The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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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 35c per week by carrier.

$11.00 a year by mail or rural routes and areas not serviced by carrier

$14.00 a year on Prince Edward 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, FEBRUARY, 19, 1963.

Frustrations At Geneva

Hopes for reaching agreement on nuclear test ban talks at the Geneva disarmament conference have been shattered again. After four and a half years of effort, the negotiations are again described as "teetering dishearteningly on the brink of failure." But the big powers find it awkward, in face of pressure from the smaller nations at the conference table, to admit that they can't agree; and for this reason it is predicted the talks will go on, for months, perhaps for years, "even though all hope has died."

Canada's delegation does not subscribe to this pessimistic assessment of the situation, though it is disappointing in view of the Soviet government's recent announcement that it no longer opposed a rigid objection to any form of international inspection in Soviet territory. When the conference resumed a few days ago, the door seemed open again—though not wide open.

The Soviets still refused to permit any internationally-staffed control stations on their territory, but they would allow the new automatic seismic control stations. They insisted on limiting such checks on Russian soil, however, to two or three a year—a figure too small to be accepted by the United States, which insists on a minimum of eight to ten checks a year.

It is hard to understand why, if the Russians can guard against the "danger of espionage" during two or three on-site inspections a year, the same safeguards cannot be effective for a larger number. It was with no co-operation from them that the Western powers devised new instruments which make it possible to reduce the essential number of control posts to the minimum now specified—a figure regarded as the very lowest compatible with effectiveness.

But this was not the only hurdle the conference faced when it resumed. The Soviet delegation demanded the withdrawal, in the very first stage of disarmament, of all armed forces to their own countries. This would not involve any reduction or limitation of armaments, but it would require the withdrawal from Europe of the means of delivering strategic weapons and their warheads, and would completely upset the current balance of military power.

It would have virtually no effect on the Russian strategic forces. Which no doubt was why it was put forward as a Soviet proposal, in the pretty certain expectation that it would prove unacceptable.

Civic Housing Need

We note that the city's recently completed housing report by Mr. Walter de Silva, provincial planning officer, received strong endorsement at last week's annual meeting of the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau. It is to be hoped that other organizations will study its recommendations as well. This is part of the report to which we referred in these columns on Friday, and we give here some further gleanings from its pages.

The report notes that approximately 90 per cent of the central area of Charlottetown was built prior to 1900. Consequently there are developments such as streets, services, houses and amenities that are out of date, and these will have to be gradually replaced or rehabilitated in order to meet the justifiable public demands in terms of modern needs such as automobile parking, sanitary and recreational facilities—and, above all good and adequate housing.

Amongst the pre-1900 age group of buildings are to be found some examples of buildings in a good state of repair. Investigations have revealed that in the main these buildings are owned by citizens of the higher income groups, or are situated in well defined and maintained residential areas and have no adjoining disturbing non-residential operations which depreciate the properties. As a result, owners or landlords have maintained their properties in fair condition.

On the other hand, most of the blighted housing has succumbed as a result of neglect. All the areas for which redevelopment is recommended contain buildings of poor or derelict condition, a high proportion of blight and decay in terms of housing, health and environment.

There is considerable crowding in these deficiency areas, and the poorest families have to pay high and often exorbitant rates for the meagre and inadequate shelter they maintain. A high proportion of the people in these neglected areas cannot afford to buy a house of their own, or meet interests rates on monthly payments. Therefore the report recommends, as the only course of action advisable, the provision of subsidized housing with federal-provincial assistance.

A Petty Gesture

Announcement last week that the United Nations planned to spend $3,000,000 on agricultural research in Cuba has stirred violent reactions in the United States. The project is to provide technicians in animal husbandry, grasslands management and plant pathology, and it is an undertaking of the U.N. Special Fund directed by Mr. Paul G. Hoffman, an American who previously administered the Marshall Plan. Washington has indicated that no American money will be spent on the scheme.

This is going pretty far. Unlike other U.N. accounts, nations are not assessed for contributions to the Special Fund and the related U.N. Technical Assistance Program, but make them voluntarily. Even the Russians contribute. Cuba, of course, is a member of the United Nations. The aim of the Special Fund is to show how the human and natural resources of a country can be used to make it more prosperous, which is surely one of the best ways of preventing chaos and promoting stability.

