The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

A Red Letter Day

Overshadowing even the announcement of the election date yesterday was the definite assurance from Ottawa that our long-awaited P.E.I.-N.B. Causeway would be built. This indicates that the engineering surveys were considerably further advanced, and more definitely favorable, than Works Minister Walker was prepared to admit even up to a few days ago. It indicates the political importance which the Government attaches to this project, in keeping it thus under wraps, and we may expect that its supporters will use it to the utmost advantage in their campaign activities from now until June 18.

However, we are concerned here with results. The definite commitment which the Diefenbaker Government has made puts all doubt at rest as to the prospects for this great project. The estimated cost of $105,000,000 is well within previous forecasts, and by no means exorbitant considering the long-term advantages, and savings in maintenance of ferry services, which will accrue.

A TRUMP CARD—The Government announcement, naturally, implies that the Causeway will be built if the Diefenbaker Government is returned to power. It will be played this way as a major political card in the campaign, and of course this is understandable from the party standpoint. The other parties are at a disadvantage in not having the feasibility reports which the Government must now have in its possession; but we fancy that this will not deter them from making similar pledges. Indeed, it will be recalled that both Mr. Pearson and Mr. Douglas, on their visits here, pledged their parties to the undertaking if the survey results proved satisfactory.

We had sponsored this project from the start in the hope that it would be kept out of partisan politics, as it should be. Let us recall for the record, however, that it was proposed originally by the Liberals, and that two men in particular, Premier Matheson and Mr. Nell A. Matheson, our then Liberal member of Parliament for Queens, can take credit for championing it at a time when neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives, as a body, were very enthusiastic, to say the least. The then Kings County Liberal M.P., Mr. Kickham, went on the air to decry it as a pipe-dream, and there were many others on both sides who felt the same way.

SHOT IN THE DARK—The Conservatives, locally, promised the project in their 1959 provincial campaign, and they will now be able to claim that their pledge is finally to be redeemed. It was a shot in the dark at that time, however, without any warrant other than wishful thinking. Nor have they shown, in the intervening years, any great desire to have their causeway pledge recalled, or to go beyond an expression of pious hope that it would be implemented if feasible.

But a truce to such matters! The Causeway is the thing. It will reportedly take two years to draw up the plans, and another six years to build, which means that our winter ferry service will somehow have to be strengthened in the meantime. But with the assurance we now have, we can look forward confidently to a new and brighter era in our transportation history. All who have worked in any way to promote this great undertaking are to be commended; and this includes, of course, and in full measure, the government of the day and its supporters both here and at Ottawa.

THE ELECTION—Now that the election date has been announced for June 18, we may expect a great show of activity all across the country. Actually, the campaign has been under way for some time, and the candidates should now be off to a flying start. A June election means that much of the business of the present Parliament will be left suspended in mid-air, like Mahomet's coffin. But the unrest at Ottawa was such that further delay in sounding the election toscin would have defeated its own purpose. Calm consideration of the country's business in such circumstances was practically impossible.

In taking the plunge, the Government has high hopes of being returned, though with a reduced majority. That appears to be the general concensus, despite Opposition claims to the contrary. However, as the campaign warms up new angles may be developed, new issues come to a head, and—as in every election campaign—there are always the imponderable elements which give zest to the contest, and not infrequently upset the most assured prognostications.

The Steel Drama

Despite the fact that the U. S. steel companies have rescinded, under governmental pressure, the price increase they had decreed last week, plans for anti-monopoly investigations by the Justice Department and Congressional Democrats are going forward. Subpoenas have been served on the three big corporations involved and there will be a thorough airing of the whole matter. The industry's turnabout has been hailed as a spectacular victory for President Kennedy, but there was more at stake than that. He now has a chance not only to avert a new inflationary spiral but also a war between Government and Big Business, such as characterized the decade of the Thirties.

This will be better understood when it is realized that steel is the principal underpinning of the American economy. The industry's output of 100 million tons a year is a quarter of the world's production. It provides jobs for over half a million workers and accounts for $14,000 million in annual sales. Moreover, its products are the starting point for hundreds of other industries, from the manufacture of bobby pins to the construction of ocean liners.

