

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

A Welcome Voice

It is refreshing to hear above the fearful and hysterical shouts of the demagogues, who seem to have much too strong a hold on the current American political situation, a voice that speaks for the best in American traditions.

Such a voice is that of Senator Ralph Flanders of Vermont. Here is a man who is as conservative in his political and social beliefs as any man of this generation; moreover, he represents a State where extreme conservatism is the norm.

Yet, Senator Flanders knows, and does not hesitate to declare, that American democracy was not built on, nor can it be sustained by, fear and hysteria. The tendency in certain quarters to attach the stigma of subversion to anyone who might have associated socially at one time or another with a person now known to have had Communist sympathies would be comical if it were not so tragic in its possibilities.

Then, again, the tendency to attribute fellow-traveler status to any person who might have read, at some time in his life, a book of socially radical theories, is so fatuous that it seems incredible that any sane person could have thought it up in the first place.

Against these things and others equally foolish Senator Flanders speaks with a clear and reassuring voice, and it is good to hear him. Last week in a Commencement address at a small college in Florida he decried those who "fondly hope that if we could shut out or exile from this country every Communist or even those who once knew a Communist or read a Communist book, the country would be safe."

Laws against acts of subversion there must be; no self-respecting people can be expected to treat sedition lightly; no democratic society can afford to wink at infiltration of alien and destructive ideas. But it is one thing to search out and punish disloyal and seditious elements; it is quite another to make the search a pretext for the suppression of intellectual freedom.

As Senator Flanders indicated in his address, the only effective way to keep Communism or any other pagan or neo-pagan philosophy from taking root in a free society is to keep that society free from all the methods used by those who would like to enslave it. It would be a tragedy if, in the process of keeping the totalitarian doctrine from its shores, the United States or any other country should get into the habit of penalizing or discouraging liberal thought in any form. No free society has anything to fear so long as it remains true to the principles which made it free and strong.

Our Peat Resources

From time to time, investigations have been started with a view to determining the practical value of our Island peat bog resources. Nothing much has come of these surveys, but the resources are still there. According to a Department of Mines report, made several years ago, "it has been proved that peat fuel can, under favorable circumstances, be manufactured at a cost that will leave a margin of profit," and it was suggested that the Miscouche bog had advantages not possessed by any other on the Island, of having the railway run through it and of being comparatively near a large centre. This report estimated a total cost per ton (in the field) of \$2.47 for a plant of thirty tons daily capacity. It assumed that a bog of 100 acres, 9 feet deep would furnish sufficient peat to supply the plant for twenty years. As the average depth of the Miscouche bog was under five feet, 200 acres would be required.

We are not the only Province, apparently, that has been neglecting its peat resources. Canada shipped 80,000 tons of peat moss to the United States last year, but this is a mere drop in the bucket. According to Mr. Peter Thomas, an Irish manufacturer of machines for peat harvesting and bog drainage who has been showing his wares at the International Trade Fair in Toronto, this country has 23,000,000 acres of peat and peat moss which could be economically developed.

As evidence of the usefulness of peat, he points out that in Ireland they are now building power stations which operate on peat fuel. The big Shannon hydro-electric power undertaking, completed in 1929, is now being supplemented by peat burning stations; others are being built in remote areas where there is no electrical power and little market for the ample peat available.

The Irish firm's principal products are a "mole drainer" and a tractor specially designed to operate on marshy ground. The former cuts a drain paralleling the surface at any desired depth and gradient, thereby providing low-cost drainage without the use of piping. These mole drains last about three years and can be easily remade. The Irish have had a lot of experience in draining peat bogs and marshy ground and Mr. Thomas is convinced that the equipment developed over there would do equally good work in Canada. They might even help to make the peat industry economically feasible in Prince Edward Island. At any rate, the possibilities are worth re-examining.

Meet The Legion

Anticipating by about six weeks its 15th biennial Dominion convention which will meet in Toronto, the Canadian Legion has issued a most informative pamphlet on its own organization and objectives. "Meet the Legion" is addressed to veterans and it gives many worthwhile reasons why veterans should join their comrades in the Legion brotherhood. It also should prove highly interesting to the general public which may see little of the Legion apart from Remembrance celebrations.

