

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew... Wallace Ward... Frank Walker... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.

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Obnoxious Taxation

According to an Ottawa dispatch in the Financial Times of Canada, the strongest single pressure on Finance Minister Sharp as he prepares his first budget is to drop the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials and production machinery.

Building materials and machinery were originally exempt from the tax, and removal of the exemption was one of the more unpopular moves in the generally unpopular budget of former Finance Minister Gordon in June, 1963.

It has been argued that this is not the time to restore the exemptions, particularly on building materials where it might accelerate inflationary pressures. But experience of the last two years has indicated that this will not be a problem.

This tax was Mr. Gordon's pet scheme and, like some of his other bright ideas, it miscarried. There is no doubt that it affected the government adversely in the federal election of last November.

In any case, it won't be too long now before we shall know. In reply to a recent question in the House, Mr. Sharp said he expected that his budget would be brought down "earlier rather than later."

Quebec's Objection

Ottawa's manpower policy is said to be jeopardized by the insistence of Quebec's labor minister, Carrier-Fortin, that the provinces should run their own labor programs instead of relying on the National Employment Service.

One can see the need for a unified policy in this regard. But before dismissing Mr. Fortin's objection, it is well to understand the harsh fact on which it is based.

unemployment than most sections of Canada. This means, in the Quebec minister's words, that "if a special manpower policy for Quebec is not formulated we incur the risk that technical training programs under federal-provincial agreements will tend to drain our province's stock of skilled workers."

In its second annual review, issued last December, the Economic Council of Canada had something to say about this problem as it affects the Maritimes particularly. It noted that economic conditions in this area have been reflected in high and sustained rates of out-migration of people from the area and in a rate of growth of employment slower than the rest of Canada.

This involved, among other things, the making available "of 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."

So long as this "vicious circle" exists, how can the encouragement of "manpower mobility" succeed as a national policy? How, indeed, can it work but to the detriment of areas already plagued by the "out-migration" of its people to more prosperous areas? Surely this is a matter of concern, and not to Quebec only.

Over In Britain

Commentators are in agreement that in the British general election which has been called for March 31, the campaign will centre not so much on Britain's foreign involvements as on domestic issues. The platform Mr. Wilson intends to fight on is one of "economic and social advance."

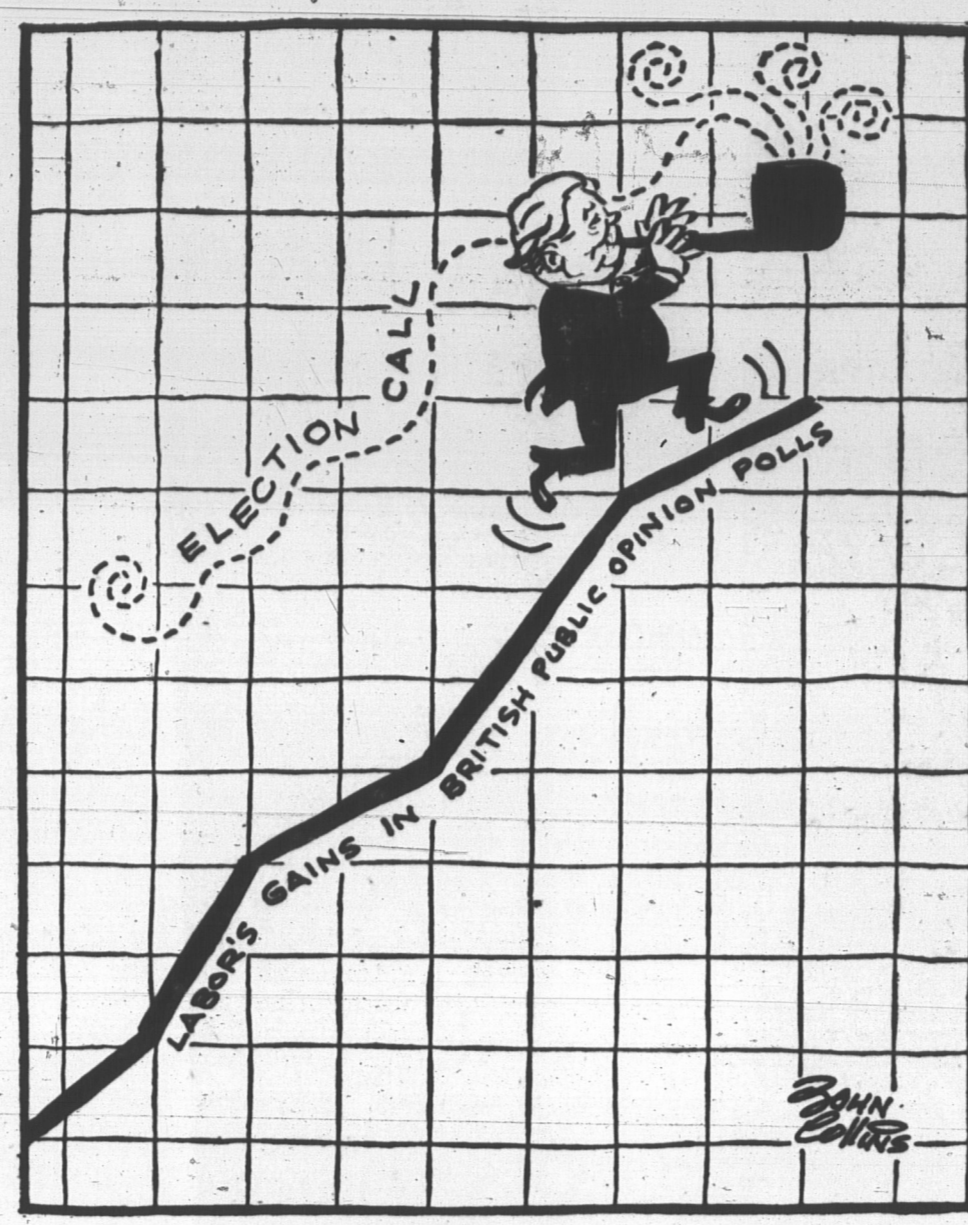
Labor, he declares, has already done more in 500 days of office than the Conservatives did in 5,000 days, even with the tiniest of majorities. "The national plan is not an arbitrary act of government imposed on people but a great and historical exercise in government by consent," he recently told an audience at Carlisle.