For several years after World War II, steel price increases pushed other prices upward, and became a main factor in inflation. The wholesale price rose 66 per cent between 1945 and 1950; consumer prices rose 37 per cent in the same period. Thereafter steel rose even faster than other prices. Since 1960 it has risen 61 per cent, as against a consumer price increase of 20 per cent. This pivotal role played by the steel industry has made it the focal point for all of President Kennedy's economic policies.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Family allowances are not paid to Canadian servicemen overseas, but Ottawa has now announced that allowances in lieu of these payments will be made. In addition, servicemen stationed in West Germany will receive allowances to compensate for loss in value of the Canadian dollar compared with the German deutchmark.

* * *

Mr. Douglas, the New Democratic Party leader, is reported to have told a Regina audience recently that the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors should be required to leave Canada if they are not prepared to live in peace with other Canadians. Which prompts the Toronto Globe and Mail to remark: "This has a fine, stern, no-nonsense ring, but it overlooks one unfortunate fact. The Sons of Freedom are not recent immigrants, subject to deportation if they are convicted of major crimes. The great majority of them were born in Canada and are Canadian citizens. Whether we like it or not, the Sons of Freedom are our problem, which we must solve somehow within Canada. We cannot fob it off on some other nation

THE POISONED OASIS

AGREEMENT REACHED

The Kenya Constitutional Conference

By Colin Legum
United Kingdom Information Service

After seven weeks of hard negotiations, the Kenya constitutional conference presided over by the British Colonial Secretary, Mr. Reginald Maudling, and attended by all the elected members of the Kenya Legislative Council, has reached agreement in London.

It would be hard to exaggerate the importance of this. For even though the agreement by itself does not guarantee the territory an easy passage to independence, it opens the way to the possibility of fruitful co-operation between the major political parties in seeking the best constitution for an independant Kenya. That it proved possible to reach it in the end, reflects the greatest credit on the patience and statesmanship of all concerned.

One has only to think what the situation would have been like if the Kenya delegates had returned home without any kind of agreement. There would probably have been a resumption of bitter party acrimony; the economic decline caused by the uncertainties of the past few years might well have been accelerated; and the government would have remained as before in the hands of a minority party.

Instead, Kenya now has a new opportunity to work out its future through a coalition government representative of both the major African political parties (the Kenya African Nationalist Union and the Kenya African Democratic Union) with their respective leaders, Mr. Jomo Kenyatta and Mr. Ronald Ngala, both holding office). That by itself is an important advance.

NON-RACIAL POLICIES

In the upshot each of the two main African parties conceded something to the views of the other. KADU gave up the idea of a federal state but succeeded in getting agreement on the establishment of a bicameral legislature and large regional authorities with entrenched powers. KANU gave up its plan for an overwhelmingly strong central government with weak local authorities at the district level, as well as its objections to a bicameral legislature. But it succeeded in defeating KADU's plans for a weak centre with virtually autonomous regions. In steering the negotiation towards this compromise Mr. Maudling was understandably careful not to appear partisan and it is his triumph that none of the rivals felt that he was siding against them.

I can think of no previous conference that has spent so much time discussing safeguards — not only for minority groups, but for individual rights. By stressing human rights rather than minority group rights, the Kenya conference broke new ground. The safeguards that have been agreed on are applicable to every Kenyan, irrespective of race. This offers the best kind of guarantee for a new country.

NOT FETTERED

Equally important is the fact that the principle of agreement do not fetter the National Assembly in a way that will make effective government difficult. Nor do they prevent a majority party carrying out its policies on becoming the government.

These are very real achievements in a situation like that existing in Kenya today where, unhappily, suspicions are rife. It is now up to the coalition government to re-establish some of the badly needed confidence which has for many years been undermining faith in Kenya's political and economic future.

At present Kenya has economic problems which cannot await the happy outcome of a final constitution; they need to be tackled urgently and with vigour. But nobody supposes that these problems can finally be eliminated until political confidence has been restored. And that requires a stable Government with a well-defined constitution resting on the consent of the great majority of the people of Kenya.

A Berlin Settlement?

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Last January, when presenting his new budget to Congress, President Kennedy made what was then considered by observers as a puzzling assumption.

