

Corvus Prince Edward Island Like the Dew
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Fearful Responsibility

The United States Congress has authorized over \$1 billion more than the President requested for defence appropriations, with the proviso that the extra money be spent on "conventional" weapons, as distinct from nuclear power.

This rather unusual step reflects a wide difference of opinion between the Administration and the Congress on the type of war which the United States might be forced to wage in the future. The Administration's thinking appears to be based on the supposition that war, if it comes, will be fought with nuclear weapons of all kinds. This, in turn, is based on the belief that the Soviet Union is vastly superior in conventional forces.

Of course, the policy of the United States and of the West in general, is to use nuclear power as a "deterrent" to war. That is all right as far as it goes. But, supposing it does not "deter", what then? The West, without superiority in conventional forces, would be powerless before Soviet might and be forced, in these circumstances, to resort to nuclear retaliation—a fearful and almost unimaginable decision.

Spring Potatoes

One disadvantage that potato growers in these parts have to put up with is the necessity for shipping the bulk of the harvest in the fall or early spring before softening and sprouting set in. This, of course, means market congestion with, usually, falling prices after a month or two. If shipments could be divided about equally between early fall and late spring, it is probable that prices would fluctuate far less than they do now.

A team of experts at the University of Maine in Orono have been trying to get over this difficulty. Last fall, a new type of sprout "inhibitor" was put on an experimental quantity of potatoes, after which they went into storage for nine months. In July there was not a sprout among them. When shipped to market, they were of as good quality as when they were dug.

This information is revealed in a semi-annual report of the Bangor and Aroostook Railway, which of course is interested in the potato business, since it provides much of its traffic.

Arithmetical Errors

An American organization, Opinion Research, has made a nationwide survey of what happens when a shop clerk figures a customer's bill on a slip of paper or a "brown paper bag" instead of by cash register. The findings show that mistakes in arithmetic cost the public "millions of dollars" annually. In most instances, however, the mistakes are genuine and not sly attempts on the part of the shopkeeper or his clerk to "make a fast buck".

This is the way the test went: "A customer makes a purchase costing \$1.39 and hands over a 5 dollar bill. How much change should you give the customer?" Two out of

every five clerks came up with a different answer.

The survey showed that the bigger the bill the more likely it is to be computed wrongly. In totaling 5 items, few errors were made. But 3 out of 10 "flunked" when confronted with a list of 15 items.

The moral, of course—if there be one—is that a shopkeeper who does his figuring without benefit of automatic devices should not be offended when the customer asks to have a look at the bill. He—or she—might be doing the shopkeeper a good turn, since as likely as not he is defrauding himself. We should add that this survey was sponsored by the National Cash Register Co., whose business it is to sell cash registers. That, however, does not detract from the value of the findings.

We should add, too, that the survey was conducted among American shopkeepers. It is possible that their Canadian counterparts are more accurate. On the other hand, of course, they may be less so. It will take another survey to determine that.

The American Side

So much has been said and written about United States' allegedly unfair trade practices as they apply to Canada that anything that can be said for the other side of the controversy deserves equal consideration.

In an address before the American Club in Toronto a few days ago, Lording K. Macy, director of the United States Bureau of Foreign Commerce, declared that his country is "steadily lowering its barriers to trade. The long term trend has been strongly in the direction of a more liberal customs regime."

Mr. Macy cited specific instances of the preference shown this country by the United States in trade matters: The average ad valorem rate on dutiable imports from Canada is only 6 per cent. Since 1950 President Eisenhower has granted only 10 of 87 applications for relief under the escape clause in the Trade Agreements Act; and in only one case, involving alsike clover seed, was Canada affected. The President rejected a bid to put quota barriers and higher duties on Canadian fish fillets and recently refused to increase tariffs on lead and zinc. In the view of the United States Government, import limitations on oil have not done any harm to Canada. In this field, long-term prospects are encouraging for an increase in the U.S. market.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister Diefenbaker has predicted "vast changes" in Ottawa in the next nine years. It isn't likely, though, that he includes a change from Conservative to Liberal rule.

