The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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For Faster Service

After disappointing delays, the MV Confederation is at last in operation on the Borden-Tormentine route and it is cheering news that the new boat took only 38 minutes to make the nine-mile trip in one crossing last week, and that it is averaging about 40 minutes per trip. According to railway authorities, 52 to 53 minutes is the fastest time the larger ferries have made the crossing in, and they normally average around 55 minutes. This means that the Confederation, with its speed and carrying capacity of 70 automobiles and 300 passengers, is going to be very serviceable indeed during the busy tourist season.

Presumably it is the intention, when new pier facilities are provided, that there will be no tie-up with railway schedules in the operation of the Confederation, despite the fact that the C.N.R., as in the case of the railway ferries, is the operating agent. One of the reasons for proposing a boat of this kind in the first place was that it would be able to run on its own faster timetable.

Another reason, as we recall the discussion in the Legislature some years ago, was to insure that, in the event of a railway strike, there would be no possible excuse for the Federal Department of Transport sidestepping its responsibility of maintaining the service uninterruptedly. Actually this responsibility extends to all the ferries on the route, but there has been gross negligence in pressing this point in late years. Perhaps this would be a good time to have a showdown on the whole issue.

A statement from all the federal party leaders should be requested in this election campaign, as to the views they hold about our claim that "continuous communication", guaranteed us under Confederation, means what it says with regard to our ferry service; that this service is, to all intents and purposes, an interprovincial highway and that there should be no interruptions whatever, other than those imposed by weather conditions, to its operation at all times.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker is coming here on Thursday, and he could set the ball rolling by recognizing this responsibility and pledging his government to carrying it out.

Disturbing Situation

President Kennedy has ordered that United States naval, air and land forces including a battle group of 1,800 marines, move toward the Indochinese Peninsula in what promises to be a major new phase in the attempt to save Laos from Communist control. Or, more accurately perhaps, in the hope of discouraging Communist military pressures in the adjoining countries rather than in Laos itself, where the outlook is unpromising to say the least.

A Buddhist mountain kingdom of three million inhabitants, Laos was thrust into the cold war because of its strategic geographic position. It is landlocked, has common borders with Communist China, North and South Vietnam, Burma, Thailand and Cambodia, and is thus a corridor for the Communist push into southeast Asia. Its fall would endanger the Western defenses in that area.

When Soviet Premier Khrushchev agreed at Vienna last June that Laos should be "neutralized", rightist prospects were somewhat more assuring than they are today. The rightists, in resisting coalition efforts, gambled that the U.S. would have no alternative but to back them in the end. However, the erosion of their military position makes that now less likely than ever, and Mr. Khrushchev knows it. He has reportedly agreed to the necessity for a cease-fire, and he may yet—perhaps in order to limit Chinese influence—permit the formation of a coalition. But he might also look the other way while the neutralist and Pathet Lao armies mopped up the remaining third of the country.

It is that prospect which has caused great concern to Laos' neighbors—South Vietnam, neutral Cambodia and Burma, and Thailand, which is a member, along with the U.S., of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. President Kennedy is particularly concerned about the danger to South Vietnam and Thailand, and is determined to give them all possible aid. However, according to the New York Times, he would be extremely reluctant to intervene openly with American forces. That might produce a massive counter-intervention from China.

It is a disturbing situation, in which other Western powers have a stake but can do very little except watch from the sidelines.

Pinch Hitting

Hon. J. Angus MacLean, who has been "pinch hitting" for Prime Minister Diefenbaker at Ottawa, appears to be making a good job of his chores. The other day he addressed a group of high school students from across Canada, and gave them an insight into the true meaning of politics and its relation to democracy. He spiced his remarks with humor, too.

Many MPs, he pointed out, have to attend committee hearings or perform other duties during parliamentary sittings, which accounts for their absence from their seats on many occasions—a situation which had apparently shocked members of earlier student tours to the Commons chamber. He recalled that one returning student had written in the school newspaper that at the beginning of each sitting the Speaker looked over the MPs present, then offered a prayer for the Canadian people!

The point lost nothing by being conveyed in this ironic way, and we imagine the students went back home with a better idea of what Parliament does from Mr. MacLean's informal comments. We should like to hear him in this vein more frequently ourselves.