Under Mr. Heath the Conservatives will doubtless plug the theme that Labor's national plan is, in Mr. Heath's words, "totally unrealistic." It has had, and the Tories will say can have, no impact on Britain's actual economic problems.

The Liberals under Jo Grimond have joined in this refrain. Of the Prime Minister Mr. Grimond recently remarked: "He has decided to call an election because he has run out of paper." This is a reference to the spate of bills, white papers, speeches, inquiries, and on to that Mr. Wilson has produced, without yet much impact on Britain's economic problems.

But Mr. Grimond's party runs a serious risk of going under for good this time. The Liberals in the recent past have enjoyed the support of 3,000,000 votes, even though these have given them only 10 seats. Polls now suggest that a major part of their electorate support has gone down the drain.

Water pollution has become a problem in Russia as elsewhere, and they're taking stiff steps to handle it. Six officials of a chemical plant presently are on trial for polluting the Volga river, famed for its sturgeon which produce caviar, an important source of foreign exchange.



THE PIED PIPER

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Marked Increase In Books By Canadians

Recently there has been a welcome increase in books written by Canadians about our politics and politicians. These range from considered history, based on laborious and scholarly research, to instant reportage rewriting the current newspaper headlines.

Heath Macquarrie, MP from P.E.I., wrote the historical survey "The Conservative Party" published by McClelland and Stewart at \$4.50 in cloth and \$2.95 paperback. Its sales in Canada perhaps approached 3,000 copies in its first year.

Overshadowing these political books was Pierre Berton's view of religion, "The Comfortable Pew" which has sold 135,000 copies—largely in paperback; probably an easy record for a Canadian book. It will be soon published also in Britain.

LOW HOURLY WAGE RATE Professor Frank Underhill's "In Search of Canadian Liberalism", published by Macmillan in 1960 at \$5, for instance had two printings totalling 4,150 copies. If those were all sold, and if the author's royalty was at the normal scale of ten per cent of the retail price, his reward would have been a mere \$2,075.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

REVEALING PICTURES

Sir,—Friday's Guardian carried a picture of a howitzer, 155 to cost "about \$40,000,000. Forty million! And we can't get money to build schools adequate for the education of our children? Isn't it time we were asking, 'What's wrong with the picture?' Or isn't this supposed to be a Christian nation?"

Then, on the same page is a photo subtitled "Blindman's Bluff in Viet Nam". Captive prisoners! What happened to the "recruitment" slogan of our yesterday's: "A war to end wars?" Now, presumably, it's "a war to end Communism."

Who's kidding whom? Isn't it time we stopped playing marbles and grew up? I suggest that before we so supinely accede to such nonsense, we form an "Island Taxpayers Association" through which, at least, we may seek to determine how and where such money is to be spent.

