The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Unpopular Subject

Though we haven't heard much about it lately, let us remember that the water pollution problem is still with us, and that by next summer it will get worse if we don't take steps to remedy it. It is a thankless task that health authorities have, to keep harping on this subject, but it is their job to do so and we trust that they won't weary in well-doing. This Province isn't the only place where it is necessary to keep the issue constantly before the public.

This point was made at the recent conference of the Water Pollution Control Federation in Toronto, where one speaker, Mr. K. F. Beaton of the public relations department of Shell Oil Company, New York, emphasized that the success or failure of efforts to control water pollution will largely depend upon the public's understanding and support of what is done, or might be attempted.

As the Montreal Gazette notes in commenting on Mr. Beaton's statement, if water pollution were a comparatively inexpensive thing governments might be ready to introduce it. But it is costly; it will take up many tax dollars. Nor is there the same general pressure for action, the same insistent demand that adequate sums of money be spent, as there might be for something like highways, where the problem seems far more visible and personal and urgent. It is conceded now that unless the public is brought to realize that something really effective must be done, the control of water pollution will likely remain where it is today—quite low on the list of priorities.

Unfortunately, the lower the problem gets on this list the higher it gets on the list of things that really need attention. It doesn't just stay put, it gets worse all the time. So, as we said, we hope the health authorities will keep jogging us out of our complacency every now and then. It won't win them a popularity contest but it could be that generations to come will view their efforts in a far different light.

Trade—It's Wonderful!

Prime Minister Diefenbaker's announcement that President Kennedy has approved of his proposal for a conference of free world nations on the reduction of international trade barriers shouldn't come as any great surprise. Of course he approves of it, as he does of any gesture from any source in this direction. That is why the U.S. President initiated his Trade Expansion Act, and why he is backing Britain's entry into the European Common Market with such enthusiasm. The difference between Mr. Kennedy's attitude and Mr. Diefenbaker's, apparently, is that the former is approaching the problem by practical stages and not trying to reach the ultimate objective at once.

There is evidence already that trade with our American neighbors is on the uptrend. It is to be found in the latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics report, which shows an increase in Canada's overall exports for the 8-month period January-August 1962 of $397,000,000. Part of this increase is attributable to the change in the foreign exchange value of the Canadian dollar. But the significant feature is that to the United States our exports actually increased by $425,000,000. In other words, the U.S. market not only accounted for our entire export increase, but also provided compensation for the losses, totalling $54,500,000, which we sustained in other markets.

In view of these figures, it is high time that Ottawa gave over decrying the importance of the U.S. market and sought to foster it in every way. This change is noticeable already at the below-cabinet level, in the statements of such experts as Mr. James A. Roberts, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, who at the APEC conference at Fredericton recently devoted the major part of his speech to stressing the opportunities opened up to Canada and the Atlantic Provinces by President Kennedy's expansion program.

"The Atlantic Provinces," Mr. Roberts said, "are located close to the great industrial and consuming markets of the Eastern United States, whose factories are hungry for raw and semi-processed materials and whose people are eager to buy the latest and best in consumer goods of every kind. Many of their needs are now being supplied by these provinces but the opportunities have been far from exhausted .... Your modern harbors and port facilities are capable of handling many times the present traffic and are an enormous asset to an expanding economy."

This is the kind of talk that we can understand and appreciate. We should like to hear more of it from the government side at Ottawa, and less whining about how we are going to be ruined by Britain's efforts in improving her own trade balance with Europe.

The Nuclear Club

According to Washington intelligence sources, Communist China will be able to explode a nuclear device within a year. This, of course, does not necesarily mean that it will shortly become a major nuclear power. China is using plutonium from a reactor built with Soviet assistance, but it would require another six or seven years to develop even a modest atomic arsenal. The country has no long-range rockets for delivery of nuclear weapons.

India has reactors and processing plants under construction and could become a nuclear power, given a change in policy which might occur in the event of Communist China acquiring nuclear arms. Sweden and Switzerland possess the necessary skills, but both these countries have stressed their traditional neutrality. Israel eventually might build a nuclear device, using plutonium from its Negev desert reactor. Highly industrialized West Germany has the technical capacity to do it, but is prohibited in postwar agreements from manufacturing nuclear arms.

Canada was an early partner, with the United States and Britain, in developing the first A-bomb. But, as Prime Minister Diefenbaker has emphasized, Canada values its influence in world counsels as a non-nuclear, middle-sized nation, and intends to retain that status. It is, moreover, protected adequately by the United States nuclear shield.

