The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street Charlottetown, P.E.I. by Thomson Newspapers Ltd. Branch offices at Summerside, Montague, Alberton and Souris.

Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers Advertising Services, Toronto, 425 University Ave. Empire 3-8894; Montreal, 640 Cathcart Street University 6-5942; Western Office, 1030 West Georgia Street, Vancouver (MA 7037).

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Not over 35c per week by carrier.

$12.00 a year by mail or rural routes and areas not serviced by carrier.

$15.00 a year off Island and U.K. $20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.

Not over 7c singgle copy.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

PAGE 4 THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1964.

Survivor Benefits

Prime Minister Pearson has indicated that there will be a Commons discussion today on a constitutional amendment to allow addition of survivor benefits under the Canada Pension Plan. Presumably the flag debate will be suspended to deal with this matter, which many people will regard as of a good deal more importance, in view of the need for getting the amendment through for approval by the British Parliament before the British election campaign starts. Under the BNA Act this approval is required.

The amendment concerns the provisions of the plan for paying benefits to widows and orphans, and has already been the source of some controversy. It is pointed out, for example, that a widow would receive, in addition to her own pension, $25 a month for each dependent child, but only up to a maximum of $104, which is the maximum pension payable under the plan. Thus a widow with four dependent children would get as much as a widow with 10 children.

Another doubtful point in the scheme concerns the arbitrary fixing of the age at which widows can receive a pension. A woman widowed without children before the age of 35 would receive nothing until she reached the normal retirement age of 65; widowed between the age of 35 and 45, she would receive a rising scale of pension according to her years; widowed between 45 and 65, she would receive $25 a month plus 37½ per cent of whatever pension her husband would receive.

In this connection the Toronto Globe and Mail asks whether it is fair or reasonable to base a widow's pension on her age rather than on the amount of the contribution paid by her husband during his life. "If an old man chooses to marry a young wife," it says, "should the state deny him the right to leave her the pension he has bought with his contributions? The federal regulation may be aimed at gold-diggers who might marry an old man purely to obtain his pension, but how can civil servants look into a woman's heart and determine her reasons for marriage?"

It may be necessary to fix an age below which widows should not be entitled to pension. But is 35 the right age? Why not 30 or 40? There is bound to be a suspicion that the rules have been based upon actuarial considerations rather than on social justice—that the scale of benefits has been established by the bookkeeping of the plan. "Benefits, of course," adds our Toronto contemporary, "cannot exceed contributions, but if we have to cut corners to keep the books straight, let it not be at the expense of widows and orphans."

Subject matter, here, for profitable discussion.

Gory Melodrama

This has been a season of gory melodrama at Ottawa, and crowds have been thronging the Commons gallery daily to enjoy the thrills. Dief and Mike on the flag issue, in the battle of the century! Both the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader, says one commentator, are fully aware of the politically explosive situation and what it must mean personally to one or the other. That's what makes them so mutually hostile.

"Watch the Old Warrior, Dief, rise each day for the fight. Head down. Index finger out. Other hand on hip. Voice rising in that tone of denunciation, that overtone of outraged indignation that all Canadians have come to know so well. He scores a point. Draws Prime Ministerial blood. Like the stands at a bull fight or hockey game, the backbenchers roar. The Old Warrior's eyes glow with triumph. This is meat and drink. This, in fact, is what makes it all so worthwhile . . .

"Now watch the Prime Minister rise to the defense. If he hasn't been hurt to the point of being angered or rattled, he can return blow for blow, innuendo for innuendo, insult for insult, and not infrequently beat back the Old Warrior. At his best, the PM overdoes the courtesy thing, making such a point of being pleasant as to underline the Opposition Leader's naked hostility. But it isn't really courtesy. It's acting, and the drama of it makes it all the more insulting in a preverse and reverse way.

"If he scores, draws Opposition blood, the Old Warrior covers up with a laugh. But the laugh is as hollow as the Prime Minister's affected courtesy. Then the Conservative benches sit silent, glum, and the Liberals whoop and pound their desks.

