The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Justifiable Concern

It is reassuring to note that, so far as the provincial health authorities are aware, there are no cases of the use of thalidomide, the child-deforming drug, in this Province. It is a problem in other parts of Canada, however. Reporting on the federal-provincial conference at Ottawa last week on this matter, Health Minister Henry Wedge expressed satisfaction at the agreement reached on assistance to children born with abnormal physical defects attributed to the use of this drug, which should never have been permitted to go on the market.

Some idea of what happened in the United States, in the way of pressure on Dr. Frances Kelsey and her superiors to get Food and Drug Administration approval for the sale of thalidomide, has been placed on the Congressional Record by Senator Kefauver, Democratic member for Tennessee, in a statement which carries its own shocking moral.

The application for federal approval of this drug was filed in September, 1960, by an American drug firm. Two months later the firm was told that evidence of the drug's safety was incomplete. By the end of December a phone call to Dr. Kelsey "expressed the applicant's hurry to prepare for marketing the drug." A month later a call to Dr. Ralph Smith, head of the new drug division, informed him that the firm was getting impatient.

The Food and Drug Organization had already learned of thalidomide's reported "neurological toxicity," but not of any definite connection with infant deformities. But they stood firm, and the pressure on them was stepped up.

The exchanges went on for another year, sometimes five or six a month. The firm kept minimizing the dangers. Dr. Kelsey and her superiors kept insisting that immediate release of the drug was not justified in view of increasing suspicions about its side effects. It was to them, and them alone, that the nation owed the escape it had from the disastrous effects experienced in other countries.

There is a strong agitation now for tightened controls on the use of new drugs and greater recognition by all pharmaceutical firms of an overriding moral responsibilty to patients, doctors and the public. This has resulted in the passing, by the Senate judicial committee on Monday, of President Kennedy's proposals for revision of existing legislation. It is to be hoped that in every country concerned there will be a stern reassessment of the situation.

Quality And Quantity

To cope with the pressure on university accommodation, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation has recommended that the Federal Government provide $300 million in the next few years. Before the public picks up such a large bill, suggests the Globe and Mail, it had better take a hard look at what it is likely to get for its money. This is not said by way of denying the need to provide the very best educational opportunity for young Canadians, but of emphasizing another need which tends to become overlooked—namely, of avoiding having our educational system geared to mediocrity.

Wherever we draw the line in providing university education, says our Toronto contemporary, there is one group that has no business whatever in institutions of higher learning. Many attend universities for reasons that have nothing to do with education—to secure social status, to find a husband, to gain job security, or just to "have a ball". The public has no obligation to finance such pursuits. The presence of these fake scholars on a campus only subverts the true purpose of a university.

By setting rigorous entrance requirements, the universities can force secondary schools to prepare students adequately for the level and intensity of studies to be expected of undergraduates. If the present pressure on universities, which lack adequate facilities to accommodate the growing numbers that seek admission, forces them to raise entrance requirements, it may stimulate an overdue reformation throughout the educational system.

This is not the popular idea, we know; but it might prove the best way of driving parasites from the classrooms—by demanding such hard work that only dedicated students would want to enter a university. This does not mean that the education of less than brilliant students must end at Grade 13. By separating the exceptional from the average student, either in different institutions or in different programs within the same institution, we may gain the best of both worlds in higher education. We won't gain it by trying to make it easier to obtain a university degree. Lowering of academic standards to accommodate large numbers deprives the best minds of the education they need, and in doing so robs society of one of its most vital resources.

Aggressive U.S. Policies

Business conditions have varied greatly in different parts of Canada, as we know to our cost in this Maritime area. What we tend to forget is that the same situation applies in the United States. Between 1947 and 1960, for example, non-farm employment doubled in Florida; it rose by 59 per cent in California and by 46 per cent in Texas. By contrast employment fell in West Virginia and Rhode Island.

At present there are one million Americans who have been unemployed for at least 15 weeks. Some 600,000 have been out of work for six months or longer. The total of unemployed now stands at roughly 4.5 million. This presents a problem which the Kennedy administration has taken five measures to deal with.

In the first place, it has strengthened the federal employment service and brought it into closer co-operation with state agencies. Then it won the consent of Congress in 1961 to the Area Redevelopement Act, which permits federal funds to be spent in areas of large persistent unemployment or in areas where workers receive very low salaries. The federal government can also pay for the training of unemployed workers to fit them for new jobs.

The third measure is the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962. This act provides for basic research into manpower problems and resources, both present and prospective. It also trains people in occupations where jobs are on the increase. It has special programs for young people. Transportation and subsistance allowances are given to those receiving this training.