EDITORIAL NOTES

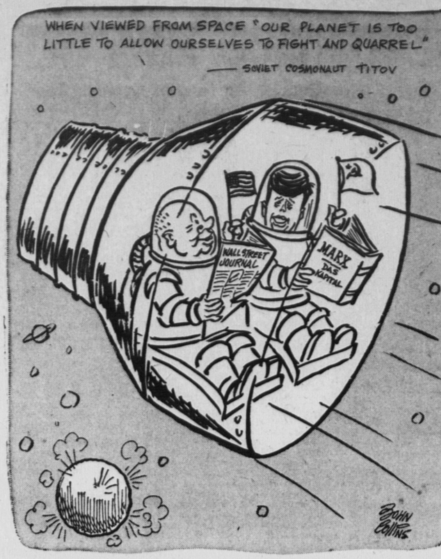
Time was when the North Saskatchewan River, which runs past Edmonton and loops over the prairie to the east, was considered close to the northern limit of rangeland for cattle. But according to a bulletin just issued by the federal Department of Agriculture, the range area is extending northwards. Today there are herds 100 miles and more north of the North Saskatchewan and further increase in the 725,000 cattle in this rangeland area is anticipated.

* * *

It is predicted, by a writer in the Financial Post, that Canadian fruits and vegetables may soon go into a steep climb. The entire industry has joined forces and formed a co-operative exporting organization that will sell under its own Canadian labels. Right now, according to the Post writer, a market-hunting group is touring Britain, West Germany, Holland, Belgium and France with the blessing of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

* * *

The Chamber of Commerce points out that in 1958, 67.8 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots in the general election. In 1957 this rose to 75 per cent and in 1958, 80.5 per cent of the 9,131,000 eligible voters cast ballots. This last figure is most creditable indeed but leaves no room for complacency. Even with this high rate of participation, there were still more than 1¾ million Canadians who failed to exercise the franchise on March 31, 1958. There is still a lot of room for improvement.



FOR THE NEXT SUMMIT MEETING

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Economics Of The Narcotic Trade

The prevailing unofficial tariff for transporting opium in Indo-China has been revealed at recent courts-martial in Ottawa to be about $30 per pound. This is 35 times the cost of airmailing a similar package between any two cities in North America — an unusually high price which understandably spotlights the economics of the profitable narcotics trade.

The harvesting of opium echoes the Canadian scene: "Sap's running!". The juice of the opium poppy, known to flower-buffs as "papaver somniferum" is released from the unripe capsules by making an incision in the knob at the top of the stalk, just beneath the bloom. It oozes out as a reddish - brown liquid, which hardens on contact with the air. The next day the cultivator goes round, scoops up the opium gum from the seed-pod with his finger.

This is crude opium. It contains small amounts of morphine and codeine. It is used in that form in Asia by addicts who eat it or smoke it. But Canadian addicts do not use opium in this crude form, and since the transportation of unlicensed drugs is illegal and dangerous, it is simplified by processing the crude opium in the country where it is produced. India is the major source today, while lesser harvests are garnered in Burma, Turkey, Pakistan and Vietnam.

TINY YIELD

Careful processing in a laboratory will yield the one-twelfth of morphine which is contained in opium. The morphine must then be further processed, to yield about one-tenth its volume of heroin.

There is no standardized market price for narcotics in what is virtually a world-wide black market. The price is a subject for horse-trading, based upon what the vendor demands but modified by what the buyer is willing to pay.

The newly-processed heroin may sell in its Asiatic homeland for about $75 an ounce. It then passes through the hands of various smugglers and wholesalers, all of whom expect to make their profit. Ultimately it reaches a "cutter", say in Vancouver, at a price of some $500 per ounce.

Then the heroin is "cut", by being mixed with "milk sugar", which is ordinary powdered sugar. The cutter packs the mixture into capsules, with the equivalent of one -quarter grain of heroin in each. Thus his ounce of drug yields about 1,760 capsules— or perhaps as many as 2,000 if he shortchanges his customers. The capsules may then be sold, perhaps in quantities of 25 or 50 to "pushers", perhaps singly to addicts.

A pusher may be able to buy at $2 or $3 per capsule; the user will pay about $6 for one capsule on the dark or deserted street in Vancouver.

MENACE CONTROLLED

Thus $3 worth of crude opium produced in Asia ultimately is retailed in the form of heroin capsules in Canada or elsewhere for up to $1,350. That is a larger mark-up than in legitimate forms of business, and explains why the traffickers are willing to take such big risks in their underground trade.