Remembrance is indeed a most important aspect of the Legion's reason for being. The necessary parading for the purpose is kept at a minimum, however, and the Legion is in no sense a military organization. It stands ready to assist veterans and their families, making no distinction between members and non-members. It works for the betterment of conditions for thousands of fellow-Canadians whose lives were affected by war but is in no sense a "pressure group" forever demanding bigger and better privileges for veterans and their dependents.

A sense of responsibility to the nation as well as to servicemen past, present and to come influences its policy in advocating such things as adequate defence preparation and particularly training. Legionnaires know only too well the cost in lives of sending untrained men into battle.

These are only a few of the aspects of Legion membership brought out in the little book or resulting from reflection on its contents. Pervading all is the sense of comradeship of men and women who have gone through a great experience and who have organized on democratic lines to serve their fellows in a democratic world.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A worthy recipient of honours by the Canadian Medical Association is Dr. A. A. MacDonald, of Souris, who has been named a senior member of the Association at the annual convention in Vancouver.

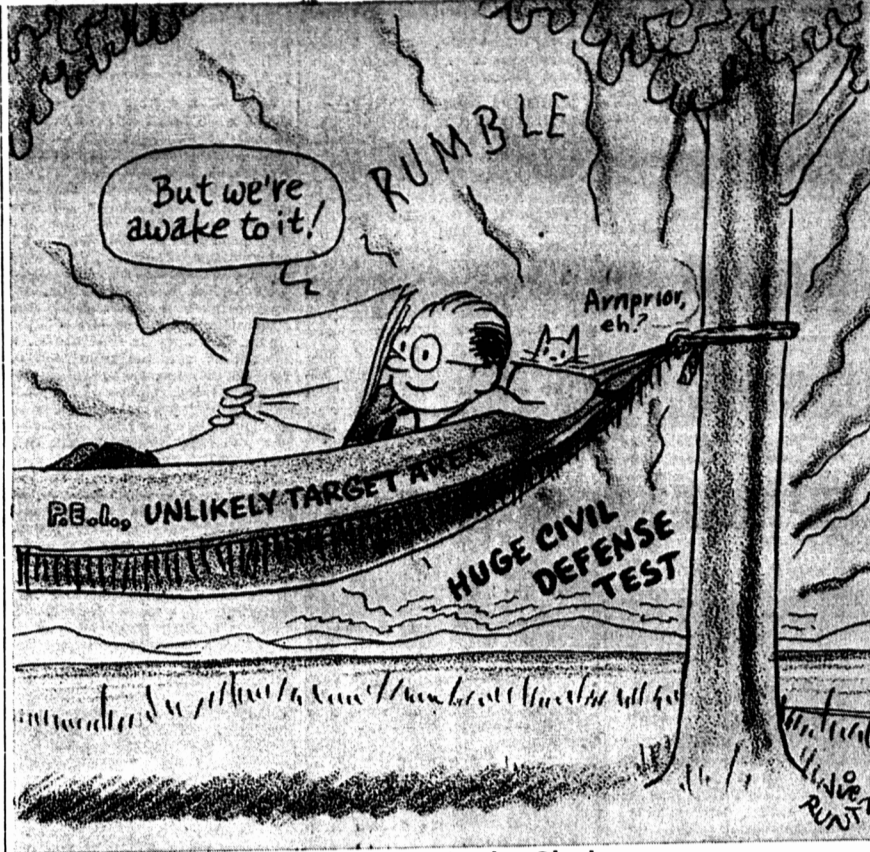
Today the new nurses' residence of the Kings County Hospital will be officially opened. It represents the hard work and co-operation of many people from many districts and the County may well be proud of their efforts.

Servants of the Crown, civil and military, are to have life insurance, if not compulsorily, at least if they voluntarily remain in their insurable jobs. The benefit is undeniable but it is suspiciously like the "tied" sales that certain departments of government crack down upon.