"But if the ploy of exaggerated politeness falls flat—and it often does—and Dief stands there, fiery eyes glowing in the triumph of the moment, the Prime Minister, red-faced, flings himself into his seat in a huff he can never manage to conceal. And so goes the war, day in, day out, first this way, then that way. This is drama. Better than anything you see on the TV or the movie screen. Parliament ought to charge for those seats in the public gallery."

Thus writes Robert Jackson in the Fort William Times-Journal, an astute critic of parliamentary goings on. What he doesn't say he leaves to the imagination. We can get it almost as vividly as the free audience to which he refers.

But as a matter of fact, nobody gets this kind of performance for nothing. If he's a taxpayer he's paying at an extortionate rate for every minute the show goes on. If he's a sensible taxpayer he'll resent being gypped of his money, and demand that the protagonists either get off the stage, or cut the cackle and get down to the business for which they are being paid.

Shadow Of Auschwitz

The Auschwitz trial in Frankfurt has been going on for more than six months, and another five months are expected to pass until a verdict will be handed down. 22 defendants are in the dock. More than 200 witnesses have been summoned. The indictment covers about 700 pages. But all these figures shrink to nearly nothing, compared with the number of victims.

A conservative estimate is that in Auschwitz and its branch camps 4 million people were murdered during the war; probably there were more, but nobody knows how many. A former inmate, who worked in the camp's "secretariat," testified that he lost count in 1944 when the transports of Hungarian Jews started to pour in. Another witness, a Munich historian, testified that of hundreds of thousands of Poles shipped to the camp, only about 15,000 were alive at the end of the war.

What happened at Auschwitz is no secret. It has been described in full detail in a score of books by some of the survivors and, most recently and graphically, in Rolf Hochhut's play "The Deputy." The trial has so far hardly added anything new. But there are good reasons for proceeding with it to the bitter end.

One reason is that only a few tens of thousands of Germans have read the books on the Nazi extermination campaign and only a few hundreds of thousands have seen performances of "The Deputy." The publicity given the trial in almost every single West German newspaper has, at last, brought the facts home to the majority of the population. Now they will be forced to try to comprehend, however difficult this may be in view of deeds that stagger the imagination.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now is the time when a number of children pick up new interest in arithmetic—counting the number of days left before school closes for the summer

SIGNPOST IN THE JUNGLE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Mr. Gordon Discusses Trade Imbalance

More jobs for Canadians in manufacturing and in mining and other resource industries will be created by the planned drive to increase our exports to the United States.

"The U.S. government spokesmen agree with our policy to achieve something close to balance on our current account, and we can only do this through increasing our exports to U.S." Hon Walter Gordon told me yesterday, in a private talk in his office on Parliament Hill.

The government is rightly anxious to achieve the dual objective of increasing employment in Canada, and of balancing our international payments. The Finance Minister is the economic czar of the government, and as such Mr. Gordon is charged with coordinating this achievement.

The Minister gave me his bird's-eye view of the large picture, by way of explaining his reply to my question on a specific point which is a great interest to all Canadian tourists.

"Will the government raise the present low limit of $25 every four months, on foreign purchases which returning Canadian tourists may bring home free of import duty?" I asked him. This restriction, from the previous figure of $100, is the last of the "temporary" austerity measures imposed by the Diefenbaker government, after the foreign exchange crisis of June 1962.

TOURISTS MUST PAY

"I would like to see that restriction continued," Mr. Gordon told me. "A balance on our international current account, or something closer to balance than at present, is very desirable. And the imposition of tourist purchases abroad is a considerable help in that direction."

Our balance on merchandise trade has been improved from $420 million in the red in 1959, to $400 in the black last year; it would have been even better, were it not for the customary excess of our purchases from U.S. over our sales to that country, which last year resulted in about $700,000 deficit. This is the key factor in our imbalance on current account today.

On the other hand, our balance on non-merchandise transactions, such as tourism interest and dividends, and freight and shipping, runs steadily at just over $1,000 in the red — chiefly the result of the dividends and interest we must pay out on foreign capital.

Finance Minister Gordon told me that the U.S. government seemed to have previously no real understanding that, instead of being a drain on their foreign reserves, we had been assisting them to a considerable extent, to ease the heavy flow of U.S. capital into Canada.

