The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

W.J. Hancox, Publisher

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Published every week day morning (except Sundays and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd Branch offices at Summerside, Montague, Alberton and Souris.

Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers Advertising Services Toronto, 425 University Ave Empire 3-8894, Montreal, 640 Cathcart Street University 6-5942; Western office, 1030 West Georgia Street, Vancouver (MA 7037).

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Not over 25c per week by carrier.

$12.00 a year by mail or rural routes and areas not serviced by carrier.

$15.00 a year off Island and U.K. $20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.

Not over 7c per single copy.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation

PAGE 4 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1963.

Human Rights Day

On this, the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, we are reminded that the declaration has still to be formally ratified by many nations, including Canada.

We are fortunate, of course, in having our own Bill of Rights and in having inherited a tradition of individual freedom, embodying universal suffrage and equality before the law. Yet, as we all know, inequalities still exist, due in part to personal prejudice or ignorance.

In the international field, we have failed to ratify some conventions passed by the United Nations because jurisdiction in matters of labor or education is provincial; others because Canadian public opinion is not yet ready for them. For example, while Canada readily ratified the anti-slavery convention, it has not yet ratified those regarding the status of refugees or stateless persons, probably because thus far no Canadians have been forced to abandon their homes for other lands.

The United Nations Association of Canada has taken this opportunity of suggesting that we examine our minds to see whether we are really prepared to accord to others all the rights we desire for ourselves. Perhaps our immigration policy should be more elastic. Perhaps we should be less critical of other countries where the clash between races is more urgent than in this country.

Is our exclusion of West Indians or Japanese really different in nature from South Africa's "apartheid", or the resistance of some Southern States to full enfranchisement of negroes? Are we truly serious in our sympathy with the developing countries (representing two-thirds of the world's population) unless we are prepared to extend far greater aid in helping them ourselves?

For the first time in history, the idea that every person has rights in virtue of the fact that he or she is a human being was set out in precise terms this date fifteen years ago. That is what Human Rights Day is all about. It wouldn't hurt us to do a little soul-searching on the subject on this occasion, as individuals and as a nation.

Advice From A Friend

That staunch Liberal organ, the Winnipeg Free Press, has come to the conclusion that among the problems Prime Minister Pearson can no longer avoid grappling with is the anomalous position in his cabinet of Mr. Walter Gordon.

"To begin with," it says, "Mr. Gordon demanded, in his opposition days, that the financial affairs of the nation be put in order and as minister of finance fully pledged himself to this immediate reform. He has completely failed to effect, or even to attempt it."

This year's deficit, the Free Press predicts, will be appallingly large. "It may be larger, indeed, than the last deficit of the Diefenbaker government which Mr. Gordon so often indicted for fiscal irresponsibility. After half a year of advances and retreats, the simple fact is that Mr. Gordon has not touched, much less solved, the government's budgetary problems and on his record so far seems unlikely to solve them."

Perhaps even more important in the end, says our Winnipeg contemporary, is the old issue of trade policy. The view of Mr. Gordon apparently does not coincide with the Liberal party's declared position or with the views so often expressed by the Prime Minister. Mr. Gordon represents, "in some considerable degree at least," the broad principles of protectionist policy. He also represents "strong elements in Ontario where, for the present anyway, the electoral power of the Liberal party is too much concentrated."

For these and other reasons—enumerated in a lengthy leading editorial—the Free Press says the cabinet reorganization now generally expected must involve Mr. Gordon. It warns that if he remains as finance minister "few Canadians and fewer foreigners will believe that the government really intends to follow a liberal trade policy."

Pollution Report

Now that the report of the consulting engineers has been received with respect to pollution of the Charlottetown harbour area, it is to be hoped that concrete action will be taken to remedy the situation.

It is unnecessary to review the details of the report, as they appear in our news columns. What is important is that they substantiate, in large part, the complaints of our provincial health authorities, which we publicized several months ago, and which drew criticism in some quarters as being of an unduly alarmist nature.

There is nothing to be alarmed about if the importance of the problem is recognized and given the attention it requires on the part of all concerned. The engineers' report suggests a cooperative effort on the part of the communities of Charlottetown, Parkdale and Sherwood, in financing a program which would deal with the problem step by step.

The Water Pollution Committee, on which the provincial authorities are also represented, is to be commended on obtaining this authoritative survey. As a blueprint for the future, its recommendations can hardly be overemphasized; for it is obvious that if remedial measures are not taken along the lines suggested—and without too much delay—the health menace will be accentuated and we shall be in for real trouble.

To The Holy Land

The decision of Pope Paul VI to visit the Holy Land, notes the Montreal Gazette, is another and very striking example of the changes that are being adopted in the modern conception of the Papacy. Not since the year 1813 has a Pope been outside Italy. Even then, it was the case of Pope Pius VII having been taken, practically by force, by Napoleon to France. After 1870 the Popes withdrew to the Vatican, and did not even journey in Italy.