I am, Sir, etc. H. LINCOLN MacKENZIE Cardigan, R.R. 1

AIR SAFETY PROBLEM

As reduced airplane fares and jet speeds make air travel constantly more popular, the problem of assuring safety in crowded skies is becoming increasingly acute. The hazards implicit in this situation were dramatically demonstrated by the recent collision of two planes flying near New York.

Now the Air Line Pilots Association has sounded an urgent warning that the changes in rules governing trans-Atlantic flights increases the risk of similar tragic accidents over the ocean. At issue here is the order narrowing the corridors for planes flying the Atlantic at altitudes above 29,000 feet from the former 120 nautical miles to 90 nautical miles.

KING-SIZE VEGETATION

Certain species of animals, lizards, and insects never leave the dark forest floor. In the upper reaches of the trees, tall-swinging monkeys, squirrels, tree frogs, and certain salamanders make up a separate colony. Rain forests yield important resources, from timber and rattan to resin, gum, cellulose, and camphor. Yet no one can really estimate the full wealth of a typical rain forest, because only a few plant species have been studied with a view to commercial use.

Most, but not all, rain forests lie along the Equator. The most luxuriant temperate-zone rain forest in North America blankets the western slopes of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. "Twelve feet of rain a year, dropped by moist Pacific winds, have spawned the world's biggest species of spruce, cedar, and hemlock, as well as a profusion of maples, ferns, and lichens.

Dampness defies fire so well that the forest has stood relatively undisturbed for centuries. The creative and destructive processes remain in balance. "When a giant tree crashes to earth, a hundred young seedlings now stimulated by the strong light leap up to fill the spaces," observed National Geographic senior natural scientist Paul A. Zahl. "Only one or two will win the solar prize; the others die or remain stunted as the hole of light is slowly filled in."

Advancing at the rate of nearly 50 miles a day, British forces which invaded Ethiopia from the southwest had occupied the town of Gobre-Darra on the vast arid Ogaden plateau.

OUR YESTERDAYS

German raiders smashed twice at London and sent bombers roaring over Britain in a spurt of widespread raiding such as Britons had not seen in weeks. Advancing at the rate of nearly 50 miles a day, British forces which invaded Ethiopia from the southwest had occupied the town of Gobre-Darra on the vast arid Ogaden plateau.

OUR YESTERDAYS

It was announced that Dr. Sidney Smith, president of the University of Toronto and president of the Association of Canadian Clubs, would address a dinner meeting of the Canadian Club of P.E.I. at the Charlottetown Hotel on March 12.

Don't Swap Cosmetics

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Trachoma (granular eye) is the world's leading cause of blindness. It is not common in this country except among Indians and Mexicans in the southwest. A San Jose, Cal., epidemic was reported recently among school girls who shared a mascara pencil. No permanent eye damage occurred because the condition was recognized early and treated promptly.

The outbreak involved more than 100 high school students who swapped eyeliner pencils. There was some speculation that they also borrowed other cosmetics and perhaps combs and hairbrushes. At any rate, the condition is highly contagious and easily transmitted by those who borrow or lend personal items.

Trachoma is a virus infection of the external lining membrane of the eyeball and inner margin of the eyelid. The disease is indistinguishable in the early stages from an ordinary eye infection (conjunctivitis) in which the membranes are red along with watering, burning, and itching. The victim may believe that something is in the eye. As it progresses, the conjunctiva becomes more swollen and reddened and the lids thicken due to scarring.

The granular appearance stems from the pebble-like follicles dotting the surface. If the disease advances, blindness ensues. Furthermore, the scars in and about the edge encourage ingrown lashes which augment irritation.

The sulfonamides are more or less specific remedies. Antibiotics such as aureomycin, terramycin, and penicillin also are helpful. Trachoma is not hereditary but it is a family (and now a high school) disease because the organisms are transferable through the common use of towels and washcloths. The more unsanitary and crowded the household, the more prevalent the infection. Let us be thankful we live in America because in some parts of the world 90 per cent of the population are affected.

BULGING AREAS

R. M. B. writes: How and why does a diverticulum in the bowel grow? These tiny pockets usually develop in areas of the bowel where the wall is weakest, particularly where blood vessels pierce the wall. The bulge is slight at first but as the years pass it increases in size because of pressure from within.

Mrs. A. K. writes: I'm on a slimming diet but would like more information on the subject of reducing. Do you have such a leaflet?

Yes. ASTHMA AND THE HEART N. B. writes: Could bronchial asthma cause heart trouble?

Yes. The right side of the heart is affected in asthma because it is called upon to pump blood against resistance produced by scar tissue within the lung.

