The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1964

And Now To Work

The Speech from the Throne at Ottawa yesterday would seem to indicate that Parliament faces a long, hard, and legislation-packed session. This is as it should be, for it is time the members on both sides got down to business. Several of the proposed measures could be put in the category of unfinished business from the last session, which, judged by any standard, was more productive of heat than of light.

One reason for expecting better results from the present session is the more stable situation of the Government. Prime Minister Pearson's leadership has been confirmed in two recent Montreal by-elections. These were in two Liberal strongholds, it is true, and the Liberals were expected to win. Nevertheless, the strong repudiation of Mr. Real Caouette and his followers, and the continued failure of the NDP to make any impression will certainly make these groups unwilling to join in any non-confidence vote that might result in dissolution at this time.

It is to be hoped that the Conservatives, on their part, will avoid wasting the time of the House by pressing for such votes at every opportunity. From contact with the rank and file of their supporters they must realize that the general public regards such tactics as mere shadow-boxing, and is less likely to tolerate a continuance of them at this session than during the hectic aftermath of the last general election. The country needs stability, and the Government should be given a chance to develop its program before asking the voters for another mandate.

There is reason to believe that if it harbored any ideas of calling a snap election, the Government is unlikely to do so now following the overwhelming indorsation of the Opposition leader, Mr. Diefenbaker, at his recent party convention. Had the Conservatives failed in making this gesture of confidence, it would have been on the cards for the Liberals to seize the opportunity of going to the country while their opponents were bogged down in their leadership quarrel. That opportunity has passed.

Now it would appear that any party that tries to force an election before the business of the session is disposed of will have to bear the brunt of public resentment. We may expect lots of controversy, of course, particularly after the budget is brought down; but that is a different matter.

English Teaching In U.S.

While Canadian educationists are concerned more and more about bilingualism, their United States counterparts are worrying about how to improve the "grave decline" in the quality of teaching the one language that is in general and official use throughout the country. While the federal government there has been spending millions to speed up and expand the teaching of foreign languages, English instruction, it is claimed, has been floundering in neglect.

This is blamed by U.S. Commissioner of Education Francis Keppell on the shortage of adequately prepared teachers in English, which threatens, he says, "to undermine the quality of American education for a generation to come unless immediate measures are taken to remedy the situation."

In the country as a whole, only about 800 of the 90,000 secondary-school English teachers receive any form of financial aid for graduate study. Yet, in 1962, the federal government alone assisted more than 51,000 teachers in other subjects.

"Even more desperate," the commissioner says, is the need for further education in elementary English. Of 3,030 teachers making up a good cross-section of every region and every kind of school, more than 40 per cent began teaching without a baccalaureate degree. Fewer than 10 per cent had a major in English. More than half majored in education, rather than in an academic subject. The public schools have been given "a bad name," as a result.

How do these figures compare with Canadian standards? We venture to say that there is an even smaller proportion of qualified English teachers in this country, certainly in the Atlantic Provinces. And the need is at least as great to provide institutes or fellowships so that teachers may have an opportunity to improve their teaching ability in this subject.

In the United States they are moving to do something about the problem. It is to be the subject of a conference of supervisors of English at the Office of Education, Feb. 26 to 28. The Office seeks to bring together college staffs and English teachers to develop curriculum and teaching methods from kindergarten to post-high-school levels. The Office is now spending about a million dollars on 60 research projects in this connection, but the amount is deemed quite inadequate in comparison to other educational programs.

Perhaps we can learn something from this coming conference at Washington. At least it should arouse us to a realization of our own shortcomings in preserving our language heritage in English-speaking Canada.

Thant Takes A Hand

It is to be hoped that where Britain and the United States have failed to relieve the worsening situation in Cyprus, the United Nations Secretary-General will meet with more success in the formula he is setting up for a peace force and for machinery for mediating any further troubles in that area. In the meantime, Britain's request for a thousand Canadian soldiers as part of an international police force in Cyprus will probably be left in abeyance.