At a time when many Germans were still bewailing the Communist wall in East Berlin and after the military garrison in West Berlin had been tightened, Kennedy announced that for purposes of estimating future U.S. defence spending, he assumed special military measures undertaken in connection with the Berlin crisis would terminate by June 30.

Political adversaries described this as ridiculous. How could the president conclude that the tensions would conveniently disappear by June 30? They wrote off his statement as political expediency to better portray the prospects of a balanced budget in the new year starting July 1.

Yet events seem to be moving in line with Kennedy's assumptions. The Kremlin has softpedelled its threats and a U.S. report from Moscow describes Western embassies there as baffled by the lull in the usual Soviet harassment of the West. U.S. diplomats say they also are baffled by the Soviet calm, although they seem to be increasingly hopeful that current Soviet-American negotiations on Berlin may bear fruit.

While France and West Germany watch with anxiety, the new talks have opened in Washington with State Secretary Dean Rusk and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin as principals.

In U.S. eyes, negotiations got off to a bad start because the Bonn administration allegedly leaked U.S. proposals to the press so that Russia had a clear idea of how far the United States was prepared to go.

France and West Germany fear Russia and the United States, supported by Britain, might work out some deal on Berlin which might enhance the position of Communism on the continent to the detriment of adjoining Western powers.

There also is reported to be a Franco-German fear that if the United States works out some compromise with Russia, there may be a U.S. move to reduce military aid to Europe and thereby ease a worrisome U.S. international payments problem.

While some observers see the reason for the U.S. desire for a settlement on the Berlin issue as a way of strengthening the U.S. dollar through reduced foreign aid, the reason for Soviet willingness to compromise does not seem too clear.

One speculative answer is that Soviet Premier Khrushchev may be dangling a Berlin settlement as bait for a summit conference. Another is that he may have so many economic troubles at home that he also would like to see his military and other foreign operating costs reduced.

Vietnam Another Korea?

Montreal Gazette

The effects of the conflict in South Vietnam are becoming increasingly sensitive. The Soviet Union has now joined Communist China in a bitter attack upon American military aid to the government of South Vietnam, and in demanding that American forces be withdrawn. There has, as yet, been no suggestion of what action the Soviet Union might take if, as seems certain, American forces are not withdrawn.

The Soviet statement is interesting for its admissions as well as for its attacks. It quite freely admits the existence in South Vietnam of a Communist rebel movement, and appears to admit and defend sorties into South Vietnam from Communist North Vietnam. The rebel movement, it declares the Soviet statement, is a "national liberation movement," and seems to think that nothing more need be said in its defence.

The question that must be asked is, what does Russia propose to do now that it has taken this rebel movement under its wing and come to its defence? Does the Soviet Union mean to give assistance comparable to American assistance?

It may be that the Soviet Union is merely protesting as a matter of form, to show it is now no less loyal to Communist rebel movements abroad than is China. But the possibility must nevertheless be faced that the struggle in South Vietnam could grow and its scope widen.

Kind To Lobsters

Arlington, Mass., Advocate

The human is the most compassionate animal on earth with the possible exception of some tame, lovable pet. The rest of the earth's creatures kill or maim, eat each other without a qualm.

As New Englanders, we love to dine on lobsters, crabs and clams. Our common habit is to bring a pot to a rolling boil and toss them in. We excuse ourselves by the thought that they are among the lower forms of life—but, they do feel pain, obviously.

This pain to crustaceans—is all needless, according to authorities!

They point out that the large crustaceans, who inhabit our cooler sea waters, die quietly, peacefully and automatically if the temperature of the water should rise slowly to about 100 degrees — a temperature that is only warm to human hands.

So, the recommended method is to put these creatures in cool, fresh water and let them stay there for a while. This, itself, has an anesthetic effect, since the fresh water dissolves the native salt from their bodies. Then turn the heat on and bring the water to a slow boil and then cook to the recommended time.

According to authorities, there won't be a quivering sound come from the pot. As an added touch, they recommend that a metal mesh be put at the bottom of the pot, so that the feet of the lobsters or crabs cannot touch the sudden quick heat on the bottom of the pot.

Here's to more, humanely homecooked crustaceans.

Van Gogh Made Beauty Despite Living In Misery

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

SOME persons have a remarkable ability to produce or create despite serious physical and personality defects. Vincent Van Gogh had many setbacks and suffered from a mental disorder aggravated by alcoholism.