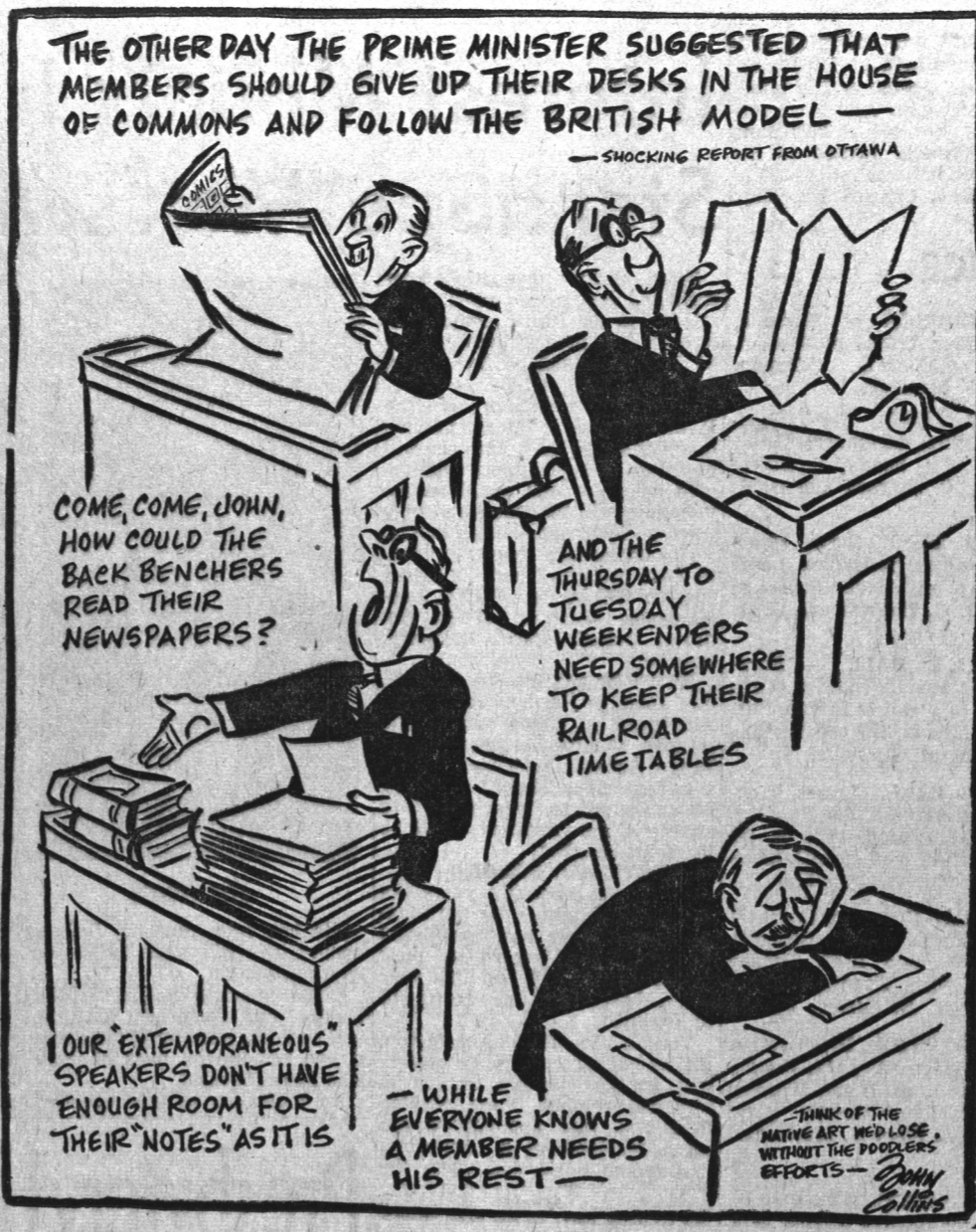
What is the latest style in churches? Well, one has been built in Plymouth, Eng., with a covered drive-in for cars and under the floor wiring to heat it.

Further racial troubles can be expected in various Southern States this fall, following an Appeal Court's ruling that integration at Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, must not be delayed. Virginia is even considering closing all public schools rather than accept integration.

A new political party—the Civic Action League—has been formed in Quebec. So long as it confines its campaign to provincial politics, no one on the outside will complain. There is no place for it, however, in the Federal field where there are too many parties already.

Once again India has supported the Soviet bloc in the U.N. Geneva Assembly. This time the Indian delegation has repeated Russian argument that the first need in the Middle East is the withdrawal of American and British troops and that the U.S. and Britain want the U.N. to protect their "imperialistic interests" in the area. How much longer can the fiction of India's adherence to free world policies be sustained?

So far this year six tuna have been landed by sportsmen in the Conception Bay waters of Newfoundland, while only one has been seen at Wedgeport, N.S.; and that one got away. Newfoundlanders are already suggesting that the international tournament be moved to Conception Bay. Their argument that there is no point in holding it at Wedgeport if the tuna have deserted that area seems unanswerable—except, of course, by the citizens of Wedgeport.