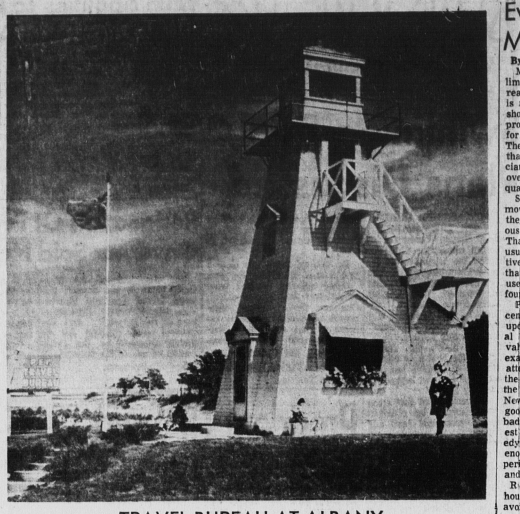
In 1929, under the Lateran Agreements, the Italian Government recognized Vatican City as an independent state, over which the Popes would have sovereignty. But the Popes continued to remain within their territory, rarely leaving it except to journey the 30 miles to the papal summer palace of Castel Gondolfo.

The change of attitute was first seen in Pope John XXIII, who repeatedly left Vatican City to visit various parts of Italy. Once he travelled 350 miles by train to the shrines of Loreto and Assisi. Probably, were it not for age and failing health, Pope John would have considered far longer trips, beyond Italy.

It has been for his successor to be the first to break with the long tradition. And he has underlined the move toward closer Christian unity by announcing that this first voluntary visit of a Pope outside Italy would be as a pilgrim to the Holy Land, the birthplace of Christianity.

EDITORIAL NOTE

A surprising number of people who would demand the most modern drug from their family doctor, still cherish a secret faith in some ancient remedy for common illness. And indeed, some old "home cures" have been found to have a sound scientific basis. But it is doubtful if the same can be said for the following cures mentioned by a BBC commentator in reviewing ancient remedies: "You find a piebald horse and then inhale its breath, catch an owl and make a stew, or roast a mouse and eat it; or find a married couple whose names are John and Joan, and then get them to give you a slice of bread and butter."



TRAVEL BUREAU AT ALBANY

THE RUBY TRIAL

Problem Posed By Excessive Publicity

New York Times

The late Robert Jackson once said that excessive publicity surrounding the accusation and trial of criminal suspects was "one of the worst menaces to American justice." Too often in this country we see a criminal trial become a circus, providing titillation to the public instead of the quiet search for truth that should characterize judicial proceedings.

These thoughts come to mind with reports that television cameras may be admitted to the Dallas trial of Jack Ruby on the charge of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, alleged assassin of President Kennedy. Seven Harvard law teachers have tellingly criticized the whole handling of the criminal process in Dallas to date for its excessive emphasis on publicity.

ERRORS COMPOUNDED

These grave errors would be compounded by televising the trial, as can easily be judged in considering just one fact: that the faces of the jurors would be displayed to millions day after day on television. A juror whose conscience pointed to an unpopular position might well be dissuaded by fear of public contempt or worse.

The press and other media of communication have their great duty to seek the facts by all decent means. The events of the last grim week have demonstrated how effective television, in particular, can be in giving every American a sense of direct participation in history — in all its majesty and all its terror.

But officers of the law have their responsibilities, too, and one of them is to assure fair trials. When these two duties conflict, we have no hesitation in saying that fair trial should take precedence over publicity.

HAVE OBLIGATION

Judges and prosecutors and lawyers have the obligation to put the interests of justice first. Courts, as Justice Douglas has put it, are not designed "to provide the public with recreation or with instruction in the ways of government."

All these considerations are the more compelling in the case of Jack Ruby. Even should he welcome television cameras, they ought to be rigorously excluded. The reputation of American justice has already been damaged enough in our own eyes and in those of the world as a result of the degrading events in Dallas without suffering the further indignity of the Ruby trial becoming a national show.

Voted Under Fire

Montreal Gazette

There is a lesson for all the world in the election in Venezuela. It is a lesson in the dignity of the democratic process at its best, and in the way a threat to the democratic process may bring a response from the people.

For this election was held under most provocative circumstances. The terroristic forces of the pro- Castro FALN spared no effort to intimidate the authorities and frighten the population. Kidnapping, murder, sabotage and threats were used in a deliberate attempt to prevent the election from taking place, and in the hope of creating conditions for a seizure of power.

The population of Venezuela, in refusing to submit to these tactics of terror, showed the courage of democracy at its best. For when 95 per cent of an electorate turns out to vote, this is far better than democracy at its average.