Another measure is the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, which provides assistance for those workers whose jobs may be lost as a result of increased imports from abroad. Finally, Congress is now considering the Youth Opportunities Act. This act provides guidance and help for young people seeking jobs for the first time, or young workers needing more training.

EDITORIAL NOTE

"A parliamentary secretary's lot," says the Ottawa Journal, "is not an especially happy one; he is apt to be left with chores the minister gladly sheds. But, particularly for those holding the post for the first time, it is a reward for effort and a spur to ambition." Mr. Macquarrie, we trust, will find satisfaction in both the reward and the spur in the new duties he is now assuming under External Affairs Minister Green.

"THE FINANCE COMPANY TOOK IT!"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Need To Re-think Electoral Results

Our politicians of all parties appear still to be in a state of trauma after the pounding they got from the electorate on 18 June.

The great lesson to be drawn from that vote is surely that the electorate did not entrust any one party to form a government capable of enforcing its programme upon Parliament. In other words, the electors bluntly told every party to go back to the drawing board, to design a new platform.

But there is little sign of any massive re-think being carried out there by any political group.

The election saw one million voters withdraw their support from the Conservative Party. That was exactly one quarter of the unprecedentedly large army which had swept that party in as an unprecedentedly strong government just four years earlier.

PROTEST OF THE RIGHT?

That withdrawal was a protest against the past policies and future programme of the Conservatives. What is significantly interesting is that that protest vote did not plump for any one other political party; above all, it deliberately did not swing to its expected haven in the Liberal Party. On the contrary, half of it switched to the Social Credit Party; and this is very meaningful, since that was the least likely of any party to be put into the saddle of government. The balance of the protest vote was divided fairly evenly, one quarter going to the NDP and one quarter to the Liberals.

It has been argued here that this massive move of the protestors toward the Social Credit group was largely a manifestation of French-Canadian separatism. But Socred candidates were run in all provinces, and garnered one vote of every eight cast across Canada.

The answer may more truly lie in the belief that Social Credit is less to the left than any other Canadian political party. Of those who temporarily abandoned the Conservative party in protest, half would vote neither for the left NDP nor for the newly leftward Liberals; instead, they registered their protest by swinging to the right.

Probably there are no extreme hard-crust rightists left in Canada today, except perhaps among old age pensioners from the golden vaults of Toronto's Bay Street. But there appears to be a growing army of what might be termed the radical right.

These are to be found among the intelligent Canadians, our young people, the thinking group among the progressively better educated and better paid working Canadians, who all feel that statism has gone too far.

INDEPENDENCE REBORN

There was an insistent demand for the welfare state 30 and 20 years ago; there was humanitarian insistence that no Canadian should be economically crippled by severe illness in his family, or by his inability to obtain work if he genuinely sought it, or by the burden of retired older relatives.

But more recently Canadians have begun to question the cost of today's massive scale of redistribution of earnings. We ask if we must bear this heavy taxation so that the wives of millionaires can be paid the baby bonus, and so that many neither needing nor seeking work can be paid to do nothing.

Such Canadians feel that the welfare state now provides the needed degree of social justice, and should go no further. They consider that they could decide how to spend a larger share of their own earnings, better than the government can do so when it has taken it away as taxes. Many too obviously believe that state interference in our lives has gone too far too irritatingly. A vivid example of a prudent withdrawal from such intrusion was the Ontario Government's abolition of the irritant and ineffective annual permit to buy liquor.

Some observers here consider that the great Canadian frontier spirit of independence is dead; that our strong wartime mood of nationalism has petered out; that we will willingly submit to increasing government regimentation. Others argue that the election marked the protest by a strong "radical right".

Vandals From Within

Guelph Mercury

"I have been convinced," wrote Lord Macauley more than a hundred years ago, "that constitutions, purely democratic, must sooner or later destroy liberty or civilization, or both."

What he had in mind was the habit formed by big and little groups of people, that a Federal Government was after all a free lunch and that its treasury can be plundered, seemingly without end, for the enrichment of this or that interest. He said the time came when almost nobody would go without a subsidy. In order to do this Federal Governments encroached more and more on all local governments, communities and individuals. They let these communities build hospitals and churches, and schools, for the sake of their children and the public generally.

Then when the circumstances get beyond the individuals' control, subsidy is applied and people say as long as farmers and private bodies, such as pensions to veterans, and others is granted, why not get in on the gravy. The idea spreads and the governments encourage it, by use of demagogy. They ignore Macauley's words of doom, even if they ever heard of them.