It seems reasonable to hope that there will be no sudden rush of nations into the nuclear club. The entrance fee, for one thing, is tremendously costly. Delivery systems, to be effective in these electronic days, are almost equally expensive. Yet the danger is always there, a terrible threat overhanging the whole of mankind. Unless means are found of putting a stop to nuclear testing, and to discouraging nuclear weapons as "status" symbols, more and more nations will acquire these diabolical arsenals, inevitably increasing the danger of war by miscalculation if not by design.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The world had some 52,000,000 more mouths to feed during last year but bad weather prevented an increase of food production. This grim information comes from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. Increases in per capita food production were in the more developed parts of the world rather than in the underdeveloped regions which urgently need to raise their standards of living. In 19 out of 87 countries from which figures were obtainable, the cost of living rose by more than 50 per cent, and by 25 per cent or more in 18 others.

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

When The Commons Roll Is Called

An unfamiliar declaration, echoing from our memory but long fallen into disuse, was heard in the House of Commons after the final vote terminating the Throne Speech debate. "Mr. Speaker, I vise paired with the Minister of Public Works (Hon. E.D. Fulton). Had I voted, I would have voted against the motion."

The speaker was Alan Macnaughton, Liberal M.P. from Montreal.

The system of "pairing", by which two M.Ps on opposite sides of the house protect each other and their party against forced absence from a vote, has not been needed on Parliament Hill for many years. True, the election of 1957 put the conservative Party into office, yet in an overall minority of 42 seats. But other elections since the war have given one party or another very, very comfortable working majorities.

In 1949, the Liberals won by a margin of 117 seats over all other parties; in 1953 they repeated their win, but by a margin reduced to the not very plush cushion of 74 seats. In 1958 the Conservatives attained Canada's all-time record margin of 150 seats over all other parties combined.

We have to go back to the 1945 election to recall a close margin, when every vote might count and illness or business could cause absences sufficient to upset the balance. The election left the liberals in power with a bare 4-seat margin over all other parties combined.

MUST BE ABSENCES

The first roll-call vote in this obviously exciting session saw a very rare full count. But by a week later, those unavoidable absences could be counted. Eight Conservatives — including Davie Fulton who was "paired" with Alan Macnaughton — were not in the Chamber. Three Social Credit members, seven Liberals and 2 New Democrats were also missing.

The numbers of MPs of each party are so balanced in this Parliament that all three opposition parties must vote together to defeat the Conservative government. But if any one party, no matter which, votes with the government, it will win that vote. It is obviously predictable that on any vote involving political philosophy, the party of the exireme right wing, Social Credit, and the party of the extreme left wing, New Democrat, will vote on different sides Therefore no matter what the division, the middle of the road Conservatives will always find one or other voting with them.

But it is a delicate balance, with 116 Conservatives, 100 Liberals, 20 Social Crediters and 18 New Democrats. Allowing for the Conservative MP who serves as Speaker, and who may only vote to break a tie, the government has only 115 effective votes. From this it can readily be seen as epidemic of flu, a party convention, or the funeral of a colleague — among other events — could easily lead to snap vote causing the overthrow of the government.

It is just to prevent this that the system of "pairing" is so essential It has not yet been organized exclusively within the House; but it obviously must come.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE?

Allied to the question of pairing is the definition of a "vote of sensure". Under normal parliamentary practice, a government only considers itself defeated, and consequently resigns it is is defeated in the House on a specific motion of censure or want of confidence, or on an assure so essential to government policy that such a defeat amounts to a censure.

But parliamentary practice in this regard has long been abnormal in Ottawa. The practice was allowed to grow up, and was carefully nurtured especially by the late Prime Minister Mackenzie King, that every vote by roll-call is a vote of confidence. This device might have been introduced to encourage better attendance; but what it has certainly achieved is to make every MP into a "performing seal"— as the members of the 1953-1957 parliament were aptly dubbed. The party "whips" are on for every vote; no devision is left to the conscience or special local circumstances of any M.P. it would make for stability — by dominating accidental defeat — and add to the stature of our MPs if an agreed return to normality could end this Canadian heresy.

Will Protect British Ships

By Doug Marshall
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Rigid principle rather than political sympathy is behind Britain's determination to protect British-owned ships from anti-Castro pirates in the Caribbean.

Newspaper reports that Cuban exiles plan to step up hit-and-run activity prompted the Admiralty to issue a blunt warning.

