wrapped in blankets. The man is saying: "Damn this wind from Siberia, I always said that no blasted good ever came out of Russia!"



WHERE ONE GOOD TOSS-UP DESERVES ANOTHER

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.

AGAINST FLUORIDATION

Sir.—The Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply deserve the highest commendation for their wise decision to defer action on fluoridation until more is known about its effects on the general health of the people. They measured up to the best island traditions for sensible reaction to epoch-making ventures.

The fact that five Home and School Associations in the city approved of the planing of sodium fluoride in the city's drinking water does not mean very much.

If I remember correctly, each of these Associations, after being harangued briefly by a primed speaker, was asked to vote on the issue and to forward the result to the Commissioners. I know that the president of one of the Home and School Associations was criticized severely for postponing the voting to a subsequent meeting to give the people involved time to think it over.

It seems to me that she was censured for doing a very rational thing. Of all the Home and School petitions combined, I would say this: never did a request for so momentous a step rest on such a snap decision.

To those who might wonder why I am so concerned about Prince Edward Island, I answer; I never completely left the island. My heart remained there. There, is where I would live, were I free to choose my own domicile.

If I have the opportunity of speaking, individually or collectively, to the 16,000 people who would be affected by this fluoridation scheme, I would say: in the name of your sacred interests, proceed slowly and warily in this matter. Don't be stampeded into any decision that is so liable to turn into a boomerang. Make sure that the prime mover among the fluoridators in Prince Edward Island is motivated by no other interest than the welfare of the people.

Rev. L. F. Sheen of Geneseo, Illinois, offers \$1,000 reward for evidence that will be accepted by Christian bio-chemists proving that sodium fluoride will prevent decay of the human teeth. If the basic intention of the promoters of the medicated-water scheme rest on a fact rather than an assumption, I suggest that their leader accept Reverend Sheen's offer.

One of the greatest names in the American Dental world is that of Dr. George W. Heard of Texas. He states: "I believe that fluorine does, in a mild way, retard caries, but I also believe that the damage it does is far greater than any good it may appear to accomplish. It is hellish, and un-American to put poison in city water supplies and force citizens to drink it."

The sudden eagerness to retard, "in a mild way", tooth decay among children between the ages of zero and ten (0 and 10) and the utter disregard of damage to the health of the general public, on the part of fluoridators, smack of pressure from agencies with vested interests in this project to medicate the drinking water.

I am, Sir, etc.

REV. W. J. ENRIGHT,
Windsor, Ontario.

CLODBURST KILLS 10

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil (AP)—A cloudburst drowned 10 persons Monday near Pelotas, a port and meat-packing centre of 80,000 population in south Brazil. The Pelotas river burst its dikes and flooded hundreds of acres of crops. About 300 passengers were marooned on trains stalled in the flooded area.

TWO-DAY BATTLE

ALGERIA, Algeria (AP)—Fierce battles and political murders cost 105 lives in French North Africa the last two days. French Foreign Legionnaires clashed with 250 rebels in the rugged Nememcha mountains in northeast Algeria, killing 45 guerrillas before the two-day battle ended Wednesday. Nine legionnaires were killed.

Fluorophobes Win Delay

H. L. MacPherson in the Windsor Star

It has been said facetiously that a drop of nicotine on the tongue of a dog will kill a man.

Now it can be added as a hard fact that a drop of fluorine on the imagination of a few dozen fluorophobes is enough to block a water treatment program for the prevention of tooth decay. In Windsor, at any rate.

It simply yielded to a mass of distortion and misrepresentation, exposed and exploded a dozen times over, and the asserted "expert" evidence of a lone doctor from Detroit.

In its flight from this "Boo" in the night it ignored the finding and opinion of just about every top level medical and dental association on this continent.

It turned its timid back on the recommendations of Windsor's own M.O.H., Dr. John Howie, and the large number of other highly qualified medical men here who are not found opposing fluoridation, because they believe in it.

NEVER UNANIMOUS

No unanimous agreement among North American or world doctors on fluoridation? When is there unanimous agreement or anything, except at gunpoint?

This City Council retreat is not, of course, a final and complete defeat for Windsor's fluoridation program. As a bad and losing cause, it can't be more than a delaying action. And the delay may easily be measurable in months.

Curious misstatements and misconceptions continue to follow the fluorophobe line, one of them a suggestion that the trend now is against fluoridation. On the contrary, the evidence is that the number of North Americans served with fluoridated water is likely to be doubled within a few years.

Just recently, for instance, New York's Board of Health brought in a 52-page report on fluoridation of the city's drinking water. Requested by Mayor Wagner, the report was nine months in preparation. It not only approved fluoridation, but called it a "health bargain" that would save New Yorkers a substantial part of the \$100,000,000 a year they now spend for dental care.

"The overwhelming weight of competent scientific opinion in this country and in New York City," it said, "is that water fluoridation is an effective, safe, practical and much needed public health measure."

Poisonous? "It was noted," said a digest of the report, "that though fluoride was a potentially toxic substance the margin of

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(February 18, 1931)

According to the report of the P.E.I. Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association, Glenwood has attained the second largest egg catch increase, 12,463 dozens. Mr. Elmer Betts who is manager of this circle deserves credit for the efficient manner in which he has carried on the work during the past year.

An organization that will embrace all existing organizations devoted to the interests of veterans of the Great War while at the same time preserving the autonomy of each individual group will, probably result from the declaration of policy issued today by the directorate of the Army and Navy Veterans in Canada.