The 200th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, commemorated in Sydney on Monday has considerable interest in this Province. Much of our law and procedure, although English in origin, came to us by way of lawyers trained in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia. From 1763 until 1769 the Island was annexed to Nova Scotia and it was only by the Revised Statutes of 1951 that Nova Scotian laws of that period were formally repealed as far as they concerned this Province.

Canada is to transfer 82 Sabre jet fighters each to Greece and Turkey as mutual aid under the North Atlantic Treaty. Each aircraft will have a spare engine and another 195 spare engines will go to each of the two countries. The gift will benefit this country's defences directly, however, as well as indirectly. Our twelve squadrons stationed in Europe will be equipped with a later version of the Sabre.

Arthur Meighen, Canadian Conservative statesman, was born this date 1874. He was a school teacher, businessman and lawyer, practicing at Portage La Prairie, for which place he was elected to the House of Commons in 1908. Solicitor-general, secretary of state and minister of interior, he attended the Imperial Conference of 1918. Two years later he was Prime Minister. His party was defeated in 1921 but in 1926 he was again in office. From 1932-35 he was leader of the government in the Senate. Early in 1942 he accepted leadership of the Conservative party, calling for conscription, a total war effort and a national government. He was, however, defeated.



Not Too Much Shaken

OTTAWA REPORT

Parliamentary Payroll

By Patrick Nicholson

Members of the British House of Commons have just voted themselves a 50% raise, from \$2,800 to \$4,200 per year. This increase will lift the total cost of Britain's 1,475 man Parliament to just over half the cost of our 367 man Parliament.

102 Senators plus 265 members of the House of Commons, with their staffs of secretaries, officials and charwomen, their stationery and printing, cost us in round figures \$70,000,000 per year. In Britain, 850 members of the House of Lords plus 625 members of the House of Commons, with their satellite charges, cost the taxpayers \$4,829,000 per year. In both countries, these figures exclude the cost of heating, lighting and maintaining the Parliament buildings.

One basic difference between the Parliaments in the two countries is the remuneration of the Upper Chamber. Members of the House of Lords have never voted themselves a salary out of public funds; our Senators are paid \$10,000 per year. In both countries the function of the Upper Chamber is approximately the same; that of a rubber stamp to legislation passed by the Lower Chamber. But owing to the British custom of normally appointing several members of the House of Lords to the Cabinet, debates there are apt to be more significant than debates in our Senate.

The payroll on Ottawa's Parliament Hill not only includes the legislators, but also some 800 officials and staff. The indemnity of Senators and Members of the House of Commons; salary and expenses of Cabinet Ministers, Speakers, Leaders of the Opposition in each Chamber; salary of Parliamentary Assistants to Cabinet Ministers; legislators' travelling expenses, and contributions to the M.P.s. pension fund total over \$4,300,000.

Salaries of the 215 stenographers made available to Senators and M.P.s. amount to over \$425,000. Then there are 175 cleaners and chasers costing \$180,000 per year. Duplication of some services, which are supplied separately for the Senate and for the House of Commons, got a tongue-lashing by Moose Jaw's economy-minded representative, Ross Thatcher, during a recent session, as being unnecessarily extravagant. These include two Post Offices side by side; one for the Senate with a Postmaster and assistant Postmaster together paid \$6,960 per year, and one for the Commons with the Postmaster and 11 clerks together paid \$36,537 per year. Also two reading rooms one for the Senate staffed by two curators together paid \$6,260 per year and filled with \$5,500 worth of newspapers and periodicals, and one for the Commons staffed by seven curators and receptionists together paid \$21,747 and filled with more copies of the same publications costing \$6,000 per year.

There are also two separate protective services in the one building: a Chief with six sergeants and constables for the Senate, paid a total of \$21,920 a year, and a Chief with forty-four sergeants and constables for the House of Commons, paid a total of \$134,000 a year.

The efficient and much-used Parliamentary Library has a staff of 37; the salary bill is \$163,436 a year and new books, microfilms and other supplies cost \$59,400 a year. Printing the Hansard reports of the daily debates is a large item: \$25,000 per year for the Senate and just ten times that sum for the Commons. M.P.s. who wish to order reprints of their own speeches to be distributed among their constituents however have to pay for those reprints themselves.