The announcement said it is the Royal Navy's duty "to safeguard the legitimate interests of all British ships on the high seas." The senior naval officer commanding the West Indies station would be forced to act if British ships in his area were attacked.

MUST BE PROTECTED

An Admiralty spokesman explained that as long as ships carrying cargo to Cuba are not violating a national or international law they had a right to protection.

He said as far as he knew this applied both to ships owned and manned by Britain and to British-owned ships under charter to other countries.

A report in the London Daily Mail says the anti-Castro Alpha 66 commando group operating out of secret Caribbean headquarters plans to use more boats and bigger guns in the raids on cargo ships.

The story quotes exile leaders as saying the main aim of the attacks on shipping is to send the insurance rates so high that no charter company can risk its vessels in the Cuban route.

The attacks are also linked with exile plans for hit-and-run raids on Cuban installations and attempts to organize a general Latin American boycott of British goods.

MOST ARE BRITISH

Most of the Western ships under charter to the Soviet Union on the Cuban run are British: The British Chamber of Shipping has discussed the Cuban boycott proposed by the United States but is waiting for final formulation of the U.S. plans.

The original American proposals suggested that ships carrying arms to Cuba should be banned from U.S. ports. No British cargo vessels knowingly transport arms but it was argued the Communists could load arms aboard under a false manifest.

It now appears that when the boycott details are made public, probably next week, the ban will apply only to ships that carry arms knowingly.

British companies will presumably comply with the U.S. ban. In the meantime British officials believe the threats of the Cuban exiles are extravagant.

Work On Project Mohole

National Geographic Society

A new test drilling is under way in Project Mohole—the extraordinary effort to pierce the earth's crust for the first time.

A thousand-foot shaft was strated in October, 1962, on the west coast of Puerto Rico. The test is intended to provide more information about the earth's crust and give drillers an idea of problems they may encounter in boring Mohole itself.

The Puerto Rican test is on land, but the Mohole will be drilled at sea where the crust is thinnest—possibv off the coast of Puerto Rico or near Hawaii.

MYSTERIOUS MANTLE

The crust's depth varies from 3 to 6 miles below the ocean floor but 18 to 30 miles below land surfaces, underneath the crust is the mantle, a mysterious 1,800-mile-deep layer that forms five-sixths of the earth's volume. Below the mantle is the outer core, some 1,300 miles thick, and then the inner core, about 850 miles deep.

First steps toward drilling Mohole were taken by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation early in 1961.

In a few years, a specially equipped ship will drive a nine-inch drill far below the surface of the sea to the irregular boundary between crust and mantle. This is called the Mohorovic discontinuity, or "Moho." It is named for Andrija Mohorovicic, a Yugoslav seismologist who first detected the line between crust and mantle in 1909.

In a National Geographic article on the Mohole, staff writer Samuel W. Matthews commented: "Should Project Mohole succeed, it will stand as one of the 20th century's most significant scientific achievements. It will offer geologists their first direct contact with the earth's mantle; it will shed new light upon the history of our planet, perhaps even upon the beginnings of life itself."

The history of the earth may be read from layers of sediment deposited over millions of years in the deep ocean. They contain the record of the slow, ceaseless fall of shells of sea creatures, of silts and sands brought from land by streams, surf, winds, or volcanic upheaval.

Paleontologists have been unable to span the gap between the remains of simple Pre - Cambrian life and the relatively complex organisms appearing at the beginning of the Paleozoic era. Traces of this gap may lie in rocks deep below the seas and come to light in Mohole drill cores.

IS EARTH COOLING

The Mohole also may provide new data on the age of the oceans, the possible drift of continents across the underlying mantle, and radical shifts of the magnetic poles. It may reveal whether the earth is cooling or still generating heat from inner radioactive fuels.

The ultimate goal is the mysterious and elusive mantle. Geologists are reasonably sure the mantle is solid rock, but cannot drill penetrate the mantle and brings up a piece of it, they can ony guess. The substance could be a form of dunite or peridotite, igneous rocks similar in stony meteorites.

Project Mohole has unnecessarily worried some laymen. They fear that the hole will drain all the water from the ocean, or blow up the world like a pricked ballon. The commonest worry is that the Mohole will release a volcano. Scientists say that such dire results are simply not possible.

After all, didn't the fictional Rover Boys safely explore the center of the earth with a mechanical mole?

FIRST LADY

Jacqueline Kennedy, wife of the U.S president, speaks French, Italian and Spanish as well as English.