He painted more than 800 pictures in all, the majority during the last seven years of life when he was disturbed emotionally. Only one was sold during his life time.

But good often comes out of bad. Van Gogh maintained his technical ability during those last few years and was able to transfer his feelings to canvas. The quivering intensity of many of his scenes has been interpreted by British psychiatrists as a sign of excitement and agitation. The tones became somber when the artist was depressed.

According to Dr. R.E. Hemphill, Van Gogh worked from subjects and most of his paintings were precise records of the scenes before his eyes. Many of these landscapes have been photographed and compared with his paintings. Van Gogh did not paint what he imagined during hallucinations but transformed his feelings through the use of color and the manipulation of paint.

Dr. Felix Rey attended and befriended Van Gogh. He believed the artist had a type of epilepsy with hallucinations and episodes of agitation and confusion provoked by alcoholic excesses.

There is evidence also that Van Gogh had a manic depressive psychosis. He was hot tempered and extremely moody but was able to retain the interest and support of relatives and friends. It was his sincerity and capacity for making friends that carried him through these storms.

This is remarkable because during these attacks of excitement, he developed terrifying hallucinations that led to wild behavior and confusion. On one occasion he cut off one of his ears. Two years later, at 37, he shot himself. His last words were, "Will this misery never end?" It is a pity that a man who left so much for others to enjoy led such a miserable existence.

HEART MURMUR

J. C. writes: I felt fine after the birth of my child until the doctor told me I have a heart murmur and prescribed digitalis. I have felt terrible since and can't get over the feeling I'm going to die soon. Your comments will be appreciated.

REPLY

You ought to ask for a consultation about the murmur and taking digitalis, especially if you felt fine before you learned about this condition. Since you are so upset, why not make it a heart specialist because his word will carry more weight and leave no doubt in your mind?

STOMACH DESCENT

J. C. writes: Can and should anything be done about fallen stomach?

REPLY

No. The stomach droops several inches on standing and occasionally descends so low it sinks into the pelvis as shown by X-rays. Indigestion and other forms of abdominal distress should not be blamed on this normal phenomenon.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(April 18, 1937)

The Charlottetown Marine Wharf presents a busy picture these days where men are at work cleaning the buoys that were stored on the wharf during the winter, and giving them a coat of bright paint, to guide the mariner along the Island coasts. Frank Hobbs, mechanical foreman, and his assistants are also busy in their well appointed workshop, preparing lamps with a specially manufactured ribbed glass for use on the gas buoys and light houses.

All direct unemployment relief in Charlottetown will be discontinued after April 30, the City Council decided at a special meeting last night. The resolution was moved by Coun. G. W. MacLeod, chairman of the finance committee, and seconded by Coun. R. C. Chandler.

TEN YEARS AGO
(April 18, 1952)

Fresh from their triumph at Moncton, members of the cast, orchestra and technicians of the operetta, "Naughty Marietta," which opens the two-night presentation this evening at the Redeemer Community Centre, arrived last night by train. On the directing staff is Sister St. Philip, CND, a native of Cherry Valley P.E.I. and Lou Medley, a Yarmouth girl, plays the role of Marietta.

Clyde White of Dartmouth, N.S. has been appointed Field Secretary of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Prince Edward Island. He succeeds George Wood who was transferred to Sydney some time ago. Mr. White said in an interview last night that previous to his loss of sight four years ago, he was a clerk in the Halifax Post Office.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If you persist in putting your foot into something, maybe what you need is a good sock. — Welland Tribune.

When it comes to breaking legs and ankles, the snow-covered ski slopes get all the glamour, publicity but, in their unobtrusive way, the front steps don't do a bad job. — Vancouver Province.

Another reason a youngster considers adults dumb is that almost any grownup who sees him after a lapse of a year or so is surprised silly at how much he has grown. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

President Kennedy refers to Russian propaganda as being "sterile." Many doubt that Russia is considerate enough to sterilize propaganda before using it in attempts to brainwash us. — Sarnia Observer.

We recall a prominent lawyer, now dead, drawing a distinction between police terminology and civilian talk. He was cross-examining a woman witness who described how she had "proceeded across the intersection on foot." "Now, madame," explained the lawyer, "only policemen proceed across the intersection on foot. Ordinary people walk across the corner." — Windsor Star.