As Britain sees it, the difficulty with a force operating under the direct authority of the U.N. Security Council is that it would be subject to a Soviet veto—and the Russians have been fishing openly in the troubled waters of Cyprus. But the trouble with a NATO force is that it would be open to accusations by the Communists of being made up of "colonialists" and "imperialists".

The gravity of the situation lies in the fact that both Greece and Turkey are members of NATO, and that a conflict between these powers could prove disastrous to the NATO alliance. The Western world cannot afford to stand by and permit the Greek Cypriots to provide their own solution to the problem by slaughtering the Turkish minority population, nor can it refuse to recognize Greece's treaty rights to take a hand in the affairs of Cyprus to maintain a balance between the two sections.

Perhaps Mr. Thant will come up with a solution that will be acceptable to both sides. Even if he can keep the lid from blowing off while a mediator is appointed he will have achieved something worth while.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All these new-fangled advances in home heating, suggests an exchange, may have something to do with the increase in juvenile delinquency. Very few homes have a woodshed any more.

* * *

With the Beatles in the United States, news comes from London that a rival Mersey group, the Swinging Blue Jeans, has been booked for Moscow, and will operate there with balalaikas instead of guitars, if amplification is possible. These youngsters are currently high on the British hit parade with their number "Hippy Hippy Shake". How the Muscovites came to let themselves in for this kind of visitation we can't figure out at all.

REACHING FOR THE WRONG WEAPONS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Restriction Of TV Programs Protested

"By making a god out of our leader, we have made sheep of ourselves." In these stinging words Heath Macquarrie, Conservative M.P. for Queens, P.E.I. recently chided his fellow Tories. He should have gone further, much further. For the unwelcome truth is that all voters, not only Conservatives, have made sheep of themselves. And we are deservedly treated like sheep by all our governments. We are ordered around, now contemptously each to be given a number in place of our name, over taxed and over regimented, by governments which have amply demonstrated their incompetence and arrogance, and have completely forgotten those historic words about democratic government being "of the people, by the people and FOR the people."

But thank heavens the strong voice of independence can still raise itself, with determination and with rightful indignation. The mail pouring into the office of Dr. F. D. Rynard, Conservative MP from Orillia, is one of the most impressive examples of an aroused electorate expressing its criticism of a government that I have seen in all my years on Parliament Hill.

This mail is arriving by the sackload, from Orillia, from Midland, from Penetang and from nearby points. It is protesting against the apparent government plan to "regulate" cable tv and community antennae systems. By regulate, the government means to restrict the showing of television programs originating in U.S.A.

Now there is a very delicate point at issue here. All Canadians want to see our country preserved as an independent nation with our own distinctive culture and way of life. Basically we all agree that something must be done to prevent us being swamped by U.S. propaganda. There is a great deal of credit due to the Board of Broadcast Governors for its valiant stand in insisting that a substantial portion of our tv and radio broadcasts should be Canadian in origin. Much of the U.S. product which is imported into Canada is sociologically undesirable: smut, violence and immorality which undermines our decency, our family and our discipline. But it also includes many admirable programs, and it surprises me that there has not been an outcry against the CBC's intention to cancel the clean family "Ed Sullivan Show" while retaining Sunday night blood - and - violence.

If Canadian broadcasting stations are to be restricted to a maximum of 45 per cent foreign programs, there is some logic in deploring the ability of Canadians to circumvent this by picking up U.S. signals direct on our home receivers.

TWO CLASSES OF CITIZENS

But now the government evidently has in mind a restriction which would limit the amount of U.S. programming carried by community antennae systems. This is a grossly discriminatory and dictatorial project. It will create two classes of Canadians, the favoured rich and the poor discriminated against. More than half our population could pick up U.S. stations direct, especially those families which can afford to erect a costly high antenna. Why then should the government proclaim that family living further from the border should be precluded from, in effect, clubbing together to finance a big antenna? This is what the proposed or anticipated measure would do.

So the letters of protest are pouring in on Dr. Rynard, who has become a champion of this particular freedom. "The government has no right to dictate to us," says one. "this is not Russia," says another. "I protest this dictatorial action." "Why should the government tell us what we can watch?" "Violation of a free man's right." "I would sooner move to Russia."