Viruses Cause Encephalitis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

SLEEPING sickness is an intriguing name for encephalitis because it implies that the victim slumbers through his illness. This occurs in exceptional cases but the majority are not so fortunate. They may be drowsy, stuporous, or confused but are not lying quietly, completely oblivious of their plight.

Encephalitis is inflammation of the brain It is caused by a wide variety of micro-organisms, mainly viruses. The cases reported last month were traced to arthropod-borne (arbor) virus of the St. Louis type. Symptoms of this form of encephalitis have a brief illness with chills, fever, headache, vomiting, and stiffness of the neck.

Children are likely to develop convulsions and adults feel lethargic and may be disoriented The hands may shake, the muscles ache, and talking is slow and indistinct. Improvement usually occurs after three to 10 days but convalescence may be prolonged due to weakness and mental dullness

Encephalitis is more serious in the very young and the old. This is the reason why the disease is especially feared in areas where the population is predominantly retired and elderly. The mortality rate is five per cent in young adults but six times higher in infants and the aged. The diagnosis is made after tapping the spinal canal and examination of the fluid in the laboratory.

Special blood tests are needed to determine whether a virus is responsible and additional procedures are done to determine whether it is the St. Louis, Japanese B, western equine or one of the members of an ever growing number of specific arbor viruses. Their names are almost as intriguing as those of Pullman cars.

We must rely upon prevention since there is no specific treatment. These viruses are transmitted via the bite of an infected mosquito, which means that repellents, protective clothing, and screening are necessary to avoid mosquito bites, where does the mosquito acquire the infection? Birds are the suspected vectors at present.

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

FURRY TONGUE

R.L. writes: Could a coated tongue result from the emotions? All infections have been ruled out.

REPLY

Yes, assuming that the emotional upset are disturbing digestion. But a coated tongue is not necessarily abnormal or a sign of disease. It could be you are making much ado about nothing. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on coated tongue.

SCARRED LUNGS

R.M. writes: How does a doctor determine whether scar tissue in lungs (as shown by X-ray) is due to tuberculosis or some other condition?

REPLY

There is no way to know except that tuberculosis usually develops in certain areas of the lung. The patient's medical history also is helpful, especially when the individual had a known chest condition.

MILK AND STERILITY

E.N. writes: My 21-year-old nephew drinks lots of milk — two or three glasses a day. A friend of mine neighbors says a man who drinks this much milk will never be able to have a family. Could milk made a man sterile?

REPLY

No. There is no conceivable connection between the two.

CHILDHOOD DIABETES

J.P. writes: Are the anti-diabetic tablets of any help in children with this disease?

REPLY

Not as a rule. Juvenile diabetes is more severe than the adult type and calls for insulin injections.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Waxed floors may be slippery — and dangerous.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(October 22, 1937)

Miss Annie G. Smith has purchased the residence and property at 17 King Square, formerly owned by the late Mrs. Mary Patterson. This desirable property is situated on the north side of, and facing King Square, one of the most attractive open spaces in the city.

The Dalhousie Alumni Society of Prince Edward Island will hold a re-unjon dinner Friday evening. Principal speaker at the banquet will be Dr. Carleton Stanley, president of Dalhousie University, Halifax.

TEN YEARS AGO
(October 22, 1952)

The change-over from the emergency power system to the now power line at Alberton was effected Oct. 18, without any interruption of service. Street lights which have been out since fire destroyed the Gordon light plant, recently, have now been put back in operation.

Eleven twin engine Dakota aircraft returned to RCAF Station, Summerside last evening, just after dark, and because of the heavy snow storm which blanketed the air station, all were forced to land by instrument. on GCA (ground control approach).

GIRLS DENY TESTS

TORONTO (CP)—Mothers of four first-year Ryerson Technological Institute students reported to police receiving telephone calls from a bogus doctor telling them their daughters' "pregnancy tests", were negative. All the girls denied taking any tests.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The old philosopher says, "An efficiency expert is one who is smart enough to tell you how to run your business and too smart to start one of his own."—Montreal Star.

In Montreal thieves looted five police cars. Their drivers know now that vigilance begins at home.— Ottawa Journal.

One argument against flourdation is that it is good for children only. Like the elementary schools?— Ottawa Journal.

Rand McNally, giant American publishers and book manufacturers, know everything... well, almost everything. Recently they took an ad in the Wall Street Journal to point with pride to the fact that they had printed 500,000 sets of the Encyclopedia Americana, "bearing the proud American eagle, or the Canadian oak leaf..." The Canadian Reader.