Obvious questions, which the narcotics control officials here answered readily, are raised by this latest spotlight on opium.

Why isn't opium smoked in Canada? Because North American addicts prefer to smoke $1 cigarettes containing marijuana or hemp, which used to grow wild from discarded bird seed on Canadian garbage dumps.

How quickly does a heroin capsule give its kick? If "mainlined" or injected direct into the bloodstream, it brings its euphoric sense of "coasting" almost at once.

Is drug addiction more damaging than alcoholism? Yes, both mentally and physically; and it is harder to shuck off. Is there a road back from addiction? Tapering off is described as "hell on earth", causing acute cramps and stomach disorders.

Are Canadian authorities holding the line against the spread of drug addiction? Yes.

Franco And Salazar

By Joseph MacSween
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Pressures are growing against two of the world's most durable dictators — Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain and Dr. Antonio Salazar of Portugal.

Franco, 70, has been in power 23 years, since the end of the Spanish Civil War, and Salazar, 73, has been prime minister for 30 years.

Observers say neither is in danger of sudden overthrow but unrest is such that both may have to make important concessions lest the lid blow off their respective regimes.

There are political aspects in strikes that left 100,000 workers idle, mostly in coal - mining areas, in Spain and students in Madrid and Barcelona have provided violent backing for the strikers.

NATION WATCHES

All this is general knowledge throughout the country because Franco was forced to break through his own censorship and declare a state of emergency in three northeastern states.

The government sets most wages in Spain and strikes are officially banned. But the strikers cite soaring living costs in their demands for the equivalent of about $2.10 a day, compared with their present $1.40 to $1.60 a day.

The pattern of worker-student unrest is similar in Portugal. The older generation in both agonies of the civil war in which 1,000,000 Spaniards died and the chaos in Portugal before Salazar, apparently fear change.

But the younger generation, eager to break away from repressive paternalism, is impatient with the warnings of Franco and Salazar that change would open the doors of the Iberian Peninsula to communism.

CHURCH MOVES

The Roman Catholic hierarchy has apparently dealt Franco a setback by declaring in a church organ that a strike is a "licit weapon" for workers when negotiations fail.

Sunday's issue of Ecclesia, weekly paper of Catholic Action, spread its criticism over the regime, employers and labor but its words about strikes were considered particularly significant since Franco has ruled them illegal and strikers subject to jail sentences.

"Just as a war is in the final argument when one group finds its view trampled upon, so is the strike the final means available to a working group when it finds its own rights ignored," Ecclesia said.

There are indications that Franco is disposed to accede to at least some of labor's requests. Observers feel he fears to go all the way, believing this would give him the appearance of weakness.

Since 1957, there has been talk he was trying to give his government a more liberal complexion, although standing firmly by the one - party system, with himself at the head of the Falangist party.

After changing his cabinet in 1957, Franco declared:

"There is not a single normal political program that does not permit the adapting of its essential contents to time and place."

Canada's Art Abroad

Ottawa Journal

An exhibition of Canadian paintings, touring Poland, has been in the National Gallery at Warsaw and the National Museum at Cracow and is now at the Slaskie Museum, Wroclaw.

There are some sidelights on Canadian national identity, as seen from overseas, in the Polish critics' reviews. Mr. Jerzy Olkiewicz writes, in the Warsaw Przeglao Kulturalny:

"These experiences have brought closer part of the American Continent, full of unusual things, hidden behind the trunks of ancient fir trees; character of strange cities, in which even paupers travel from one place to another in their own cars —Canada has become an exotic phenomenon."

HIGHLY PRAISED

Mr. Olkiewicz finds the "excellent selection of works of the contemporary artists reveals closer contacts with the centres of European culture than with trappers and beavers".

Of the paintings, the Express Wieczorny says:

"The Canadian display gives us a great deal of joy and excitement... Among the paintings of most brilliant colors, the visitor pays attention to the names of two painters: Pellan who swing, by his sunny smiling colors full of joy and life and by his interesting arabesque of lines — and Riopelle who is younger than Pellan, the author of dynamic colors and mood."

OTHER REVIEWS

In other reviews there is praise for Nakamura, "noble and delicate texture"; Colville "exotic"; de Tonnancour, "full of artistic taste not free of the French charm"; Edmund Alleyn, "most gifted".