These objectives are mainstays of that part of the American foreign aid program that is not devoted to military purposes. Not only underdeveloped countries but the Communist countries of Poland and Yugoslavia are aided under it. Moreover, the United States properly took the lead in arguing successfully before the International Court of Justice that special levies upon U.N. member nations for schemes of this kind should be paid in the same way as regular assessments, even if these are contrary to national policy.

It is unfortunate that in this instance the United States is doing the very thing it has persistently condemned in others. Its attempt to block U.N. aid to Cuba is not going to hurt the Castro regime half as much as it will affect American prestige in the eyes of the world.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Canadian Historical Society Certificate of Merit has been awarded the Canadian Geographical Journal for an outstanding contribution to history in Canada. Articles which influenced the award included an examination of what the canoe and the hunt for beaver skins did in the development of Canada and an analysis of the decisive battle of Chrysler's Farm in 1813.

* * *

In the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the Rabbit. But, says an exchange, in the Canadian federal income tax calendar it's going to be the Year of the Headache. Compared to what the poor taxpayer went through in filing his tax forms last year, this year's forms will be unbelievable. At first glance, it may seem some new taxes have been added. But that's not really the case—just some new arithmetic.

"CAN WE COUNT ON THE INDIANS?"

WEATHER LORE

Rich Storehouse Of Fact And Fancy

National Geographic News Bulletin

Even as weather satellites regularly circle the earth men still look to the setting sun to decide whether tomorrow will be fair or foul.

The old rhyme, "Red in the morning, sailor take warning; red at night, sailor's delight," is one of many proverbs describing omens associated with certain types of weather.

Many a present-day husbandman would agree with Gervase Markham, the 17th-century English writer on country life: "Although God is the only director and ruler of all things, governing the yeeres, dayes, minutes and seasons of the yeere, yet it shall be behoveful for you husbandmen to know the signs and tokens as when it is likely to rain (and) snow."

MANY BASED ON FACT

A physics professor who studied more than 300 weather proverbs believes that almost half of them reflect scientific fact.

One — "Mackerel sky, mackerel sky; never long wet, never long dry"— refers to cloud formations that usually indicate weather changes.

"When swallows fly low, it will rain and blow."

"When fish jump to seek the sky, it's sure to rain bye and bye."

These two sayings put good reasoning to rhyme. The low-flying swallows and leaping fish are after insects, which can't gain much altitude when increasing humidity makes their wings heavy.

A surprisingly precise thermometer is the cricket. A statistics- minded meteorologist found that he could approximate the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit by counting a cricket's incidence of chirps in 14 seconds and adding 40. A Weather Bureau official looked into the matter and said cricketa truly proved accurate, within one degree, three times out of four.

Some proverbs contain, of course, more fancy than fact. Scientists scoff at such famed prognosticators as the katydid, which supposedly starts sounding off exactly six weeks before the first frost. They discount the notion that certain animals grow heavier fur and caterpillars put on extra fuzz before a severe winter.

And if a squirrel stores lots of nuts, it doesn't mean winter will last longer than usual. It only proves there were lots of nuts to hoard.

TOO SUCCESSFUL

While anyone can become a weather prophet via the popular old rhymes and superstitions, meteorologists seriously observe the same omens for experiments in weather control and rain making. Under limited conditions, rain has been produced by seeding clouds and airport runways cleared of fog.

None of these experiments has been more dramatic than an incident in San Diego some years ago. The City Council engaged a professional rain maker to bring relief to the parched area. The gentleman set up his apparatus: Soon after, clouds gathered; rain fell; reservoirs filled; a dam broke; the town was flooded; and several people died.

When the rain maker tried unsuccessfully to collect his fee and then threatened to sue, the city fathers retaliated with a counterthreat to sue for flood damages. Both suits were eventually dropped.

Though weather lore has been building since the Garden of Eden it has always had its skeptics. As the Scots poetically put it,

"To talk of the weather is nothing but folly;

"When it rains on the hill, the sun shines in the valley."

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of matters 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.

SOURIS RESCUE

Sir,— On February 15, 1963, an article appeared in The Guardian, possibly in other papers too, under the heading "19 Islanders Receive Life Saving Awards". In my opinion this article seems to be incomplete —possibly because of lack of knowledge on the matter or it might be a polite way of brushing aside this particular award which I am about to mention.