PUBLIC FORUM

WHY NOT A WALKATHON?

Sir,—The letter in today's (Tuesday's) Guardian suggesting a 15-mile "walking" match in our Centennial celebrations sounds reasonable and appropriate. It would be reminiscent of athletic competitions of earlier years of Confederation.

It could be staged as a special feature at a big set of games put on by the physical culture supervisor David Boswell. It might be O.K. to put on a few others of the old-time events such as caber tossing, three standing jumps, standing high jumps, etc — events ruled out of the Olympic decathalan. A big act of games behind at that beautiful Victoria Park Memorial Field, ought to be great diversion for our tourists.

The "Walkathon" would necessarily be a "square heel and toe" affair. A "go as you please", which was in vogue seventy years ago would admit of running. Some of our senior citizens may be able to suggest other oldtime games. Our Centennial committee have been eminently successful in evangelising, dedicating and galvanizing our people into action. "The Island" will be the "show place" of Canada in 1964. The "eyes" of the rest of Canada will be on us, we must try to show them the way, as our Fathers of Confederation did in 1864.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. PENDERGAST
Charlottetown.

PESTICIDES AND LIQUOR

Sir,—A Conservative member of the Legislature has assured his former constituents that he does not favor the planned potato top killer legislation, thereby saving the farmers' money and presumably helping to insure his re-election; but he has also attained a measure of national fame by being quoted in a Canadian Press article.

I would like to say a word for the lowly cow, since no doubt she will not say anything on this issue which vitally concerns her. Is it her fault if her farmer-owner is too busy eking out a living, or too lazy to repair his fences, or lacks the money to buy fencing, and she wanders into a potato field, thereby facing an untimely death? And what about some more adventurous cows who seem to take delight in jumping fences? Our Lord took as much thought for the lost sheep as he did for the ninety-nine in the fold. Should we not try to do likewise for the innocent, if misguided cow?

Mr. Dingwell's parallel between potato top legislation and liquor seems to me an extremely wild one. Does he have any proof that sensible liquor legislation which is enforceable "will injure and blight the life stream of our youth, cause fatalities on our highways and break up many of our homes" to a greater degree than the present system, which is not enforceable? Articles such as that written by Jack Picketts and the one which appeared in the Star Weekly some months ago, succeed only in making P.E.I. appear backward and somewhat amusing. Surely this is a time when we would like to project an image of our province as a place of wisdom and dignity, a birthplace of things important to all of Canada.

Premier Shaw intimates that he wants to see an in-depth survey of the wishes of the people as a whole. Why was this not mentioned in the Throne Speech? Would not a plebiscite clearly indicate the wishes of the people? But should not the choice be made a simple, clear-cut one? Why not close the 60 private clubs now selling liquor on the Island for a few weeks, since section 28 of the Liquor Control Act states in effect that no person other than a government can sell liquor to any person? After this drying-out period, would not the people be more apt to make their wishes known? Should the Liquor Control Commission flout this section of the law by granting special permits?

It has been said that this session of the Legislature is expected to be a short one, since no controversial legislation is to be introduced. Since liquor legislation is controversial, one would assume that it is not going to be introduced. Surely it is an issue which concerns all our citizens, whatever their stand on it, and regardless of party affiliation. Our Legislature members are elected and paid to represent us. Are they doing so, if they avoid this important issue?

I am, Sir, etc.,
DON QUIXOTE
North River Road.

Teaching Diabetics

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

A teaching machine for diabetics has been devised and it was tried out recently by the Medical Foundation of Boston on 184 men and women. The majority who completed the study liked and learned from it. This was true regardless of age and whether the person was dull or bright, a low level or an advanced reader. But the machine is of little value to the illiterate, the visually handicapped, and the blind. A few persons find machines of this type upsetting, boring, or dull.

The script was prepared by a physician who specializes in diabetes. The apparatus, called the Mark Tutor II, looks like a small TV set but is a special 35 mm. film projector with a rear view projection screen.

It is run with pushbuttons. The patient reads the information on certain aspects of diabetes, including a question on the subject with three possible answers. If the correct one is selected, the machine advances automatically to the next topic. If not the return button is pushed for further study of the question. In this way the student is "quizzed" as he learns his lessons.