The Dziennik Ludowy says:

"Summarizing we may state that a 'Canadian School' does not exist now but that there exist certain features characterizing the painting... as for instance the using of right colors, transparence and inclination for painting landscapes rather than figures or picturesque scenes. The contemporary artists do not make Canadian paintings but they use their own rich individual tastes."

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. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

VIEWED WITH CONCERN

Sir.—It was with very great concern that I read in yesterday's Guardian that the City of Charlottetown is planning to start a city dump in East Royalty. Might I ask what particular spite the city has at our district that they would want to create such a nuisance there. To quote the Mayor, "This thing is abominable and looks like hell" even on our doorstep.

I think it is an outrage, and a direct insult to our community, and I hope the residents of the area will get together and cause the city to put their garbage where it belongs, in an incinerator within the city limits.

I am, Sir, etc.,
EAST ROYALTY RESIDENT

Sex Prediction Test Is Risky, Not Practical

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

THE sex of the unborn child is one of the most difficult determinations to make. "Is it going to be a boy or a girl?" is a common question. Most physicians will tell the pregnant woman what he thinks she wants to hear. He knows he will be right half the time.

A Northwestern university obstetrician always answered this question by saying "boy" and then writing "girl" on the patient's record. If the woman delivered a boy she bragged about the physician's prediction. If the newcomer was a girl she ribbed the obstetrician about his poor guesswork.

He then would open the record and say "Let's see what I really said. Look —I put down 'girl.' Apparently there was a misunderstanding on your part." This was done in fun because we know that most parents are satisfied with a boy or girl, just so the child is healthy.

A test can be done before delivery to determine the sex of the child but it is risky and not practical. In this procedure some of the amniotic fluid is withdrawn with a needle for study of the sex chromatin in the nuclei of the cells in the liquid. This is seldom done unless there is a question about a sex linked hereditary disorder.

When the sex of all children who are born alive is determined, the ratio of males to females is 106 to 100. This includes prematures as well as full term infants. This is difficult to understand because the ratio should be 100 to 100. After all, the chromosomes in the sperm contain an equal number of X (which produces girls) and Y (which produces boys).

But a monkey wrench was thrown into the works of these statistics with a recently devised laboratory test to determine the sex of 10 to 12 day old embryos. Specimens from 242 women who had miscarried were studied in this way; 149 of the fetuses were classified as male and 93 as female —a ratio of 160.2 to 100.

Many silly suggestions were made by soothsayers in the past to assure getting a baby of the sex wanted. In my opinion, a scientific method for making the choice will be available in the future. It will center about the chromosomes but I doubt if it will serve a useful purpose.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

ELIMINATE TENSION

Mrs. M. writes: Is a spastic colon in an 8 year old girl serious? What could cause it? Could it lead to cancer?

REPLY

Tension or too many harsh, irritating, or fried foods. There is no reason why it should lead to cancer but the basic causes ought to be corrected. Bland foods are suggested along with drugs that relieve spasm. All sources of tension must be eliminated or corrected, especially in the home and at school.

FINGER LOCKING

M. D. writes: When I finish using a broom or some such article, my two middle fingers jerk open instead of letting go of the article in the usual manner. What could cause them to act this way? Can anything be done? I'm afraid my fingers may lock permanently.

REPLY

There are many unusual tension fatigue reactions that cause muscles to relax automatically.

SITZ AND HIPS

L. S. writes: Will taking hot sitz baths reduce large hips?

REPLY

No. Sitting in a tub of hot water up to the hips is a good remedy for many inflammatory disorders in the pelvic area but is not a good reducer.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(May 16, 1937)

Robert Gallagher, 15 was in the Prince Edward Island Hospital last night after a "Dud" rocket which he found, and ignited, at Victoria Park, exploded and blew the tops off two fingers on his left hand. The rocket is believed to be one which failed to rise during a fireworks display in connection with Coronation celebrations at the park. Soft ball players nearby heard the explosion and found the youth lying on the ground.

Mrs. W. Chester S. McLure has returned from a months' visit with her sister, Mrs. J. H. MacCabe and Mr. MacCabe, Brookline, Mass. Among those entertaining for Mrs. McLure were her uncle, Dr. Nicholas Cousens and Mrs. Cousens, and her cousin Mrs. Allan Cowie and Mr. Cowie.

TEN YEARS AGO
(May 16, 1952)

The largest day's catch of lobsters landed at the Alberton wharf this season was brought in Saturday by Frank MacNeil, and totaled 950 lbs. Although the boats were kept ashore for three days previous, by bad weather, this is considered an excellent day's fishing.