And it may well be that so many Venezuelans exercised their right to vote precisely because they knew that right was being threatened, and because they were willing to risk reprisal to defend it. If this is so, the recent election has shown a sense of democracy that many had doubted really existed in Venezuela, or in Latin America in general.

And this election gives a particular responsibility to the new President and his government. For if he can claim a special sanction through having received power in so significant an election, the people of Venezuela have the right to claim vigorous and progressive policies from him.

One election, even one so impressive, cannot guarantee good government, or expansion, or greater prosperity for Venezuela. But it can, and should, be a starting point, a beginning which could make Venezuela an example for all Latin America. For certainly, the public response to the recent election was such an example—not only to Latin America, but to the world.

Lighting-Up Time

Ottawa Journal

Do you remember when a line of kerosene lamps sat on an oil-cloth-covered shelf above the kitchen sink? Remember when two or three lanterns hung from nails in the back kitchen, and a big brass- bowled lamp on an up and down chain hung above the kitchen eating table?

Lighting up time on the farm was a definite period of day. Dusk began creeping down eastern slopes by midafternoon, and as soon as the sun disappeared behind the mountain crest, dark shadows gathered in the valleys. As a man came in from shocking corn in the gray-blue end of day, he saw the light in the kitchen window, and the shaft of gold that slanted into the yard.

Part of a nation's history could be written in terms of lamps and lanterns. Men returning from town saw the light of the farmhouse and knew they were nearing home. In an emergency, anxious eyes peered down a road waiting for the light that meant the doctor and help were on the way.

Thousands of men and boys have done farm chores by the light of kerosene lanterns; thousands of farm families have sat in the soft glow of kerosene lamps as boys and girls did their homework, while father read the farm journals and mother worked at the never quite- caught-up mending and darning.

Lighting-up time is still a part of country life. Now one presses a button or turns a switch. But it makes no difference what the source of the light may be. Lighting-up time is a period of day as darkness comes, and the light that glows in millions of homes is still a beacon.

Legalized Lotteries

Ottawa Journal

If the Dominion Government legalizes lotteries it has a duty to see the profits are not monopolized by one province or group of provinces.

A national lottery, supervised by Ottawa, would be the fairest lottery. It would prevent the provinces quickest off the mark with their own lotteries monopolizing the cash like Dublin, Las Vegas or Monte Carlo.

Estimates given Parliament say that Canadians spend as much as $150,000,000 a year on lotteries. This is big money for any province. While Newfoundland and Saskatchewan have been reported implacably opposed to lotteries, other provincial jurisdictions appear ready to be convinced they must keep gambling money at home to help their own hospitals, rather than those in Ireland.

Much ill-will and injustice can be created if everything is left to the provinces. The provinces slow to adopt lotteries would resent money being sent to other provinces by their citizens. In the process of time all might have lotteries but there still would be inequality in that Quebec and Ontario could offer far richer prizes than Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland. This would concentrate in the central provinces large amounts of money the poorer provinces need.

The Federal Government that makes lotteries legal cannot walk away and say it has merely allowed the provinces to engage in this doubtful business. Having legalized lotteries, Ottawa could not escape a duty to ensure proper supervision and maximum income for the national causes deserving assistance. Inevitably the conviction would arise that a national lottery, with the Dominion authorities taking the profit and making fair allocation across the country, would be best, if there are to be legalized lotteries.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(December 10, 1938)

Recent severe weather has wiped out the Ringnecked pheasants here. Constable Spurgeon Jenkins, special game officer of the RCMP said last night. Last year the Department of Agriculture attempted to introduce pheasants here, securing a number of birds from Ottawa.

Thursday was a red- letter - day in the history of Central Royalty School, when Lieut.-Gov. DeBlois presented the trophy, won three years in succession by the school for the best kept grounds, to the teacher, Miss Mary MacLennan.

TEN YEARS AGO
(December 10, 1953)

The work of extending the electric power lines from Montrose, where a temporary halt was made, several weeks ago, to Tignish has been proceeding at full speed, and yesterday afternoon reached the outskirts of the village.

Dr. J.C. Simpson, Dr. W. B. Howatt and Dr. A.R. Grant supplied the answers to the questions asked at a round table discussion on matters relating to the advancement of medical science, presented at the weekly meeting of Summerside Rotary Club yesterday.

Evaluating Medications

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

Most of us are aware of the limitations, dangers, and side reactions of medicines. There is no perfect drug and we should be suspicious of any product offered as a cure - all for every imaginable malady. The intelligent person knows that pharmacists and physicians must try new preparations over a long period before adequate evaluation can be made.

Several drugs have been removed from the market because they proved to be too dangerous, even after years of usage. Thalidomide had passed all the usual tests as a safe and effective drug. Time demonstrated that it damaged the fetus when used by women during the first four months of pregnancy.