MINISTERS TALK FRANKLY

However, one of the little noticed benefits accruing from this Spring's meeting of Canadian and U.S. Ministers, at the joint trade and economic affairs committee was this in Mr. Gordon's words: "Too U.S. officials have now agreed that to seek to bring our international payments more nearly into balance is the right approach for Canada to follow; and that to accomplish this objective, we must increase our exports quite considerably. And in practice this means we shall have to sell more manufactured good to U.S. as well as industrial raw materials."

Our longstanding imbalance of trade with U.S. has brought about three disastrous effects, Mr. Gordon told me:

1. We were importing unemployment by our excess purchases in U.S.

2. To raise the money to meet our international bills, we sold more of our natural resources than pure development dictated.

3. Our position was vulnerable to fluctuations in the flow of funds.

The Facts On Panama

Milwaukee Journal

It does not erase the fact that Canal Zone school children sparked the Panama riots last January, but the finding of the International Commission of Jurists that American police and troops did not violate human rights is satisfying. It means that attempts of Communists and others to represent this country as a big bully which pushed Panamanians around have no basis in fact.

The commission investigators report that the nationalists and leftists who rioted were well supplied with Molotov cocktails and incendiary bombs and that Panamanians poured heavy rifle fire at United States soldiers before there was any retaliation. Obviously, troublemakers had been biding their time and took advantage of what started out as a relatively minor clash of students.

The findings do not solve the problem of future relations with Panama. Panama has had some legitimate complaints and the "Zonians" who live in the American controlled area did show a marked degree of anti-Panamanian feeling during and after the rioting. Many acted like colonial rulers.

Panama is a tiny country. It has serious economic problems. While the zone provides it with jobs and some business, Panamanians have been at a disadvantage because of varying wage scales, bars to equal employment and advancement opportunity and plain discrimination. These are matters that have long needed additional attention from this country.

It is good to have unbiased outsiders clear this nation of false charges of aggression — but there still remains the responsibility to improve relations with a tiny neighbor.

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.

NOT IN COMPETITION

Sir,—I note the letter in Wednesday's paper from Mr. McMillan, assistant manager of the Dundee Motel, about the tourist situation being most encouraging to him and about unfair competition he nevertheless feels from Montgomery Hall. He did not tell you that Prince of Wales College and Montgomery Hall are the hosts to the Learned Societies and are the reason why the 1,800 delegates are here; nor, did he tell you that much of the business which is encouraging him was sent to him by us.

Indeed, we took all the rooms he could give us. The same applies to the other hotels and motels; we filled most of them during the past two weeks and enabled many of them to open their premises much earlier than usual. Far from being in competition to local innkeepers, Montgomery Hall is providing greatly increased business by attracting conventions and meetings which could not otherwise be accommodated.

I am, Sir, etc.,

H. A. STEVENSON

Manager, Montgomery Hall,

Charlottetown

Strange Modern Behaviour

Fort William Times-Journal

A man, contemplating suicide, stood on a ledge at the 10th floor of a New York building. Spectators yelled "Jump!" And the same spectators booed when the police finally coaxed the poor man to abandon his idea.

Crowd psychology in the scene of today is strange to contemplate. Individuals throughout the United States and Canada are shocked when they read about others actually urging a distraught person to end his life. Yet when individuals become part of a crowd, they too can act in a strange manner.

Take the case of an incident in a Toronto shopping plaza last Saturday evening. Young hoodlums ganged up in an attack on a young man and his father and mother as the trio left a store to get into their car. The hoodlums knocked the youth, his mother and his father to the pavement, and kept kicking them. The father who had sustained head wounds in the last war, received head injuries from the kicks that sent him to hospital.

And while this was going on, some 50 spectators looked on and did nothing!

A fatal accident occurred recently in southern Ontario. Persons involved who were not killed but needed medical help were refused aid by passing motorists. Survivors report that several cars with Canadian licences refused to stop to lend assistance. Even more strange, says the Owen Sound Sun-Times was a reported refusal at a nearby farm home to allow those seeking assistance use of the telephone.

So many nowadays are inclined to edge away from trouble in any form.

UPHOLDS CLAIM

The U.S. Indian Claims Commission has upheld the Seminole Indians' long-standing claim to ownership of nearly 90 per cent of Florida.