Other staff, ranging from the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod and the Sergeant-at-Arms down to the teen-age page boys, costs a further million dollars or so. Finally there is the cost of postage (\$1,700), telephones and telegrams (\$1,700), and bringing witnesses to give evidence before Parliamentary committees (\$15,000) and other miscellaneous items, to bring the bill for this year's operation of Parliament to an estimated \$6,987,000.

Unruly Commas

(Ottawa Citizen)

Mr. Donald Fleming, MP for Toronto-Eglinton, is a lawyer, accustomed to the language used by those who draft the laws of the land. To a layman, this language is frequently baffling, for the statutes abound in pronouncements that require to be read over several times before their meaning becomes clear—and perhaps not then. So it is somewhat reassuring to find that even an experienced lawyer like Mr. Fleming has trouble too.

In the Commons the other day he took exception to an amendment containing the clause: "For the purpose of this section, the word 'person' shall include any member of the armed forces who has died for any period prior to the date of death." Grammatically, this did not appeal to him at all, and he tried without success to have the sentence recast.

A subject is raised here that bothers anyone in the writing trade. He knows, or is supposed to know, the rules of punctuation and sentence structure, yet how often does he convey to the reader a meaning quite different from what he intended, simply by leaving out a comma, or by putting a comma where there should be none?

In "Modern English Usage", H. W. Fowler has a learned article on the comma. In example after example (usually taken from the best periodicals) he shows what damage to meaning can be done by this innocent little black dot with a tail. One, which he calls "a triumph of perversity," runs thus: "He wants to give workmen more interest in their work and vulgarity, sloth and luxury less scope." This is a case where, as Fowler remarks, even the insertion of commas is no full cure.

Then there is the matter of the superfluous comma: "For the Scot, who ignores such (Gaelic) literature, does not deserve his name." Did the writer really mean every Scot in Scotland ignores Gaelic literature? That at any rate is what he has said with his pair of commas.

They are treacherous things, those commas and their allies. "Woman without her man would be a savage," is a grammarian's delight. Try putting an exclamation mark after "woman" and a comma after "her", and see what happens.

Well, Mr. Fleming may turn his critical eye on the grammar of the statutes, but he may depend on it that henceforth his own speeches are going to be watched for signs of a lapse.

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.

PARLIAMENTARY RECORD

Sir,—I notice in the Editorial Notes in The Guardian of Friday, June 11, you state that "Parliament is expected to establish a record of more than 136 sitting days. The previous record was set in the anxious days of 1944 and 1945." I would like to point out that although this statement has frequently been published recently, it is not correct. The longest session of Parliament since Confederation occurred in 1903 when the House sat from March 12 to October 24th with no long holidays during the session.

I am Sir, etc., J. ANGUS MacLEAN, M. P. for Queens

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

From the P. E. I. Register, Sept. 9, 1928: John Jury, clock and watch maker, having altered his intention of leaving the Island this Fall, begs to inform the public, that he has opened a Shop in Queen Street, next door to Mr. Snardon's, saddler, where he has just received a supply of articles in the watch making and jewellery line.

Edward Lanergan, Cambridge Mills, Murray Harbour, understanding that the fishing business is to be carried on extensively next summer, offers his services as a Splitter and Salter. He understands, also the building of Stages and Flakes, the preparation of Cod Liver, and draining off the Oil, and all matters connected with an extensive Fishery, which he acquired during a residence of eighteen years in Newfoundland as a Master of Voyage.

Messrs. George Clark and Francis Longworth, Jr., announce that they have entered into co-partnership with the firm of Clark and Longworth, and are now opening, and offering for sale at their store in Queen Street (next below Mr. Nelson's and directly opposite Mr. Sims's) an extensive and elegant selection of British and India goods, suitable for the present season and prevailing fashions.

The Age Old Story

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

BIG CANADIAN ORDER

STOCKPORT, England, (CP)—The engineering firm of Thomas Storey Ltd., manufacturers of the pre-fabricated Bailey bridge which was used extensively in the Second World War, has received a £168,000 order for pontoons from the Canadian Government.

