

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew... W. J. Hancock, Publisher... Managing Editor: Frank Walker... Editor: W. J. Hancock...

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 4 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1966

Waiting For What?

A curious thing about the report of the royal commission into Canada's postal troubles, tabled Wednesday in the House of Commons, is that it was completed back in mid-September. Why then, in view of the urgent need for clarifying this issue, wasn't it presented to Parliament at that time? Because, it seems, the report had been written in French and the past month was taken up in translation into English and printing it in both languages.

Something here, surely, for that other royal commission—the one that has cost nearly \$7,000,000 to date to inquire into our problems of bilingualism and biculturalism—to look into! If the report had to be translated from ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, scholars could have achieved the task in less time than this. Apparently there was no great rush, in the minds of the federal government, notwithstanding the threat of a general strike of postal employees that is hanging over the country.

This report, incidentally, does more than criticize senior officials for poor handling of staff relations, as highlighted in our news columns yesterday. At the same time, it warns employees against resorting too quickly to strike action and advises them to give the government's proposed new civil service legislation a fair trial. "In everyone's best interests," says the commissioner, "they will have to learn to be more conciliatory, more understanding, and more reasonable."

But the whole situation is so vague that it is hard to say who is to blame. The present Civil Service Act makes no provision for a strike anywhere in the federal civil service. The new legislation, now awaiting third reading, would give the right to strike to all civil servants except those engaged in work "essential to the safety and security of the public." Nothing in the bill says that postal workers fall into this category, but neither are they specifically excluded.

That, presumably, would be for government to say. But if it did put them in the "no strike" category, they would have the right to object and appeal. Then the matter would go before a proposed public services staff relations board. What the board would eventually decide is so uncertain and so far away as to be beyond all forecast.

As the Montreal Gazette well says in this connection, under such conditions the demands of post office workers are naturally encouraged to become as extravagant and as vehement as the restrictions against a post office strike have become cloudy and conjectural.

"A Real Crisis"

It is reassuring to note that at least one authoritative body is prepared to go to bat for more—not less—federal participation in meeting problems of higher education. In a brief prepared for the forthcoming federal-provincial conference on this subject, the Association of Atlantic Universities points out that recommendations made last year by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada are still unimplemented, and urges their adoption by Ottawa.

It says, Canada has suffered from the low priority given education "and for this our nation is now paying a high price." University admission has suffered from inadequate planning. Development of faculty, equipment and buildings has been on a makeshift basis. Graduate work has lagged and research is weak. In fact, "Canada faces a real crisis that will mean in today's complex society either progress or deterioration."

With our limited tax potential, however, this challenge cannot be met in the Atlantic area—certainly not in this province—without increased aid from Ottawa. This issue was clearly defined in the last annual review of the Economic Council of Canada in which Ottawa was advised, as "an urgent need", to make available additional financial resources to the governments of the lower-income regions and through the appropriate federal agencies "in order to help break the vicious circle of low productivity, low incomes, low government revenues and low investments in growth promoting services which are needed to improve the quality and effective utilization of the available human and material resources." The council report cited several of these resources in particular, putting education at the head of the list.

This recommendation should be called to the attention of federal spokesmen at the forthcoming Ottawa conference. The report in which it appeared is dated December, 1965, and apparently nothing has been done about it since.

Those Food Costs

A surprising bit of information was uncovered at Ottawa the other day, at a session of the Senate Commons committee on living costs. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics acknowledged that in measuring the rise or fall of food costs in Canada, they carefully deducted from the retail prices the cost of the packages and cans in which they come. As it was explained, better packaging is classified as a quality change and must be eliminated from the price index.

That, comments an exchange, can put another complexion on the campaign of aroused housewives as they battle for lower food costs. If the Bureau of Statistics is right, and the cost of food has not risen appreciably, will the women be willing to campaign against the modern packaging of food? Would they try to boycott the packaged goods? Would they be willing to go back to the old days when bananas hung from the stalks, herrings and oysters came in barrels, potatoes could be picked from big bags, or chickens were for sale complete with feathers and insides?

It is probably true that we of this modern time have either been spoiled or spoiled ourselves. We want bigger and better cars in which to travel. A considerable portion of housewives shy from the idea of baking as they used to, instead of buying packaged mixes. Instead of buying a whole citron peel and cutting it ourselves, we buy in a package already cut. Rolling our own cigarettes is too bothersome.