He warned: "When a society has entered on this downward progress, either civilization or liberty must perish. Either some Caesar or Napoleon will seize the reins of government with a strong hand, or your democracy will be fearfully plundered and laid waste by barbarians in the 20th century as was the Roman Empire in the fifth — with this difference, that the Huns and vandals who ravaged the Roman Empire came from without, and that your Huns and vandals have been engendered within your own country."

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
August 21, 1937

A six weeks course of play and work was brought to a most successful close Saturday evening in Freeland Hall, where a varied program was presented by the children. An explanation of the various activities of Vacation School was given by Mrs. A.H. Hart-Davies, who has directed the work, with the untiring zeal of the Misses Daisy Adams and Marion Phillips.

Emanuel Arsenault resident of Fifteen Point had a miraculous escape from serious injury or possible death yesterday when the light auto truck he was driving was carried about 20 to 30 feet down the railway line, in Summerside, by the morning train from Charlottetown. Another occupant of the truck jumped clear, but Mr. Arsenault was jammed in. The truck was also struck on the opposite side by cars on Holman's siding. The auto was a total wreck but Mr. Arsenault was assisted from the vehicle apparently unharmed.

TEN YEARS AGO
August 21, 1952

Rev. Roy A. MacNaught of El Salvador, Central America, is enjoying a well-earned furlough at his former home in Coleman, Summerside. Mr. MacNaught went to Central America Twenty-five years ago, as the first missionary of Central Bible Church, Portland, Oregon.

A brief feeling of gratitude to Canada felt by the people of Australia was told yesterday by Hon. Francis Michael Forde, Australian High Commissioner to this country, as he briefly addressed a Rotary Club luncheon meeting at the Charlottetown Hotel.

Cut Figuring Time

Guelph Mercury

Much has been said for and against the United Kingdom changing its coinage to the decimal system. Now Britain's educational authorities have come up as the strongest supporters of the proposed change.

The educationists hold the view that if a decimal system of coinage was adopted the students in the primary schools would save nearly one-third of the time they now spend on arithmetic in their classes. Further the head teachers believe that many backward children would find the changed monetary system easier to master, and the students would gain new confidence in their classroom work.

The Poets Corner

WOODLEIGH

Old England wake, and Scotland
live again,
Ere fades the evening hymn
and sun goes down,
And tell anew the deeds of ancient men,
Whether of direst sin or great
renown!
Transported from an Isle
across the sea
In fancy, thought, and now in
miniature,
And planted here a younger
race to see,
Now thrill their inmost souls,
emotions stir.
And live again upon a younger
Isle,
Now dead to fancy, and to
pageantry;
Awake the Muses, sleeping all
the while.
And let the Arts, now bound, go
free.
Rise up, ye eerie forms of long
ago
Inhabit now the castle and the
croft,
Recall the great, and live
again anew,
And stir romance, of which
we've read so oft.
These ancient structures here
proclaim to all,
Whether the dweller had been
lord or knave,
'Tis true of all, e'en those of
highest name,
"The paths of glory lead but to
the grave."

—B.M. Wheeler
Kensington RR2

AFFECT EYES

*Eye health may be affected by an abcessed tooth, infected tonsils, diabetes, high blood pressure or kidney disease.

Treatment Found For Psoriasis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

A NEW method of treating psoriasis produced excellent results in 214 men and women with this stubborn skin disease. This plan utilizes a salve containing a synthetic corticosteroid (fluocinolone acetonide.)

It is easily applied and small amounts are effective. The majority of the lesions usually disappear within three weeks. Cure does not occur, as the scaly patches are likely to return when the medication is discontinued.

The drug has been used for some time but the new method of treatment is aimed at keeping the skin free of plaques. According to Dr. Mauray J. Tye and colleagues of Haverhill, Mass., the salve is rubbed into the lesions three times a day until clearing takes place. Thereafter, it is applied as often as necessary to keep the skin free of the patches.

Better results are obtained when the salve is applied and the area is covered with a moist dressing held or sealed in place with a plastic covering such as Blenderm. This method works best when there are only a few lesions, more so when they are located over the knees or elbows.

The treatment is tapered off gradually after the skin clears. In approximately one-third of the users, improvement lasts three or more months. In others, the lesions recur but relief again takes place when treatment is resumed.

The corticosteroids are hormones related to cortisone and ACTH. They are followed by many side effects when taken internally over a long time. Reactions are less likely to arise after the local application of such products. Dr. Tye followed the course of this group of patients for many months and was unable to detect any ill effects from topical applications of the product, which demonstrates its unusual safety, considering the potency of these hormones.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

FEVER BURNS TISSUES

R.C. writes: If fever is nature's way of fighting an infection, why is it desirable to reduce it?