To present an award to people is by all means a wonderful gesture— but when there are others equally heroic who didn't receive mention at all, it is high time to step in and throw some light on the matter.

Of the awards given haven't we overlooked one particular award from Souris? Reflect back to the latter part of July of last year, when Constable James Dunn and Ronald (Butch) Cheverie snatched a six- year-old boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alban Gallant of Souris, from the sea. To do this they didn't merely grab for him while standing on the land—nor did they have the proper boats to aid them in their rescue.

Not at all, didn't the fines read: "A frantic mother stood on the shore pointing at a black speck on the sea about one mile away." This speck was her six-year-old boy clinging loosely to an inflated rubber car tube.

Partly by swimming, and partly by paddling a broken down canoe with a board, the rescue was staged.

Isn't this rescue worthy of mention?— maybe a medal or plaque as awarded to the other nineteen. This is the only forgotten one which I have in mind. Maybe there were others. How about it?

I am, Sir, etc.,
DEMETERIUS GALLANT
Souris, P.E.I.

(Mrs. Evelyn Cudmore, chairman of the Red Cross Water Safety Committee explains her committee investigates only those rescues which are brought to its attention by an individual or group; it does not assume investigations on its own initiative. We have been assured that the above incident, now that it has been reported, will be investigated.— Ed. G.)

Giving A Little

Dallas, Texas, Morning Times

Union employees at Swift's packing plant at Fort Worth voted themselves a 2½-cent- an-hour pay cut to keep the plant from being closed. At Armour's Memphis plant, a 15-cent cut and reduced fringe benefits were authorized by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters local. Other unions have agreed to pay cuts, or deferred requests for raises, to help hard - pressed employers stay in business.

In contrast, United Packinghouse Workers' refusal to accept a pay slash caused Wilson and Co. to close its Memphis plant. Similar UPW action in Atlanta forced Swift to announce plans to close its plant there on March 2.

No one wants less money, but a little less pay is better than no pay at all. Employees who demand the last pound of flesh from a losing operation hurt not only themselves but the entire community in which they live. Unions that sit down with employers to work out problems through agreement, as those at Fort Worth, Memphis and many other cities are doing, are commendable understanding and responsibility.

Could Quebec Survive?

Montreal Star

There was a time when the old French stock in Quebec province had a marvellous capacity to absorb and expand to take in its embrace Wolfe's Highlanders, the Irish famine victims and other strangers. Today, we fear, certain elements of this same stock have become ingrown suspicious and xenophobic.

However, put it any way you will, the facts are there. All of 1,000,000 people of this province are English Canadians. This is no tiny minority. As we have said before, we are here by right. Here we shall stay and our voice shall be heard.

We are perturbed when we listen to statements about Confederation's last chance. The writer continues What are the alternatives? Have they been thought out? It seems to some of us that an independent Quebec, unless it followed Castro into communism, would be unable radically to alter its own economic balance. The facts of ownership would not change, nor would the fact that English is the language of commerce. Just as it is in Mexico. Just as it is, largely, in the markets of the world.

We don't believe, most of us, that an independent Quebec could survive. What had been Canada would tumble, by two stages and in two parts, into the American melting pot. Independence is more than semantics and symbols, as the young orators of Quebec should learn. All the geopolitical and economic factors are against it.

Therefore the "last chance" is a myth until you turn it around. Confederation is Quebec's last chance. All that is unique, more, most of all that is worth preserving can survive only under the Canadian compromise. Without it, that would be here still, and the people, but the people wouldn't know what hit them.

Possibly the Canadian compromise needs to be revised; undoubtedly English Canada needs to mend its manners. That is where the Canadian examination of conscience comes in. Unless the examination is conducted honestly, without oratory, heat or prejudice on either side, even this last chance is doomed.

BOMB CONSULATE

BARCELONA, Spain (Reuter)—A small home-made bomb exploded outside the French consulate-general here Saturday night it was learned Monday. No one was hurt and there was only slight damage. The Spanish police have rounded up six alleged members of the anti-Gaullist French Secret Army Organization during the last few days following security talks between French and Spanish officials.

Healthy Body Is Best Defense Against Cold

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

BRADFORD WASHBURN, A director of the Museum of Science in Boston, has had considerable experience with frostbite, especially among mountain climbers. We doubt whether many of our readers expect to climb Mount McKinley or Minya Konka but we can profit from many of his suggestions.