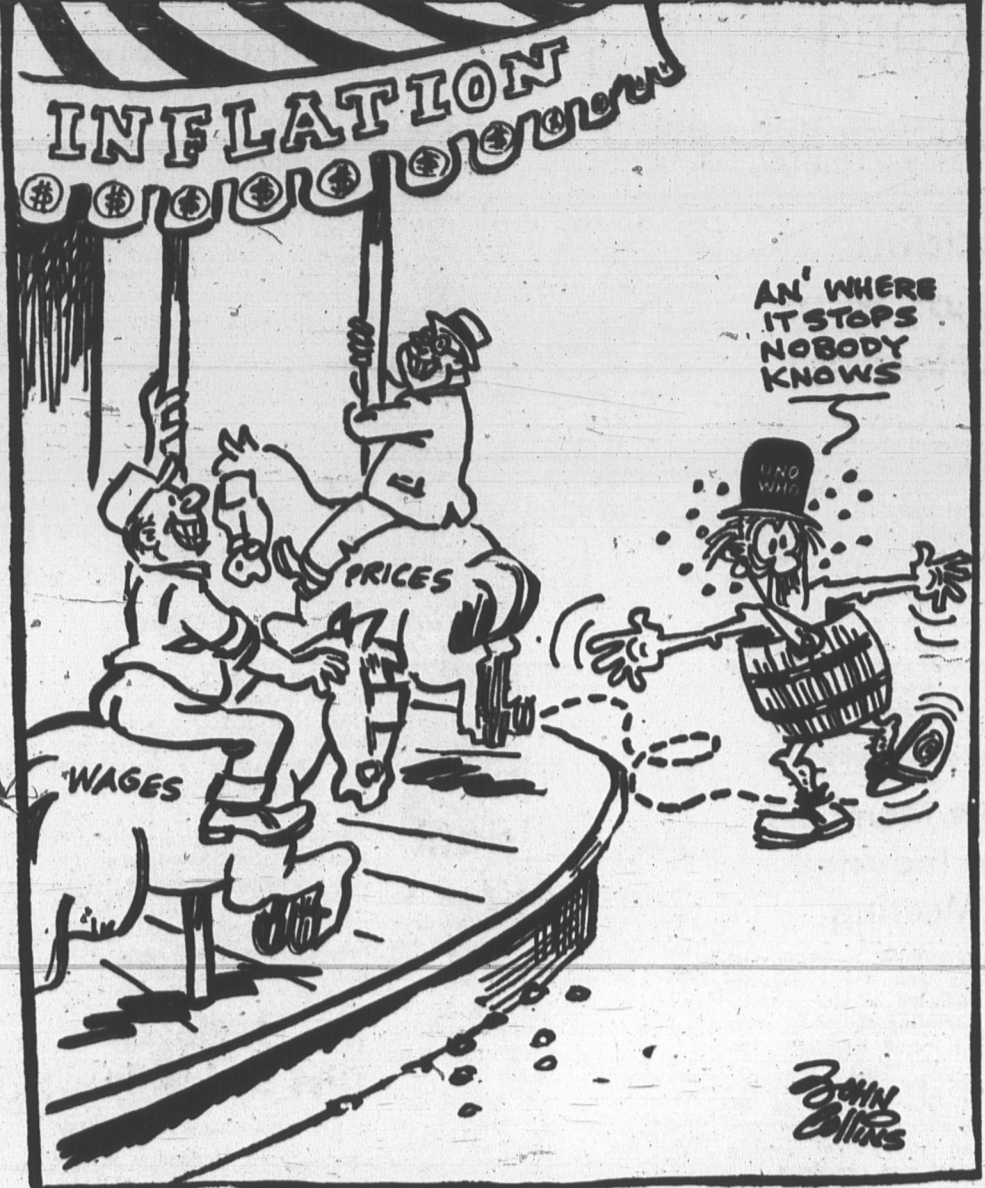
There is another side to the argument, of course, and it lies in the fact that it is becoming harder nowadays to buy food in small unpackaged quantities. The trend which has put so much food stuff into attractive packages has created more jobs and put more money in circulation, but that is small satisfaction to the shopper who can ill afford such luxuries and doesn't know how to avoid buying them.

Perhaps the parliamentary committee will come up with some helpful advice on this point, but it is doubtful. "Eliminating" packaging costs from the price index as the Bureau of Statistics conveniently does, isn't much of a solution.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A U.S. congressman, Samuel Stratton, has a bright idea for dealing with that recalcitrant fellow, the president of France. "If we stopped buying French wines, and bought New York State wines," he says, "de Gaulle would be on his knees, in a short time."