Mrs. A. Z. writes: What is meant by shreds in the urine?

Debris and pieces of infected material sloughed off from inflammatory areas along the urinary tract.

Mrs. M. writes: Would vitamin B12 help arthritis?

No. It is of value principally in pernicious anemia.

Mittens are warmer than finger gloves.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

It's not so much that people lack imagination, but that they imagine the wrong things. — Ottawa Journal.

Another dangerous combination: A teenage driver with a tiger in his tank and bats in his belfry. — Chatham Daily News.

"What size bank is the one you work in?" "Well, it takes a good story two weeks to get from the president back to the president." — Galt Reporter.

Lady (at party) — "Where is that pretty maid who was passing out cocktails a while ago?" Hostess — "Oh, are you looking for a drink?" Lady — "No, I'm looking for my husband." — Montreal Star.

A newspaper in Texas points out that most people who favor birth control already have been born. Without passing on the cogency of the argument here and now, we gladly schedule it for future debate. — St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A telephone is an instrument that rings when the only person at home is taking a bath. — Elkhorn Independent.

"I can't think why they make so much fuss about Miss Smith's voice. Miss Jones has a much richer voice." "Yes, but Miss Smith has a much richer father." — Toronto Star.

Young M.D. — "Well, Dad, now that I'm hanging out my shingle, can't you give me some rules for success?" Father M.D. — "Always write your prescriptions illegibly and your bills very plainly." — Vancouver Sun.

People under 21 are called junior citizens, and folk over 65 senior citizens. What are the rest of us, intermediates? — Hamilton Spectator.

"Tell me, my dear, how do you manage to get the maid up so early in the morning?" "It was rather clever of me. I introduced her to the milkman." — Montreal Star.

Banking Primer For MPs

The Bank of Western Canada provides a primary class on high finance for the benefit of MPs. The Commons Finance Committee has been given the bill to incorporate the new bank for study and report. This examination precedes future examination of a bill to set up the Bank of British Columbia. Beyond that lies examination of revisions of the Bank Act which are expected to be substantial.

The committee in this opening phase has benefited from the presence of Mr. James E. Coyne former Governor of the Bank of Canada who will be a director of the Bank of Western Canada. With Mr. Coyne as a witness the committee's chairman, Mr. H. E. Gray, MP, had difficulty keeping members to questions on the bill before them. The members were eager to explore the wide prairie of banking generally, and a former governor of the central bank is an expert guide.

Mr. Coyne was convinced there was room for more than eight chartered banks in Canada and that added competition would be beneficial. He was led into discussion on what banks could loan from their resources, the desirability of new banks with headquarters outside Toronto and Montreal, the protection given depositors by federal bank inspections and the Bank of Canada relationship to the private banks.

This provided useful instruction for the later study of the Bank Act changes which will set a pattern for 10 years. Meantime, the Bank of Western Canada organizers could be forgiven impatience. They announced their intention to proceed two years ago but the deliberate ways of Parliament, and the general election, have made it impossible for them to get to business.

It is an attractive business. In that two years, the committee learned from one of the new bank organizers, Mr. Sinclair Stevens of Toronto, the eight existing banks have opened 277 further branches and increased their assets by \$3.8 billion!

British Practise Cited

The recent suggestion by Attorney-General Arthur Wishart that Ontario may adopt the British practice of allowing a doctor to administer a blood transfusion on his own initiative to a child without recourse to the courts when a parent objects is well worth further study.

The example that always springs to mind in cases like this is that of parents who are members of the Jehovah's Witness sect denying blood transfusions to their offspring. Adults are fully entitled to refuse treatment, but most Canadians are repelled at the possibility of a child being denied the benefit of qualified medical care at the behest of any other person even a parent.

The present system, which forces the medical profession and such official groups as the Children's Aid Society to seek a court order, is time wasting and itself legally unsound. A recent case indicated that time should be allowed for an appeal against the original court order and in this process precious hours or even days could be lost.

In Britain, according to Mr. Wishart, hospitals have been told to use their own judgment in these cases. We don't know whether that works in Britain, but as far as Ontario is concerned simple declarations, and probably even passage of legislation, won't suffice. The beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses are deeply held and they will use every legal means to fight for them. They are certainly entitled to no less.

By the same token, however, it is manifestly unfair to place the medical profession, either by provincial declaration or legislation, in a position that may be legally unsound. Unless the provincial government tests its position in the courts itself, it will be using individual doctors as guinea pigs. If a doctor administers a transfusion to a child over parental protest he will probably be sued for his trouble.

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