Physicians have learned from centuries of experience to rely upon time. Most of the sensational stories on the remarkable value of a new drug represent exaggerations to attract reader attention. Many are planted by the manufacturer to introduce the product and promote sales.

News releases emphasize the good qualities and omit the bad; the latter may be an honest omission because the remedy has not been used on enough patients over a long period to uncover the dangers and limitations.

Reputable pharmaceutical houses take no chances and avoid undue publicity until they are reasonably sure that every claim for their product can be backed up. They depend upon reliable and honest medical research teams to obtain the facts. After all, it is the practising physician who is the final judge and he has nothing to gain and everything to lose when he prescribes a worthless or hazardous medication.

Drugs go through cycles of popularity, Vitamins, for example, work best when they compensate for actual deficiencies but are of little value and occasionally are harmful if the body has its quota. When they are used as a remedy for almost every ailment, the physician is caught in the middle; patients may demand a vitamin for a disorder that has little or nothing to do with the cause.

SPINAL TAP

E.J.K. writes(Why is a spinal puncture a prerequisite in a clinic before mental illness is diagnosed?

REPLY

Because of the possibility that a specific infection or brain lesion is responsible for the mental condition. This test is not always deemed necessary so that the term "prerequisite" is not apropos.

DIET FOR DIABETICS

A.L. writes: Can a diabetic safely take reducing pills?

REPLY

Yes, but the diabetic diet takes into account the ideal weight of the individual. If you are too stout at present, you will reduce by sticking to the diet.

DISABLED LUNGS

Mrs. R. writes: What is a respiratory cripple?

REPLY

A person with a chronic lung condition that cannot be remedied because of scarring or other changes in these organs. Coughing and shortness of breath disable the victim.

WRIGHT'S

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CITES RESPONSIBILITY

BOSTON (CP) — Speaking French is both an advantage and a responsibility, a Quebec government official said Sunday night. G. H. Dagneau of Montreal, head of the Quebec cultural affairs department's newly created branch of extra-territorial French Canada, cited the recent flourishing of French technologists in various fields as an example of the value of speaking French. He was addressing members of La Societe Historique Franco-Americaine here.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Three times as many single men as married ones break the law," says a statistician. It's human nature to abuse freedom.—Galt Reporter.

Having elected the men we felt best fitted to manage the city's affairs, we'll all get back to telling them how to do it. — Brandon Sun.

The ill - effects of excessive cigarette smoking should be set in their proper place in the daily routine. If the subject is treated as an isolated "wickedness", then the government's campaign is almost certain to fail. There have been far too many examples of attempts to stamp out the drinking of alcohol to leave any doubt that mere stamping on a habit is enough to put it out of existence.— Hamilton Spectator

Old Lady (to tramp)— "Why don't you work? Hard work never killed anyone." Tramp — "You're wrong, lady. I lost both of my wives that way."—Galt Reporter.

There are educated persons today who claim that spelling is not very important so long as the word is understood. But this is like saying that grammar does not matter if the meaning is reasonably clear. Correct spelling is a good discipline for the mind. It would be beneficial if the old-fashioned spelling bees should make a comeback in our elementary school classrooms. Today they are officially frowned upon because, incredibly enough, professional educators believe they are "psychologically damaging" to the child.— Edmonton Journal.

A Little Light Relief

London Times

While the Russians and Chinese are battering away at each other it is pleasant to record a little light relief on the dispute. The story comes from Warsaw.

Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung, so the story goes, agreed to go tiger shooting. The tiger appeared out of the long grass. Mao fired first — and missed. He fired again — and missed. Nikita then fired. The tiger rolled over dead. The two men went up to it, measured it, found it was too heavy for their bearers to carry away. Nikita said he would go and get help, leaving Mao on the spot. When he returned there was no tiger to be seen. "But — but where is the tiger?" he said. Mao Tse-tung was courteously interested. "What tiger?" he replied.

Nikita applied his full dialectical method. "Look, you remember we set out to shoot a tiger?" — "Yes."

"We saw the tiger." — "Certainly."

"You fired first and missed." — "I did."

"You fired a second time, and missed." — "That is true."

"Then I fired and got the tiger." — "Certainly, first shot."

"We went up to it and touched it." — "We did."

"It was too heavy for us to move, so I volunteered to go off and get more help." — "Yes — quite correct."

"But when I came back the tiger had gone."

"What tiger?"

Those who do not wish to see the Sino-Soviet rift getting wider might consider sending copies of the Warsaw story to both Mr. Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung. It makes more sense than some of the exchanges.

QUEENS COUNTY FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

ANNUAL MEETING

Hunter River High School

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1963—8:00 p.m.

If agriculture is important to YOU your attendance is invited.

Royal Canadian Navy

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