There are about 7 1/2 million licensed car drivers in Canada. Of them, more than a million got their permits without any form of test. This is the word from Philip J. Farmer, executive director of the Canadian Highway Safety Council. It should bestir the legislators of Canada's ten provinces into a reassessment of laws that permit such a dangerous situation to exist.



THE NOT SO MERRY GO ROUND

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Too Many Brass Hats Without Experience

Parliament Hill's number one topic today is neither the medicare postponement, nor the grocer's strike, nor even the Liberal and Conservative leadership crises. Despite the importance of these topics, anxiety in parliamentary circles is now primarily centred upon the future of Canada's defence forces.

Could Canada fight a war today? If we had to, our forces would almost certainly be pathetically ineffective, making disastrous mistakes and suffering appalling losses.

This must be the conclusion from the high proportion of inexperienced brass hats newly promoted to the top. On January 1st last year, Canada had 90 brass hats—the ranks of naval Commodore, army Brigadier, air force Air Commodore and above. Since that date, no less than 70 of those have resigned through disagreement with Defence Minister Hellyer's policies, or have been retired. More than half of these have left the services prematurely, even younger than the wastefully low compulsory retirement ages.

OUR GREEN BRASS Thus something like 85 per cent of our commanding brass today is new to his job, and much of it is totally inexperienced in fighting and in high level command. Yet while we have new brass hats as young as 40 years of age, we have battle-trained top brass hats as young as 40 rotting on pension.

These facts were elicited through questions asked in Parliament by former Defence Minister Douglas Harkness—a former colonel and winner of the George Medal for gallantry—and other MPs. At a lower echelon, where are our pilots? Defence Minister Hellyer had at his disposal 500 young Canadians newly trained and qualified as jet pilots, after a two-year course which is said to have cost the staggering sum of \$250,000 per pilot. That is 10 times what it costs to train a badly needed medical doctor. Yet these pilots were thrown out as redundant. Many of them took their expensively acquired skills to USA, where such a free bonanza was quickly snapped up to pilot civil airliners. And Canadian taxpayers are left to shoulder the bill for \$125,000,000 which their wasted training cost.

OUR YESTERDAYS (From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (October 21, 1941) Two more United States freighters have been sunk in the Atlantic Ocean and 28 of their crewmen are missing.

SUMMARY EXECUTION OF 50 French hostages was ordered by Gen. Otto Von Stuepnelager, German occupation commander in France, as a "preliminary measure" of reprisal for the killing of Col. Karl F. Holz, the Nazi commandant at Nantes.

TEN YEARS AGO (October 21, 1956) Polish Communists shook up the powerful, poliburo member, Konstantin Rokossovsky and the other Stalinhits and raising nationalist Wladyslaw Gomulka to leadership.

For Canada's unified defence force is C.C.C.—Canadian Cola Crusaders. But National Defence headquarters has on hand more than enough uniforms of the present designs to equip every NCO and below with two complete outfits. The inventory price of this stock is around \$7,000,000. Will this be another expense to the taxpayer which will be wasted through scrapping? While there was universal approval in parliament and in the services to the original step of

integration of command structure and elimination of the wasteful tri-service committee system, and cheers for the integration of common support services, such as the chaplains and medical services, etc., MPs are increasingly worried by the spectacle of a minister ignoring the considered advice of his senior professional advisers against unification. Can all those brass hats be wrong? And can the previously retired brass hats, who seem to be unanimously critical, also all be wrong?

Vows In The Void

Few brides are so blasé as not to be up in the air at their wedding, or few bridegrooms either. But it was a cool-headed pair of serialists who exchanged rings and vows in the void while dangling over the Western Fair ground at London below a helicopter in which a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Jonas Shepherd, played the role of sky pilot with the prayer book as his map.

But when Mr. Shepherd, in the church ceremony that followed said, "Ruthie, now that you have your feet on the ground, will you take this man..." he touched a point relevant in some of today's weddings. How many of our thousands of earthbound teen-age brides have their feet on the ground as to what they are getting into? How many know or care they are committing themselves, on a very limited experience of life and people, to a situation perhaps as risky, if at first as thrilling, as a trapeze act? Even with the best possible preparation and intentions, people who marry sign for a walk on a tightrope. How many fall off we roughly know. How many lurch and teeter through the course and wish they had kept their feet on the ground there is no way of knowing.

Measured By The Sun

Scientists estimate that every day Los Angeles pours more than 14,000 tons of pollutants into the air, above it. On the average, a man can live five weeks without food, five days without water—but only five minutes without air. In big cities like Los Angeles, the cleanliness of food and water is rigorously guarded, yet these enormous volumes of poison bleed out into the air.