AN M. P.'S DESK IS HIS CASTLE

OTTAWA REPORT

Riding The Gray Train

By Patrick Nicholson
Special Correspondent for The Guardian

Ottawa: When a government is spending five billion dollars a year, some elements of the population of course try to ride that rich gray train.

In past years, rumours have repeatedly been heard here of large and small scale corruption. Subsidies to shipping lines and contracts to dredging companies, for example, have been reported as unwarrantably high, with the suggestion that the beneficiaries were financial supporters of the government in power.

There is a red hot story now of the government of one of our eastern provinces making a private deal for a kick-back with a private enterpriser interested in that province's natural resources. That government is not said to be smarting under a double-cross by the developer who has reneged on the legally unenforceable kick-back.

There have been, and still are, stories of large sums of money being made out of human suffering; of politicians receiving black market payments for assisting in the provision of rights provided under our laws, such as divorce bills and immigration permits.

But throughout all this suspicion of graft, there has always run one ray of faith. That was the system of the contract awarded by open tender. It had always been assumed that the award of any government contract

to the lowest tenderer was the one sure way of obtaining economic efficiency in the spending of the taxpayers' money by the government.

But the famous Printing Bureau scandal has shattered that faith.

The excavation of the building site was tendered for by nine companies. This information was given to the Parliamentary committee examining this now widely-discussed case. These companies were in Ottawa, Hull, and as far away as Montreal and Niagara Falls. Prices submitted ranged from \$65,000 to \$140,725 for the job.

The low tenderer was Miron and Freres of Montreal. But the committee heard that they were paid, not the \$55,000 which they tendered, but \$238,685, or more than four times the amount of their tender.

This enormous increase came from hiring them to continue excavation beyond that originally specified. And this subsequent work was granted to the contractor without tenders being called, or any comparative prices being sought.

On the initial tender, Miron and Freres undertook to excavate 110,000 cubic yards at 50 cents per cubic yard. On the extra work, they excavated a further 105,011 cubic yards, or slightly less than the initial volume, but were paid more than three times as much, namely \$175,685. The price per cubic yard on this additional work was not as originally 50

cents, but \$1.50 and even \$2 for routine digging. Rock was at course priced at a higher figure.

DEPUTY NONPLUSED

"I find it difficult to find a reason for that change of price," General H.A. Young, the deputy minister of Public Works, told the committee.

This much higher price was not justified by rising costs, for the excavation was carried out continuously. It was negotiated apparently between the then Minister of Public Works, Mr. (now Judge) Alphonse Fournier, who was also the Liberal M.P. for the constituency where the new Printing Bureau was being built, and the contractor.

"Now is that what you call snow-balling a contract?" asked Conservative committeeman David Walker.

"I have a stronger term for it than that," interposed N.L. Spencer, M.P. for Windsor, Ont.

Thus the low tenderer was permitted to quadruple his bid for additional work, without the other tenderers being permitted to bid competitively. This revelation has completely undermined faith in the system of open tender. It raises the suspicion that in such cases a contractor friendly to the government might be told to bid low to get the contract, with the assurance that he will later obtain additional work at ridiculously increased prices without competitive bids against him.

This would enable him to make a financial killing; it could be that it would also enable him to make handsome contributions to the campaign funds of the party or individual thus helping him. Is this snowballing a contract? or feathering whose nest?

countries have tended to reject suggestions for concerted defence partly from a determination to remain neutral, partly because every defence plan appeared to them an attempt to re-establish outmoded controls.

"They may regard a 'standby' force as just such another outmoded control; they may even begin, if the United Nations looks favorably on the plan, to entertain suspicions of the organization's neutrality."

Who Are The Arabs?

National Geographic Society

In popular fancy, the Arabs are sloe-eyed nomads of the Arabian deserts. In fact, however, only a minority would fit that description today.

The Arabs are those people of many lands whose first language is Arabic. Their common language unites people who are vastly different in other ways. The Arabs include in their number both blond Presbyterian shopkeepers in Beirut and dark-skinned Moslem herdsmen in the Sudan.

In addition to the language they share most Arabs are united by their faith in God as revealed by the prophet Mohammed. In many cases, they are also bound by ties of customs, blood, and historical alliances that reach over many political frontiers, the National Geographic Society says.

DESPITE RIVALRIES
The common language and culture give the Arabs considerable cohesion in facing the non-Arab world, despite their many rivalries. An old Arab proverb says, "My brother and I will fight my cousin—my cousin and I will fight the foreigner."

Much is heard of the Arabs today, but 13 centuries ago they were a little known people. Tribesmen of the Arabian wastes, they lived in the backwaters of civilization, Judaism and Christianity had filtered through to them, but many were still staunch pagans.