He stresses the need for a healthy body as a fundamental defense against severe cold, especially among those who buck the elements at high altitudes, miles from help. The heat producing mechanism must function properly and the individual must do everything in his power to conserve his heat, once it has been produced. This is the same logic we use in keeping the home warm. It must have a good furpace, be insulated, and the doors or windows must be closed.

Good food is important because cold weather increases our caloric needs. Food — like coal, oil, or gas—supplies the energy that produces heat. Adequate clothing, gloves, and footwear are the insulation.

Huge quantities of heat can be lost through the lungs, as when panting and overexerting in extreme cold. Exercise helps to keep warm but should not be done to the extent that the person becomes exhausted and short of breath. Injury and exhaustion have an adverse effect on body movements and it is here that good health enters the picture.

Shivering is nature's way of moving muscles to generate heat. At high altitudes this protective mechanism is impaired and heat production during rest is reduced. The high altitude also affects breathing, and unless the climber takes it easy, he is likely to lose heat through the lungs and become cold and exhausted.

Other factors must be considered when trying to keep warm and to avoid frostbite. Cold air is not as dangerous as a combination of wind and cold. Mr. Washburn says the chilling effect of air at 20 degrees above zero combined with a 45-mile wind is identical to that of air at 40 degrees below, coupled with a 2-mile breeze.

When walking through the snow it is well to realize that when the air is zero it maybe several degrees colder a foot beneath the surface.

ACHING MUSCLES

J.B. writes: I'm suffering from fibrositis. I know it's incurable but could you give me any information that will help me understand the condition?

REPLY

Fibrositis comes in many forms and is not always curable. Ordinary stiff neck is an example. Fibrositis is a vague disorder and is related to lumbago and to other aches and pains. It usually responds to heat, massage, and exercise.

RHEUMATIC HEART

U.E. writes: How is a rheumatic heart diagnosed?

REPLY

Most victims have a history of rheumatic fever; murmur, indicating leakage of a valve; an abnormality in the size and shape of the heart; and changes in the electrocardiogram compatible with this type of heart disease.

BUFFALO HUMP

G.J. writes: What causes dowager's hump — the lump at the back of the neck? I am only five pounds overweight.

REPLY

Poor posture, fatigue, and overweight usually play a role.

ALCOHOLIC LIVER

Mrs. A.M. writes: How can a hardened liver be softened?

REPLY

Stop drinking.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Smoking heralds other symptoms of respiratory diseases.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
February 19, 1938

London, Feb. 17 — (CP Cable) — The Air Ministry today announced a new short-service scheme for the Fleet Air Arm will be put into effect in April with the object of adding to the flying strength of the naval air branch. A proportion of the officers in the new short-service branch will come from the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.

Last evening the local Salvation Army Corps held a dinner in honor of Commandant William Hargrove who is conducting special services at the Citadel this week. Commandant Hargrove was stationed here over twenty-seven years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO
February 19, 1953

Sackville, N. B. - (CP) — Only non-smokers will be eligible for the Herbert S. Sharp scholarships at Mt. Allison University. Mr. Sharp who died several months ago at Summerside, P. E. I. felt that anyone who could afford to smoke could afford to pay his college tuition.

A decision to select one street in the city where the people would like assistance in beautifying it and use it as an example of what may be done was reached last night at a meeting of the Charlottetown Planning Association.

CLAIMED BY COOK

The island continet of Australia was claimed for Britain in 1770 by Capt. James Cook during his circumnavigation of the globe.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It's not merely more courteous but smarter to pay more attention to what you hear than to what you overheard. —Chatham News.

As a wartime policeman in London I bought a lock and chain for the bicycle I was then using. One afternoon I left it chained to some railings in Kilburn. When I returned two hours later the bicycle was still there, but the lock and chain had been stolen. —Letter in the Times.

Cows they say have personalities of their own; they can be sad or happy or jealous and so on. The farmer quickly gets to know the quirks of each animal. And here's a story from Italy that illustrates this point. Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani was touring dairy farms in Calabria when he noticed that all the cows on the farms looked alike. Investigating this phenomenon Mr. Fanfani found that his guide was having the same herd rushed ahead by truck from farm to farm for a more impressive showing. This is a trick they say used to work on Mussolini, but obviously not on Mr. Fanfani and it is reported that the guide was fired on the spot.— Brookville Recorder and Times.