On every square mile of New York City, about 70 tons of soot, dust and fly ash fall each month. This, however, is only a relatively harmless evidence of air pollution. The chief damage is done to human lungs by subtle fumes that often are neither seen nor smelled. North America's automobiles, for example, emit some 4,000 tons of lead particles (an ingredient of most gasolines) each year. Researchers have found that every human being tested has accumulations of lead in his body.

One of the most common and corrosive—air pollutants is sulphur dioxide (which New York releases at the rate of 1.5 million tons a year). Mixed with moisture from the air, it forms a powerful acid that eats into granite buildings and statues. What does it do to human lungs? Los Angeles is spending more money on anti-pollution research than any other city on the continent, yet the problem is far from solved. In Vancouver the problem, by comparison, is just beginning. But it is growing.

How many tons of dirt and poison enter Vancouver's air each day? How long will it be before BC has widespread and effective anti-pollution control?

How About Hitchcock?

In Hollywood a really big show is shaping up which has some of the best known big-name stars of screen and television literally lining up for bit parts. It was all started by former film actor Ronald Reagan running as Republican candidate for the governorship of California and his political backers discovering that he was the biggest crowd drawer the state had seen since the late John F. Kennedy stamped California in 1960.

And this is about where the Hollywood supporting cast decided to get busy. Recently a group of actors—including Gregory Peck, Gene Kelly and Kirk Douglas—started their own campaign to tell the public that Reagan is a nice fellow when he sticks to acting, but as a politician he is deluding himself.

Spearheading the incumbent Democratic Governor Pat Brown's move to neutralize his opponent's charm the group will make their political pitch by appearing on television to say something like this: "I'm an actor and proud of it. When I appear before the camera I always knew I was just playing a part. One of our colleagues seems to have lost touch with reality."

OUR YESTERDAYS

Also boosting Governor Brown will be Frank Sinatra, Henry Fonda, Dan Blocker and Robert Vaughn. However, Mr. Reagan will also have his own team of actor-backers, among them: John Wayne, James Cagney, Walter Pidgeon, Mary Pickford, Hoagy Carmichael, Fred MacMurray, Cesar Romero and Buddy Ebsen.

Whether it is a real sense of their responsibility as citizens which has drawn out these performers or whether the lure of playing in big houses is just too much for them to resist is not yet clear. However, one thing for certain is that they have introduced considerable glamor into American politics. And this is a move that Ottawa may well consider worth some study.

What a lift it would give Canadian politics if, say, Mr. Alfred Hitchcock could be prevailed upon to introduce a direct or next federal election. After all, he is especially well versed in horror and suspense.

Muscular Exhaustion

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Myasthenia Gravis is a baffling disease in which one or more muscles become exhausted and refuse to function after contracting for a brief period. The muscles of the eyelids, extremities, voice box, and swallowing mechanism are most likely to be affected.

Drinking of the eyelids occurs as soon as fatigue sets in and they cannot be opened until rested thoroughly. For a variable period thereafter the lids act normally until weakness recurs to start the cycle again. Weakness of the leg muscles has a somewhat similar effect upon walking, and if the arms are involved, they are useless when overwhelmed by tiredness.

Myasthenia gravis has all the earmarks of a neurological disturbance but the basic cause is chemical. Scientists have pinpointed the source of the trouble in the spots where nerves connect with muscles. Acetylcholine usually is present at these junctions and the release of the chemical acts as a spark between nerve stimulation and muscle contraction.

When acetylcholine is lacking or dissipates too rapidly, the nerve impulse cannot pass to the muscles. As a result, these structures are unable to contract. No one knows the reason for this abnormality but, with continued research, it is reasonable to assume that the mystery will be unfolded.

The symptoms of myasthenia gravis have been known to disappear for weeks or years, during which time the sufferer is in apparent good health. In others, the disease worsens gradually. This is another little understood fact that needs further investigation.

Various drugs have proved helpful in relieving symptoms but neostigmine is the most popular. The effects often are dramatic, changing a hopeless cripple to a productive worker. But the drug is not curative. Surgical removal of the thymus gland has helped some of the victims.

NO LONGER USED Mrs. R. writes: years ago, skin cancer used to be treated with pastes and salves. Is this done any more? REPLY Yes, but the method is not popular. In the past, when cure of skin cancer resulted from the use of irritating pastes or solutions, it was because the malignancy was burned out completely. This hit-or-miss method was discarded when better forms of therapy became available.