A Calais paper will learned that it could double its production by bringing water from a lake ten miles away. Pipes had to be laid under fields at Boulogne, so the mill sought permission from the owner. The owner of the fields is General de Gaulle, who gave his written second but added: "The proprietor of the pastures must profit from this occasion by having a water tap put in for his wife." The French president is getting his own faucet.— France Soir, Paris.

C. A. Raleigh Radford, Devon scholar believes he has found the tomb of King Arthur who, legend says, presided over the knights of the Round Table in the early days of Britain. Sort of putting the cart before the horse Archaeologist Radford claims to have found the tomb of a man whose existence appears to be more mythological than real.— Sarnia Observer.

American tourists have complained that there are too many courses in French meals, Commissioner of Tourism Santeny has therefore called for the organization of a French Gastronomical Association for One-Plate Meals. Jacques Polisard has taken charge and will hold the first meeting at Maxim's in Paris. It will include a seven-course luncheon.— Paris Journal.

A survivor from a shipwrecked yacht in Suva, Fiji Islands, Tuesday, told how he and his companions lived on fish and shellfish for more than three months and guarded their fire day and night because they had only one match. It's not to smile too broadly about their situation to observe that this indicates what a mistake it is to go for a walk without a fully loaded and workable cigarette lighter In one's right-hand pocket.—Cape Breton Post.

If Red China Gets The Bomb

Montreal Gazette

There seems to be a widespread expectation that the day is not far off when Communist China will explode its first atomic bomb. It may be only "a matter of months," as an official in the American State Department predicted, or it may be a year or so. But few people seem to doubt that the Chinese are striving to join the "nuclear club" and that they will do so fairly soon.

Communist China itself has never denied that it has a nuclear weapons program, or that it intends to become a nuclear power. The Foreign Minister of China has admitted this quite willingly, predicting, of course, that this will be a factor for peace in the world.

What will be the significance of nuclear weapons in the hands of the Chinese? It seems likely that the West would have nothing to fear in a direct sense for a decade or more. Its bomb will be rudimentary, and unless she obtains massive Russian help, will not have a respectable arsenal, by Soviet or American standards, for a very long time.

Even a few atomic bombs may change the political situation in Asia, however. For example, India has for several years been involved in a nasty conflict with China over the border between the two countries. There seems little prospect that this will soon be settled. Will India, then, sit back and allow China to become the only Asian power with atomic weapons? Or will India feel compelled to produce such weapons also, in order to balance China?

The chief importance of atomic bombs in the hands of the Chinese, for several years at least, is likely to be their power of example. Other Asian countries, which have previously looked upon nuclear weapons with detestation, must begin wondering how soon they could acquire some of their own.

U.K. Aid For Moon Trip

British Information Service

Fuel cells based in British patents will play a vital part in a United States attempt to explore the moon. For a moon mission of up to 21 days, the three astronauts who will man the Apollo craft will need a source of power of three kilowatts which will work with absolute reliability under the extremes of lunar temperature and a space environment.

For this exacting duty the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration have selected a fuel cell powered by hydrogen and oxygen gases—the gases which propel the Apollo vehicle and are from the fuel tanks of the therefore available directly rocket. The cell can operate on "boil-off" gases from the tanks which might otherwise be wasted.

A contract to develop this fuel cell has been placed with a U.S. firm which has licensed from British's National Research Development Corporation the patents for the fuel cell developed by Francis T. Bacon, a British scientist from Cambridge. (See Industrial News No. 34, September 29, 1960).

The cell produces pure drinking water as a by-product. Mr. Bacon started to develop his hydrogen-oxygen fuel cell as early as 1932. The climax of his work came in 1959 when he successfully demonstrated that the fuel cell could work a fork lift truck and an electric welding unit. For Apollo, the Bacon design will be modified to work at lower pressure and, for extra reliability, a fuel cell system will be produced of three parallel units, each capable of being up-rated to the maximum power requirement of three kilowatts.

In the Bacon fuel cell, the cell itself is divided into three compartments by two porous metal electrodes which contain in the centre a strong solution of caustic potash. Hydrogen gas is fed into one of the flank compartments, oxygen into the other.

These gases go into solution, releasing electricity as they do so, then combine to form water at the hydrogen electrode. The water evaporates into circulated hydrogen and can be collected and used for drinking water.

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