In the 7th century, A.D., Mohammed, a resident of Mecca in what now is Saudi Arabia, heard a voice speaking to him as he meditated in a cave. This voice, identified as the angel Gabriel, was a sign to Mohammed that he was to give mankind a new revelation of God.

Mohammed disclosed his calling to his relatives and friends, and began urging submission (Islam, in Arabic) to the will of God. At first he attracted few disciples, but after leaving Mecca for Medina, he rose swiftly to power. Before he died he left a large number of revelations, which we collected to form the Koran.

With the faith preached by Mohammed, the Arabs forgot their internal quarrels and embarked on a path of conquest almost unrivaled in history. In a few score years, the Arab armies swept westward across North Africa, turned into Spain, and pushed into southern France. In the east, they overran vast territories as far as China. They Arabized huge areas from Iraq to Morocco and from Palestine to the Sudan.

As scholars replaced soldiers in the great empire built by the Arabs, Moslems of many backgrounds became the leading savants of mathematics, astronomy, geography, and medicine. Moslem scholars also preserved the writings of the Greeks that were later to stimulate the minds of Europeans emerging from the Dark Ages.

As the centuries passed, however, the great empire built by the Arabs fell into decay amid religious splits, dynastic quarrels and general corruption. Today little is left of the glories of the empire, except such structures as the Alhambra of Granada, Spain. The Ottoman Turks, whom the Arabs had converted to Islam, rose to power over the Arabs themselves, but their empire, too, declined in the late 19th century, and the Western powers moved into the Near East.

Diet May Have Cancer Bearing

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

A confirmed cigaret smoker asked me recently whether researchers ever considered the possibility that some foods might be a contributing factor in various types of cancer.

Of course they might have. As a matter of fact, there has been a good deal of investigation of diet relation to causative factors in cancer.

DIET STUDIED

Every time it is noted that the population of a particular area has either an unusually high or low rate of cancer, studies are immediately begun into the city diet of the people. Food preparation also is investigated.

And a high or low incidence of cancer is a specific age of group, sex, or race generally touches off similar inquiries.

The researchers, after studying all their data, decided that possibly a higher degree of chronic irritation of the mucous membranes of the stomach might account for the higher incidence of stomach cancer among the Dutch.

RACIAL DIFFERENCE

Cancer of the stomach occurs more than twice as frequently among the Dutch as among the English. A study of the dietary habits of patients in Dutch and English hospitals determined that the main dietetic differences were that the Dutch ate more vegetables, cheese and bread, especially rye bread, than the British. The English, however, ate more meat.

More of the Dutch patients preferred spiced food and food and drink at higher temperatures. The Dutch also drank more alcohol and used more tobacco.

CHRONIC IRRITATION

The researchers, after studying all their data, decided that possibly a higher degree of chronic irritation of the mucous membranes of the stomach might account for the higher incidence of stomach cancer among the Dutch.

Closer to home, a butter yellow dye was discovered to possess carcinogenic properties. It also was found to be toxic. It has not been used in the country for many years.

Research also indicates that there is a definite relationship between Vitamin B deficiencies and development of pre-cancerous conditions.

So you see, we have considered the possible connections between food and cancer, but as yet we haven't come up with any really startling discovery.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

B.T.: My skin is extremely thick and rough and scaly. What is the cause of this?

Answer: You are probably suffering from ichthyosis. This disorder is usually present at birth, and heredity seems to have some bearing on the cause of the disease.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(August 22, 1933)

A resolution urging that no investigation of the Royal Commission on banking would be complete without a sitting in Prince Edward Island was drafted at a meeting held in the Confederation Chamber last evening and will be forwarded by the Provincial Government to the Chairman of the Commission. The resolution points out that there are rural problems of a special nature here which require investigation by the Commission.

TEN YEARS AGO

(August 22, 1948)
Mayor B. Earle MacDonald last night extended on behalf of the citizens of Charlottetown a cordial welcome to members of the Florist Telegraph Delivery Association who arrived in the city last evening on the eve of the opening of a two-day school of floral art. The school, which is being held at the Charlottetown, is under the direction of Mr. Eugent Dandelin of Chicago.

John P. Nicholson, LL.B., was called as an attorney and admitted to the bar yesterday morning at a special sitting of the Supreme Court before Mr. Justice G.J. Tweedy. The motion to admit Mr. Nicholson as a member of the Bar was made by Attorney General F.A. Lange.