TEN YEARS AGO

(February 18, 1946)

During 1945 Prince Edward Island received a slim share of the expenditures made by the Federal Department. Out of \$55,000 paid to Canadian universities for the accommodation for units of the C.O.T.C. St. Dunstan's University received \$509, the \$3,768,308 paid for the maintenance of public buildings outside of the Ottawa Federal District, \$30,050 went to P.E.I.

The second annual Bacon Show sponsored by the Prince Edward Island Breeders Association and supported by the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, will be officially opened at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon by the Hon. W.F.A. Stewart, Provincial Minister of Agriculture.

An organization to be known as the P.E.I. Federation of Labor was formed at the L.P.U. Hall last night. The intention is to unite all unions in the Province into one progressive body. Unions in the outlying districts along with the Canadian Legion will be invited to join the Federation.

The Age Old Story

Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

LONGEST WATERWAY

The St. Lawrence seaway project will open the world's longest inland waterway or deep-draft traffic.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

RHEUMATIC FEVER MAY STRIKE MORE THAN ONCE

Rheumatic fever is a persistent disease. Once a youngster is stricken, he is subject to recurring attacks. A few commonsense precautions, however, can help guard that young rheumatic fever victim in your home from future trouble.

You must keep him away from other children and adults who have colds.

He should have his own bed and, if possible, his own bedroom. Make sure he dresses suitably for rain and snowy weather and that he changes any wet clothing promptly.

Keep his health up with the proper food, enough rest, and as much exercise as your doctor advises.

If he does get a cold—it happens to the best-cared-for children—put him to bed at once and call your family doctor.

The year following the first attack is the most likely time for recurring attacks. In fact, chances of relapse during this year are three times as great as in subsequent years.

FREQUENT EXAMINATIONS

Frequent examinations by a physician are very important. At first, these checkups should be made every week and even later they should be made at regular intervals.

Recovery from an attack doesn't mean the need for drugs is over. To prevent a recurrence, many doctors recommend daily doses of sulfonamides or regular doses of penicillin for at least five years or until the victim is 18 years old.

One word of warning, however. The sulfas are poisonous to some persons and they should not be given except under the careful supervision of a doctor.

RARE DISEASE

Consult your doctor before your youngster has a tooth pulled. The doctor can then take measures to prevent the dangerous, but rare disease, subacute bacterial endocarditis. As a further precaution, tell the dentist, too, that your child has suffered rheumatic fever before extraction of one of the child's teeth.

Even though your youngster has spent six months in bed because of rheumatic fever, don't pamper him when he is able to get around again. Even though his activities have been limited by the doctor, don't feel sorry for him and wait on him hand and foot.

Unless the doctor advises against it, let him perform routine household chores like washing or drying dishes and other things which don't tax his heart.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

R. S. M.: What are the symptoms of skin cancer?

Answer: In its early stages, skin cancer, you should consult with other than a sore on the skin. The skin cancer usually starts out as a hard, slightly gray swelling.

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MUTUAL ACCUMULATING FUND

Notes By The Way

Every city in the country has its committees working—one to improve the sewer, streets and water facilities so that some day they can serve the present population, and the other to make the city twice as big.—Hamilton Spectator.

"Winners are getting warmer", says a meteorologist. Except for isolated spots such as northern Canada, Florida and but stops almost everywhere.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Nehru has been in and around politics too long to know that when you invite slob to dinner you shouldn't be surprised if they eat peas with their knives. Actually, instead of worrying about the manners displayed by his Russian guests, Nehru ought to be busy counting the knives.—Indianapolis Star.

British Columbia has recruited 64 teachers in Britain, and wants 100. Saskatchewan has signed contracts with 145 teachers in Britain and Ireland. Several other provinces have this year and in the past years been drawing pedagogical recruits from overseas. This influx is welcome, but makes Britain's own teacher shortage worse and does little to relieve Canada's. The great need is to attract more young Canadians to the teaching profession by raising standards and improving conditions of work.—Ottawa Citizen.

It's getting to be quite a distance between the hen's nest and the frying pan. Eggs were recently selling over the counter in Alberta retail stores at 50 to 55 cents a dozen for Grade A large. The producer who feeds the hens and gathers the eggs was getting 30 to 32 cents a dozen at that time. It takes 20 cents a dozen or more to get the egg from the nest where the hen lays it to the frying pan where the consumer wants it. It seems quite a spread—66.2-3 per cent. We wonder if that isn't having something to do with the so-called farm problem.—Lethbridge Herald.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from the highway accident figures, annual and other wise is that a great many drivers and cars are on the road that don't belong there. They are defective in one sense or another. That being the case, it is up to government on state and local level to get them off the road. The courts must do their part. The public has every right to be impatient with any official weakness or sloth in dealing with drivers and car owners who lack the common sense and consideration of others to belong on the highway.—New York Times.

The president of one of the loans companies in the U. S. recently stated that the consumer has never been in better shape. His yardstick was the fact that his company's business was up 43 per cent from a year ago. Is this the "New Era" stuff? According to this new index of the financial health of the consumer class, people are 43 per cent better off because they have 43 per cent more debts, would they be 100 per cent better off with 100 per cent more debts? It's stuff like this that reminds you that it is almost time to become scared again.—Financial Times.

Anyone who has sat in the public galleries of the House of Commons and listened to some of the so-called debaters, wonders just why many of our parliamentarians spend so much time preparing their speeches when it is hard to follow the reasoning contained in their oratory. The cabinet members, the leaders of the various Opposition parties and a few of the private members seem to have a flair for speaking without having to resort to manuscript. Oddly, these members are able to get their remarks across in clear-cut language without use of long-winded double talk.—Sarnia Observer.

T.V. JINGLES

BY STEW MacKAY

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