Well Out Of OAS

Financial Post, Toronto

As distant observers of the conference at Punta del Este, where the Cuban question was hotly debated, Canadians must have reflected that they are well out of the Organization of American States, long known as the Pan-American Union.

Among OAS members there is sharp disagreement about the right way to deal with the Castro regime, now unblushingly communist. No doubt two opinions could be found among Canadians but their majority view, if Ottawa has correctly interpreted it, leans to the moderate line taken by Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, strongest of the Latin countries.

It is incredible that Washington sees Cuba as a military threat, seeing that the U.S. still has a base on the Island, at Guantanamo, while the Soviet Union, of course, has not. Cuba is receiving arms from the Russians; but Che Guevarra, Castro's right hand man, recently offered a pledge not to export either weapons or the revolution to Cuba's neighbors.

Canada, fortunately, was not involved in the argument. Having declined OAS membership, this country had neither voice nor vote at Punta del Este. This is not a case of reluctance to stand up and be counted. There would simply be no advantage to Canada, or to the hemisphere, in an obligation to vote with or against the U.S. in such a controversy. Canada's independent judgment is more valuable than a make-weight, or even a decisive ballot in OAS.

Reading Tree Rings

National Geographic Society

Thirty-odd years ago, a distinguished astronomer demonstrated the use of a living clock that put a new tool into the hands of archeologists and students of climate.

The scientist was Andrew Elliott Douglass, whose recent death at the age of 94 has ended a long and fruitful career. By developing a method for reading tree rings—a technique called dendrochronology after Greek words for tree and time—he introduced an ingenious dating device.

Dr. Douglass worked out his system in the 1920's in a series of expeditions sponsored by the National Geographic Society to excavate and study long-abandoned Indian settlements of the Southwest. With its guidance, he established the age of many pre-Columbian ruins.

CLEAR RINGS

Dendrochronology is based on the fact that a growing tree adds a layer to its trunk each year. Cut across, the layers resemble rings, each with varying width and makeup caused by seasonal breaks in temperature or rainfall. Where changes are sharp, the marks are as distinctive as fingerprints.

By counting the rings of trees whose felling time is known, and matching overlapping patterns with successive older generations, experts can trace a chain of living timepieces hundreds of years back.

The method is known as "cross dating." Beyond the world of living trees, it can be extended to beams, posts, and other wood left at archeologists sites whenever the necessary ring sequences can be found.

Constructing a tree calendar calls for detective skill in tracking down related samples and deciphering ring clues. In determining the age of Pueblo Bonito—oldest and largest of the New Mexico cliff dwellings — Dr. Douglass and his assistants compared scores of tree borings and bits of wood taken from this and other Southwest ruins.

Two apparently separate chronologies were traced, with a baffling gap between. The missing link was finally uncovered in a charred pine log that had lived from A.D. 1237 to nearly 1380. Its ring diary completed an unbroken calendar of overlapping patterns reaching back to a beam found at Pueblo Bonito. The beam had been cut A.D. 919.

TRIGGERED STUDY

Dr. Douglass's tree-ring findings grew out of his career in astronomy and interest in sunspots. If solar changes effect weather, and weather affects trees, he reasoned, why not compare sunspot cycles and rings?

He began collecting tree-ring patterns about 1901, while working at Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona. In dating the pueblo ruins for National Geographic, he found that recurring sunspots coincided with ring changes in pines for most of a 500-year period. The exception was an interval of little change from 1650 to 1725—a blank that seemed to deny the theory until solar research indicated that no sunspots had occurred then.

Though scientists still do not fully understand the effects of sunspots on weather—and hence on tree rings—Dr. Douglass's contributions vastly furthered the study of solar - terrestrial relationships and long-range problems of climate throughout the world.

An energetic man with an ever-inquiring mind, he was an authority on Mars. He produced unique photographs of the sun's eclipse, and was a first to film zodiacal light, the nebulous light seen in the east before dawn and in the west after twilight.

Even at his advanced age, Dr. Douglass held a special license to drive the few blocks between his home in Tucson and the Tree-Ring Laboratory he founded at the University of Arizona.

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