Two mind readers met on the street. "You're feeling great," said one to the other. "How am I?" — Montreal Gazette.

A husband may be able to read his wife like a book and yet not be able to shut her up. —Sherbrooke Record.

Son: "Hey, dad, mom just backed out of the garage and ran over my bicycle." Dad: "Serves you right for leaving it on the front lawn."—Sarnia Observer.

A mother in a suburban home discovered her teenage son slumped dejectedly in a chair in the living room, the picture of anguish and depression. She asked her husband, who was sitting nearby, what calamity had struck Junior. "He wants to go to the corner drug store," the father said, "but the car won't start."— Hamilton Spectator.

A tramp was sleeping behind the bunker of a golf course when he was discovered by the club's secretary, who roused him by roughly poking a golf club in his ribs. "Get off this course and stay off," he ordered. "And who are you?" demanded the tramp. "I'm secretary of the club," declared the official. "Well," replied the other, "that's no way to get new members." — Montreal Star.

Indonesia A Threat

By Carman Cumming
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Indonesia, with a powerful military machine and no one to fight, is casting increasingly hostile barbs at the planned Malaysian Federation.

President Sukarno describes the union to the north, scheduled to come into effect Aug. 31, a neo-colonialist base in disguise. He has promised political and economic activity against it and has warned his army that "we still have a challenge to face."

The tone of his attacks appear to bear out fears expressed by Indonesian neighbors that Sukarno would need a new external enemy to distract his people from internal difficulties after the abrupt Dutch withdrawal from West New Guinea last fall.

BUILT STRONG FORCES

Before then Indonesia had blamed its economic difficulties on the Dutch. Starting in 1961, Sukarno built up powerful armed forces to drive them from West New Guinea.

When the Dutch conceded without a fight, Sukarno was left with a strong air force and navy and an army of some 330,000 men. His government announced that the forces would be kept at strength as a defence against imperialism and to avoid the problems demobilization would create.

This was greeted with considerable uneasiness by neighboring powers, including Australia, whose colonies the eastern end of New Guinea, and Portugal, which shares with Indonesia the island of Timor, West of Java.

Within a month unrest broke out in the three British-controlled territories that share the island of Borneo with Indonesia — Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo. The three are scheduled to join Malaya and Singapore in the Malaysian grouping.

After the December revolt in Brunei was broken by the British, investigators found that many of the insurgents had been armed and trained in Indonesia. Sukarno, while not giving overt military backing to the rebellion publicly encouraged it.

FIGHTS LOSING BATTLE

Malaya's Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, driving force behind the federation idea has fought a losing battle to try to maintain relations with Indonesia. His government this week ordered a military buildup to meet the Indonesian threat.

At the root of Sukarno's troubles is the difficult task of uniting a population of nearly 100,000,000 composed of dozens of ethnic divisions and scattered over some 3,000 islands.

In land area it is nearly as large as Canada. But its structure had made it almost impossible to weld it into a cohesive economic and political unit. Despite great resources the standard of living is one of the lowest in Southeast Asia.

Now Indonesian "volunteers" are reported gathering in Borneo to help free the British-held territories. This could lead to a direct clash with British troops that would have far more serious results than the quarrel with the Dutch.

Are You Square?

Montreal Citizen

A Madison Avenue advertising agency president has come out foursquare to restore a six-letter word to its proper place in everyday talk. The word is "square." We think he's got hold of something.

Adam Charles H. Brower reminds us that back in Mark Twain's day, "square" was one of the best words in the language... you gave a man a square deal if you were honest. (He adds:)

"You gave him a square meal when he was hungry. When you got out of debt, you were square with the world. And that was when you could look your fellow man square in the eye."

Then a lot of characters ran down the word. Result: "A square today is a man who never learned to get away with it; a Joe who volunteers when he doesn't have to; a guy who gets his kick from trying to do something better than anyone else can...

"This country was discovered, put together, fought for and saved by squares — Nathan Hale, Patrick Henry, Paul Revere, George Washington...."

Brower dares us to get with it —get back to this nation's old beliefs in such things as "ideas, pride, patriotism, loyalty, devotion—even hard work."

How about joining the club?

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