Diabetics get along better when they know their disease. They appreciate the need for proper treatment. They are able to select a wider variety of foods, and learn to recognize early symptoms of complications. This is important because diabetes is a lifelong malady that required constant care.

Hiram H. Nickerson, associate health educator for the medical foundation, stresses the point that automated instruction does not replace the physician, nurse or dietitian. The method helps conserve the increasingly scarce professional time available and provides a supplement to books on the subject, so important in the household of a diabetic.

Automated teaching, or programmed instruction, is gaining in popularity in various educational fields. There are said to be 137 manufacturers and publishers in this field and commercially produces machines are being used in 2,000 schools. They are employed in teaching spelling, arithmetic, Russian, and logic. Some medical schools are using them to supplement lectures in physiology, parasitology, and allied subjects.

A VIRUS FAMILY

G. B. C. writes: When are you going to discuss the ECHO virus? I realize it is quite new.

REPLY

We have written about these viruses from time to time, since 1957. They are part of the enterovirus family and so far 29 are included in the category, with more coming up. These viruses cause respiratory infections and a meningitis-like illness.

Mrs. M. writes: What is the purpose of the hormone assay test of the urine?

REPLY

Certain hormones in the blood are excreted by the kidneys. The concentration in the urine is an indication of how much was manufactured by the sex and adrenal glands.

When Easter Comes Early

Ottawa Journal

Easter, as people say, comes early this year— before the last day of March. If Easter is early so too is Ash Wednesday, upon us once more. It is, of course, much more pleasant to think of Easter than of Ash Wednesday. Just as it is to think of Spring instead of cold Winter. But without Winter there is no Spring; without Ash Wednesday, there is no Easter. For Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent begin the great climactic cycle of the Christian year which observes the triumph of life over death. There starts the special time when we are exhorted to be aware of the shortness of life and the endless corridors of eternity; or, as the poet Eliot wrote in his "Ash Wednesday,"

of "this brief transit where the dreams cross."

Everyone who takes Lent seriously has his own philosophy of the time. He decides how best to prepare for Easter. In recent years there seems to be a healthier emphasis on what one should do than on what one should not do.

Self- denial can tend to be an end in itself and a quite negative and unimaginative end. C. S. Lewis once wrote: "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us." Ash Wednesday and Lent is an invitation to what is beyond our little circle and to accept the peace, as Dante's great line says, that is in His will.

Macmillan's Retirement

Montreal Gazette

Harold Macmillan's announcement that he will not run for Parliament again seems even more of an ending than his resignation as Prime Minister. It seems a final rejection of the political life.

The last phase of Mr. Macmillan's career was dogged with misfortune. But this should not be allowed to obscure his distinguished service to his country.

During the 1930's, Mr. Macmillan was prominent as a social reformer and as an opponent of appeasement. And since his first appointment as a junior minister in 1940 he has held such important offices as Minister of State in the Mediterranean, Minister for Housing and Local Government, Minister of Defence, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of course, Prime Minister.

Mr. Macmilan's work while Prime Minister has, inevitably, been of most interest to the public, although his earlier career was also notable. For he became Prime Minister under very trying circumstances, following the disastrous Suez business. It will always be to his credit that he was able to rally his party and his country from a state of discontent and resentment over this defeat, and that he was able to re-establish close and cordial links with the Eisenhower administration.

It might have been expected that, after the Suez crisis, Britain would mark time in foreign affairs. On the contrary, Mr. Macmillan began and sustained a policy of seeking to woo Russia closer to the Western world. And to a limited extent this has borne fruit in recent months.

It was unfortunate that Mr. Macmillan had to experience dramatic failure over his government's attempt to enter the Common Market, had to face a humiliation over the Profumo affair, and had to enter a leadership squabble that has not yet calmed down, but these things should not so occupy the foreground that Harold Macmillan's long and distinguished service is lost sight of.