SUN ECLIPSE AND THE EYES S. Z. writes: Three years ago there was an eclipse of the sun. The newspapers said not to watch it as the rays could harm the eyes. Just what damage could be caused? REPLY Sun blindness caused by a burn. JOINING A HEALTH CLUB A. D. writes: I would like to know if I am too old to join a health club. I'm 64 and had an appendectomy in 1964 and hernia surgery the same year. I feel fine but was wondering if I would be all right. REPLY Yes, provided they have no rules excluding one of your age. MARRIAGE AND EPILEPSY A. S. W. writes: Is it safe for a person with controlled epilepsy to marry? REPLY Yes. When the spouse is not a carrier, the chance of passing on the condition to the offspring is slim. But if both husband and wife have epilepsy, the likelihood is much greater.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Old age is no bar to good health. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

EVADING QUESTION OTTAWA (CP)—External Affairs Minister Martin declined at a press conference Thursday to discuss a possible new job for Lionel Chevrier, Canadian high commissioner in London. There are reports Mr. Chevrier may be appointed Canada's official greeter at Expo 67.

Another Saigon Crisis

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer There has been much speculation that U.S. President Johnson's trip to the South Pacific and Far East—just a few weeks before the United States congressional elections—is the seed designed to produce a formidable new plan for a Viet Nam peace.

But as he moves deeper into his six-country tour, the tone of his speeches suggests he also is undertaking the role of travelling salesman, trying to increase world acceptance of his Viet Nam policies. With the important congressional elections Nov. 8, the timing would indicate that Johnson has calculated the drama of his tour would not be lost on the American electorate.

Whatever the reason and the intent, this certainly is a time for the Saigon administration to exude honey, harmony and brotherhood; to back up Johnson's determination to give the South Vietnamese protection so that they can shape their own destiny "free of aggression from without and terror from within."

SAME OLD STORY But instead of harmony, there is the sound of snarling diabolism. More successful was one General Jones of Bryn Mawr, Pa., who recently insisted that the application blank for his road fund license (automobile registration) be made available in Welsh. He won. Authorities have announced that Welsh language forms will be provided in the future.

Latest effort to burnish the honor of Wales comes now on the eve of Columbus Day, an American holiday. A Welsh-born journalist in London, R. I. Deacon, has written a book to prove a Welsh prince, Madoc, founded a colony in America 300 years before Columbus. Another good try, but it will not go uncontested. And it cannot be proved that either Columbus or the Vikings were Welshmen.

To Rival Rhodes?

Not often is money spent on education with the generosity, flair and thoughtfulness represented by the Centennial International Fellowships established by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The two-year scholarships recently announced by the bank will enable up to 14 recipients to acquire Master of Business Administration degrees from York University, Toronto. Nothing so remarkable there, perhaps. But what degrees they will be.

In between opening and closing terms at York, students will receive intensive courses at Oxford, Harvard and in Paris. They will meet business, industrial, and government leaders abroad. If all that wasn't enough, there will also be a six-week cross-country tour of Canada and, somewhere, a three-week vacation—in Canada or Europe, student's choice. The scholarship pays all tuition and travelling costs and provides \$6,000 for living expenses.

Who will now say that opportunity is lacking in Canada or that there are no worthwhile centennial projects? The bank hasn't said whether or not the scholarships will be offered beyond centennial year. We hope they are. There has been too much good planning put into this program to end after only one time round. These awards could rival the Rhodes scholarship in prestige and deeply influence business, industry and government in Canada.

The bank's initiative might also spur some other company to establish a similarly imaginative program directed at students specializing in the humanities. History, political science, languages and the other arts are too important to be left only to the Canada Council to support.

Help for the Heart. On-the-spot photos from Toronto's General Hospital accompany Staff Writer Bill Trent's feature on one of the most revolutionary developments in open-heart surgery—a new technique in which damaged heart valves are replaced with valves from the hearts of dead persons. Great Canadian Painting. In a century of nationhood, Canada has produced some fine artists. A new book, Great Canadian Painting, pays tribute to Canadian painters. Weekend Magazine is happy to present 3 pages of full-color reproductions from this latest publication by the Canadian Centennial Library. Concentrate on Cranberries. With their tart and unusual flavor and beautiful color, cranberries add a lot to any dish. Food Editor Margo Oliver features cocktails, pie and pudding among her Cranberry specials this week. STILL ONLY WEEKEND 10 Magazine and Coloured Comics