Miss Nancy MacNevin already noted for her musical talent, has again won very high honors in the P.E.I. Musical Festival, with a number of exceptionally fine performances. This year she was the sole winner of the top award of the Festival, the $50. Kinsman Scholarship

NOTES BY THE WAY

An acquaintance is a person whom we know well enough to borrow from but not well enough to lend to. — Niagara Falls Review.

It is said that if wishes were horses beggers would ride. They would also learn what it is to be saddle-sore. — Ottawa Journal.

When it comes to building false hopes, the seed catalogue isn't even in the same league with the golf instruction book. —Calgary Herald.

Eating fish may not nourish the brain, but trying to catch them certainly strengthens the imagination. — Nanaimo Free Press.

Lean Meat In Demand

Owen Sound Sun Times

As can be expected in this age of greater selectivity, the day of fat meat is passed. Whereas father, when he was a boy, probably had to "clean up" his plate, including those pieces of fat both in beef and pork, today's young man will just refuse to do so.

Grandfather, in fact, probably liked his meat fat, particularly if he was on the farm or at another job where there was considerable manual labor involved. Hog processors have placed great stress on the need for lean meat down through the years.

They fully realize that the housewife won't buy fat pork, or even fat bacon, that much of the fat must be cut off and is waste even before the consumer buys it.

Beef has seen great improvements through careful breeding programs. And the day of fat meats and steaks has fairly well passed. Recently in the United States, however, a new "cutability" standard is being employed. It may be largely the result of the popular barbecue.

But whatever the cause, the retailers are finding they must trim more and more of the fat off the meat before offering it for sale. Premium prices are being paid for cattle which offer less waste in achieving this end.

However, in the final analysis, the consumer pays more for this select beef to make up for the retailers' losses. Whether or not cattle can be so finely bred and fed that they will have a minimum of fat is a question.

The Vanishing Bedouins

National Geographic Society

The centuries-old desert life of the Bedouins is undergoing a basic change— a few are folding their tents and moving to new stone houses.

But the change is slow. Most nomadic tribesmen still drive their flocks of goats, sheep, and camels from one remote water hole to the next.

The estimated five million desert dwellers who make their home in the windy and sun-blasted wastelands of the Near East and North Africa demonstrate man's ability to adapt to almost impossible living conditions.

CAMEL INDISPENSABLE

During the desert's furnace-hot days, whole families and tribes trek across a land whose heaven is "as iron" and whose earth is "as brass."

Camels have been the transport of Bedouins and a measure of desert wealth since pre-Biblical times.

Bedouin tribes once fought on camelback. The "ship of the desert" is famed for carrying heavy loads many waterless miles.

A Bedouin drinks the camel's thick, sweet milk, spins its hair into tents and clothing, turns the hide to water pouches and saddles, and uses the dung for fuel. Occasionally, when the rules of hospitality demand, the humped animal may render his last service on the tribal feast platter.

Bedouins are intensely proud people. At night before retiring to their smoke-blackened tents, tribesmen gather around campfires to recite handed - down Arab verse recalling the tribe's past glories.

Most Bedouins can afford only one wife, though polygamy is practiced. By Moslem tradition, wives show their faces only to their husbands and close relatives. The women don black garments and veils in public, though some wear bright-colored jewelry in their nostrils and decorate their faces with intricate blue tattooing.

DESERT DETECTIVES

But the winds of civilization are blowing into the desert.

Oil companies drilling in the always changing sandscape of Saudia Arabia employ Bedouins as guides. The wandering lords of the desert read the shifting sands to locate an occasional lost party.

Tribesmen drive trucks and are trained to operate complicated rigging equipment. Children attend oil company schools. Doctors train Bedouin assistants.

The Israeli Government, in a long - range resettlement program, has lured Bedouins of the barren Negev into new stone houses. Though most have refused to fold up their tents, sleep on beds, or eat with a knife and fork, some have embraced the 20th century.

One sheik, amazed to find that a tractor could do the work of 20 camels, formed a cooperative and bought two tractors and a combine.

Others ride bicycles and listen to radios.

Even the time-honored profession of smuggling has changed. Rifles, unmarked camels, and black goats are no longer the prize contraband. Now smugglers deal in mentholated shaving cream, wash-'n'-wear shirts, and transistor radios.

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