REPLY

Because a high temperature is uncomfortable and leads to dehydration and weakness. Large amounts of fuel are needed to overheat the body, which is another way of saying that valuable tissue is burned up when fever is present. But we are not as concerned with the temperature reading as we were in the past. We realize the cause is more important.

HEART ATTACKS

E.P. writes: Is coronary thrombosis due to overwork and tension?

REPLY

More than half the victims of coronary thrombosis have their heart attack while sleeping. The basic cause of this disease is hardening of the coronary arteries. Arteriosclerosis is traced to various factors ranging from too much cholesterol to overweight. Tension may play a role, but not overwork.

WATER ON THE BRAIN

W.W.L. writes: What is water on the brain of little babies just born?

REPLY

Hydrocephalus is an abnormal accumulation of fluid within the skull, resulting from interference with the flow of the cerebrospinal fluid through this area. In most instances, the flow is obstructed because of a congenital malformation or an infectious process.

STUBBORN NEURALGIA

N. M. writes: I have neuralgia that hasn't been helped by aspirin or vitamins B1 and 12. Is there anything else to try?

REPLY

Certain types of neuralgia can be corrected with specific remedies or through surgery. Consult a neurological surgeon.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT —

Nonswimmers should not water ski.

OPEN NEGOTIATIONS

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan will open negotiations with the United States on using American communication satellites to relay television coverage of the 1964 Tokyo Olmpics, the foreign ministry said here Saturday. Officials of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Japanese postal services ministry will meet in Tokyo about Aug. 25.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Many a wife has helped her husband to the top of the ladder, then decided the picture would look better on the opposite wall." — Galt Reporter.

Excavations in Mexico indicate that primitive man hunted the mastodon. And no doubt primitive woman said, "You killed it — you can clean it. — Edmonton Journal.

A reporter was given five minutes to leave Ghana. That might not say much for the country's hospitality but it's quite a testimonial for the promptness of the airlines. — Ottawa Journal.

Customer: "What! Five hundred dollars for that antique? Why, I priced it last week and you said three hundred and fifty." Dealer: "Yes, I know; but the cost of labor and materials has gone up so!" — Montreal Star.

MD to patient: "Look at it this way. If your blood pressure were on the Montreal Stock Exchange, you would be ready for a 2 for 1 split." — Financial Post.

A Florida film producer is the first man to swim across the English Channel under water. There aren't many ways left to make the crossing, but perhaps someone might try crawling along the bottom on his hands and knees. Or has that already been done?—Ottawa Citizen.

A meek little man in a restaurant tapped the arm of a big burly looking fellow putting on his coat. "Excuse me," he said, "but do you happen to be Mr. Smith?" "No, I'm not," growled the man. "Oh, er, well," stammered the little man, "you see I am, and that's his coat you're putting on." — Montreal Star.

Swedes Happy; Scots Not

Milwaukee Journal

It's easy for an American president to get in trouble abroad. At the Republican convention at Chicago in 1960 President Eisenhower warned a breakfast group about socialism. As an example of its horrors he cited a Scandinavian country where, he said, suicides had soared, drunkenness was increasingly common and people lacked ambition as the result of the "socialist operation."

The country was quickly identified as Sweden, and the Swedes haven't forgotten it.

The other day President Kennedy's office sent a letter to the Weekly Scotsman thanking the editor for a story about the Clan Kennedy, from which his family may have descended, although his immediate ancestors came from Ireland. The editor was delighted with the letter but not with the address, which read: Edinburgh, England.

The quickest way to insult a Scot is to claim that his native land is part of England. It is not, they contend. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, whatever foreigners and Englishmen think. Said one Scotchman: 'The American president should be ashamed of himself . .. This sort of thing could cause more trouble in Scotland than a whole fleet of Proteus ships in the Holy Loch."

President Eisenhower is currently in Sweden. At the first opportunity he told an audience that he had been wrong in 1960, misled by a magazine article, in fact. He made a public apology. The Swedes accepted it, so that crisis is over. But things are bound to seethe in Scotland unless President Kennedy can get to Edinburgh and apologize, too.

Culture Note

Milwaukee Journal

The American Book Publishers council reports that Americans are spending 115 per cent more for books than they were in 1952. Last year Americans bought more than 716 million books. Sales of serious books from university presses show a 181 per cent increase in the decade and general circulation and trade book sales are up 84.4 per cent. Add to all of this the books that Americans get each year from libraries and the picture is impressive. It certainly indicates that many Americans aren't spending all of their time before TV sets, as some cultural critics charge.

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