OSAKA, Japan (AP)—Field mice were blamed Wednesday for delaying 14 passenger trains, including four fast expresses, from five to 40 minutes on Japan's busy Tokaido railway line. Trains were halted by a malfunction in a railway signal. Officials found that mice had gnawed a cable.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(February 19, 1939)

Seven-year-old Jimmie MacGee of Charlottetown was recovering from many bruises and a bad fright today, following an accident in which he was involved. The boy ran from curb at the Capitol Theatre corner in front of a horse drawn vehicle and was knocked down. He was rushed to the Polyclinic where it was found that no bones were broken.

Joseph A. Holroyd has been appointed to succeed Mr. Stevens as superintendent of Stirling Colliers Limited at Sterco, about 150 miles from Edmonton. Mr. Holroyd who was born in Prince Edward Island is a pioneer employee of the company with whom he has been connected for twenty years.

TEN YEARS AGO
(February 19, 1954)

Mr. W. A. Stewart, president of the firm of Moore and McLeod Ltd. announced today the appointment of four new directors. They are: Mrs. Mary E. Gordon, William L. Henry, Louis H. Doyle and Walter H. Bears. The present officers of the firm are: W. A. Stewart, G. C. Moore, Wilfred C. McLeod and J. P. Gordon.

Mr. Ralph Jenkins of Charlottetown, registrar of the Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association attended the semi-annual meeting of the executive of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association in Toronto on Feb. 14-17.

Cuban Policy A Flop

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The United States is trying to pick up the pieces of its Cuban economic blockade proposal, shattered by Britain's plain-spoken prime minister who has made clear that his government will sanction no boycott over non-strategic trade with Communist countries.

These words of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, delivered at a press conference after his meeting last week with President Johnson, left the U.S. government embarrassed and unhappy.

But U.S. authorities maintain they are as determined as ever to place Fidel Castro in economic isolation.

They realize, they say, that as matters now stand, U.S. policy is paralyzed temporarily. As long as the Castro regime is anxious to buy and has the money with which to pay, the allies are likely to continue to do business with Cuba no matter what the U.S. says.

But they anticipate this is not the end of the story. Castro is reported to have earned about $15,000,000 in convertible currency last year through the sale of sugar at unusually high world prices. Those prices may drop with an anticipated rise in world sugar production this year.

While Castro currently may have the funds with which to buy British dresses and French tractors and may continue to make future deals through some form of extensive credit, Americans conclude that this sort of business may soon dry up if the exporters do not get full repayment.

If, in fact, Castro goes broke and fails to meet his bills, commercial exporters among the allies would probably end trade automatically. But this is a conjecture that rests on pure speculation.

The U.S. administration has been anticipating the demise of the Castro regime since Castro took over in 1959 but the regime remains lively.

The element that saves the U.S. policy from appearing completely ludicrous is the indication to the government that at least part of the U.S. public is seriously concerned over the growth of a Communist fortress just 90 miles off-shore.

FOREIGN-AID CUT

In a presidential election year it may become dangerous for a president or aspirant to ignore public sentiment. At the moment the only action in sight is the prospect of a cut-off of American foreign aid for those countries which do business with Castro. That cut-off would not affect allies which do not receive any aid.

A more serious threat may be that indicated by State Secretary Dean Rusk who says American consumers may decide on their own to stop buying products of foreign suppliers who trade with Castro. It is unlikely that the average consumer would examine every piece of merchandise to see who produced that particular item and check that supplier against known trade with Cuba.

But if posters start appearing that certain foreign-made merchandise is linked with Cuban trade and is undesirable or if the labor unions refuse to handle the merchandise, as in the case of wheat to Russia, the result could lead to some curtailment of purchases of those products to the detriment of the suppliers.

BUY TREASURES

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Communist Chinese art buyers are getting first crack at all rare and ancient Chinese works of art that come into the hands of dealers here, the Hong Kong Daily Mail says. The report says buyers from Peking are offering high prices for the works and giving stiff competition to buyers for American and other foreign museums.

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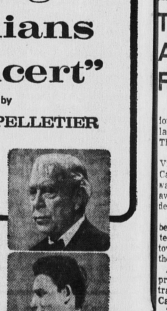

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