The Poet's Corner

SONG

The lark now leaves his watery nest And climbing shakes his dewy wings. He takes this window for the East, And to implore your light he sings.

Awake, awake! the morn will never rise Till she can dress her beauty at your eyes.

The merchant bows unto the sea-man's star, The ploughman from the sun his season takes; But still the lover wonders what they are Who look for day before his mistress wakes.

Awake, awake! break through your veil of lawn! Then draw your curtains, and begin the dawn!

—Sir William Davenant (1606-68)

NOTES BY THE WAY

As life gets more complicated we must be sure of our definitions. If it has a pickle beside it, it is a sandwich; if there's a woman's head inside it, it is a hat —Edmonton Journal.

"I think Junior must be inside the house somewhere," his mother remarked. "I've counted the times the screen door has slammed since school let out and it's an odd number." —Winnipeg Tribune.

The first consignment of locomotive boilers given by Canada to India under the Colombo Plan reached West Bengal recently. Canada is giving India 50 boilers and 120 locomotives under the Colombo Plan. The total cost is about \$16,724,000. —Hamilton Spectator.

A Detroit hospital authority tells us 50 percent of the nurses graduating disappear from the profession within three years, mainly due to marriage. This is indeed, in one hospital, 68 percent of the nurses are married women, many of them middle-aged who have returned to the profession after raising a family. —Windsor Star.

All Canada is vitally interested in the tourist trade. But no matter how beautiful the scenery, no matter how historic the area, so long as the tourist feels cheated on his spending, he is not likely to return, nor to tell his friends about his wonderful vacation. High standards for the preparation of foods will pay dividends in tourist dollars. —Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

While the results showed that 34, or 79 percent of cities over 25,000 population have some kind of planning board, only 15, or 35 percent, have a planning staff. Of 167 cities between 5,000 and 25,000, only 42 percent have planning boards, while only 10 percent have planning staff. Of the smaller communities between 1,000 and 5,000 population, only six percent enjoy any planning services. —North Bay Nugget.

Why do some children with better than average intelligence have difficulty in learning to read? Psychologists at the University of California have come up with this answer: the kids suffer from a retardation in visual perceptual development. That helps doesn't it? Even when we find that this jargon means that youngsters can't distinguish between simple words, like "dog," and long ones, like "Mississippi," we're not much further ahead. —Brantford Expositor.

The reason for Canada's low sheep population has never been satisfactorily explained and perhaps never thoroughly understood. It is necessary to import huge quantities of wool to clothe the Canadian population and substantial quantities of lamb produced in other countries are brought here for Canadians to eat. We have good breeds of sheep, suitable land and everything essential to a successful and profitable sheep husbandry. We have everything needed except the sheep. Our low sheep population is one of the unsolved riddles of Canadian agriculture. —Farmer's Advocate.

Coventry in England suffered more than any other British city from wartime bombing. After hostilities had ceased it was necessary to rebuild it almost entirely. It is strange then that Coventry plans for civil defence against the possibility of another world war.

TO THE CITIZENS OF CHARLOTTETOWN

The following resolution was passed at the May meeting of the City Council—"RESOLVED that from and after midnight of the 20th day of June, 1954 to midnight of the 25th day of September 1954, Daylight Saving time being one hour in advance of legal time shall be in effect in the City of Charlottetown.

This resolution was passed by the Council for the sole purpose of allowing our City dwellers, who are through their occupations forced to work indoors during the greater portion of our year one extra hour of sunshine for the short period of our summer months. It is my earnest wish that all our citizens will co-operate in this endeavour. Needless to say, without your full co-operation, only confusion can result, and there will be no alternative but to rescind the above resolution and revert to Standard time, but I am quite sure that you all realize that success in this regard can be achieved by your full co-operation, resulting in one extra hour of sunshine for all of our urban dwellers with the resulting benefits in good health to all concerned.

This move is not made with any intention of contravening our Provincial Act with reference to time, but with the sole purpose of giving to all of our citizens a little longer evening during the coming summer months to enjoy themselves in our lovely outdoors.

J. DAVID STEWART, Mayor.

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