SPY FLEES SWEDISH JAIL

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Turkish-Armenian engineer serving 10 years for spying for Russia escaped Tuesday from Stockholm's Langholmen Prison. Police believe Bedros Zartaryan 33 hid in one of several hampers of dirty laundry which were taken out of the prison. A countrywide alarm was sent out. Zartaryan tried to escape last September but a guard caught him.

The Age Old Story

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

helped awaken the Arabs from their slumbers. Their population skyrocketed with new medicine and sanitation. The formation of the State of Israel in their midst jolted them further, and the Arabs have since moved toward regaining the unity they lost many Centuries ago.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It's too bad pedestrians cannot be like Australian Kangaroos which have been known to clear 30 feet in one leap.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

To anyone who has ever escorted three children through a major art museum, "Exit" is the loveliest word in the language.—Hamilton Spectator

Learning the hard way was the case with Archie Enzier, 45 of Spokane, Wash., who held a paint spray gun to his ear to try and hear if it was working. It was, and a hospital steward and a doctor took turns cleaning the fluid from his ear. How stupid can you get.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

One of the major problems of large, congested cities at present is the exhaust from motor vehicles. Los Angeles experts, for instance, attribute much of the smoke difficulties there to the fact that one-seventh of the gasoline poured into a car's tank issues unburned from the exhaust pipe along with the gases of combustion.—Galt Reporter

According to a compilation made in Washington by a research organization, the Canadian population, at present some 17,000,000 souls, is growing at a faster rate thanks both to its high birthrate and to immigration. Canadians will reach the number of 54,000,000 by the year 2000 if the expansion of today is maintained, the agency states.—Presse, Montreal

Bilingual tradition was shaken gently when Senator James Gladstone was permitted to speak in Blackfoot in the Red Chamber. It's a different thing from that incident some years ago when the late Hon. Ian MacKenzie was not allowed to speak in Gaelic—after all, Blackfoot was the original language of at least part of Canada before French or English stepped to the shores of the St. Lawrence.—Ottawa Journal

It is illegal to sell, buy, or have tickets in your possession on the Irish sweepstakes. If you are caught you will pay a fine or go to jail. If you have a ticket which the law doesn't know anything about and it proves to be a winning number, then the story is different. You receive widespread publicity and are honored.—Port Arthur News Chronicle

MAXIMS

There are far better places than a train for talk, but few places are a train's equal for reading.

ILLUSTRATION STATION FIELD DAYS

The Dominion Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, will hold Illustration Station Field Days on the following dates—rain or shine.

Farm of Robert Woodside & Son, O'Leary, August 25 at 2:00 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Harry Cudmore; S. C. Wright; R. C. Parent; Stewart P. Eagles.

Farm of Hugh J. MacDonald, Monticello, August 26 at 2:00 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Harry Cudmore; S. C. Wright; R. C. Parent; Stewart P. Eagles.

A tour will be made of the Illustration Station fields and various varieties of oats and barley under test will be observed and discussed. Fertilized pastures, fertilized grain plots, chemical weed control plots and regular field crops will be observed.

The experimental work active on the Illustration Station will be reviewed and discussed by W. N. Black. Take this as an opportunity to meet your neighbours, to converse with departmental representatives and view the work that is in progress.

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173 Great George St. Ed's Slogan: "To maintain the goodwill of those whom we serve — the goal for which we strive!"

Husband: "What is it doing in the car. Have you been again with that fellow who sells cosmetics?"—Ottawa Journal

President Eisenhower, pointing the trouble area in the Arab world, used the term "Near East" throughout his UN General Assembly speech. A common diplomatic usage for the region occupied by the Arabs is "Middle East." In the reckoning of some geographers, this is a vast area extending from Greece and Iran to Pakistan. These geographers generally refer to the Near East as a smaller area usually including Cyprus, Turkey, Egypt and the Arab states east of Suez. But in the Arab world people have come to think of the whole area as the Middle East. It came within British Middle East command in the Second World War.—Associated Press

Whose passions not his masters are. Whose soul is still prepared for death. Not tied unto the world with care Of public fame, or private breath. Who hath his life from rumour free, Whose conscience is his strong retreat; Whose state care neither flatters nor ruin make accusers great.—SIR HENRY WOTTON

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The Poets Corner

A HAP-Y LIFE
How happy is he born and taught That serveth not another's will; Whose armor is his honest truth; And simple truth his utmost skill.

Whose passions not his masters are. Whose soul is still prepared for death. Not tied unto the world with care Of public fame, or private breath. Who hath his life from rumour free, Whose conscience is his strong retreat; Whose state care neither flatters nor ruin make accusers great.—SIR HENRY WOTTON