Flammable Clothing

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

It has been said that if little girls wore trousers instead of skirts, there would be fewer catastrophes from burns. This is understandable because it is easy to ignite flimsy flaring skirts of flammable material. Last summer, many children met with this mishap when they brushed against the back yard grill.

The same can be said of open heaters, leaf fires, and lighted cigarets. So many people have been burned in this way, the American Medical Association has started a campaign to create public awareness of the problem. It may go so far as to encourage forbidding the use of readily flammable material in children's clothing. These garments ought to be made of flameproof or slow burning material such as denim. Tiny misses should be watched carefully when wearing full, flowing dresses of sheer material, for one who sheer are full and blow about easily.

Flameproofing flimsy clothing became popular when many children in Halloween costumes were burned. The process can be used with other types of clothing, even though it leaves the material slightly stiff. The formula consists of 3 ounces of boric acid and 7 ounces of borax in two quarts of water.

It also is a good idea to teach all members of the family what to do if the garments catch fire. Never run. The face seldom is burned if the victim remains prone. Drop to the floor or ground and roll. Or smother the flames in a heavy coat or rug.

Small boys and fires are traditional. They are fascinated with matches and will hide anywhere, including clothes closets, to strike one after another. A great many fires are started by adults who fall asleep while smoking. The elderly with poor eyesight and shaky hands and legs do the same; they drop their cigarets or brush against ashes.

Housewives who wear a flowing, flammable negligee while turning on the gas jet for the morning coffee are good candidates for burns. Another hazard is to have kitchen curtains billow over the lighted stove burners.

RECURRING SORE

M.S. writes: Can a sore on the nose mean anything besides allergy or sinus trouble? I have been treating it with a salve but it always returns.

REPLY

The lesion may be skin cancer. Such malignancies are easily treated if the results are good when the condition has not been neglected.

HIVES (Urticaria)

G.R.B. writes: Can hives be caused by anything besides food?

REPLY

Yes. Among other origins are cosmetics, drugs, germs, fabrics, plants, cold, heat, worms, and insect bites. Stress and emotional factors are the chief causes of chronic urticaria.

NUMB SOLES

E.W. writes: I am a woman of 70 — healthy and active all my life. But a peculiar sensation has developed in the soles of my feet — as though I had no feeling there. Could this be due to poor circulation, or what?

REPLY

Yes, or to anemia or a nerve disorder.

DOUBLE KIDNEYS

L.A. writes: Have you ever heard of a case of a man with four kidneys?

REPLY

Yes, but not all the organs function properly. In many instances the two "extras" are additional lobules.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Don't discard pills where children can find them.

(Note: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c-o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

"The Age Old Story"

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord. Zechariah 4:6.

Seeking Cyprus Solution

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

President Johnson is manoeuvring to force Premier Inonu of Turkey and Premier George Papandreou of Greece into direct negotiations on the explosive Cypriot issue in the hope of heading off a Mediterranean crisis that could rupture the North Atlantic Alliance.

There is little optimism in American quarters any quick or easy solution can be found. One U.S. authority anticipates that so bitter is the quarrel between the Greek-Cypriots and Turkish - Cypriots a United Nations peace-keeping force, to which Canada now contributes about 20 per cent, may have to be retained on the island for years.

Originally, the U.S. felt the Cyprus problem really was a matter for the Commonwealth, particularly Britain, but gradually the White House became fully aware that too much is at stake; that the matter is too critical for one ally to carry. Johnson will use all his persuasive power to attempt to cool the emotional passions of Greece and Turkey.

SEPARATE TALKS

In initial and separate talks with Inonu and Papandreou next week, Johnson likely will emphasize the possibility of continued bloodshed on the island and the threat of direct Turkish military intervention may turn Cyprus into another Cuba.

There is no evidence Archbishop Makarios, the Greek-Cypriot president, is receiving any major military support from the Soviet Union but Johnson is reported highly suspicious of Makarios and his future intentions.

Johnson is unlikely to demand Turkey and Greece accept any preconceived solutions but he may explore with these leaders some suggestions that have been aired in the hope the two premiers can open direct negotiations on some of the ideas that may lend themselves to eventual acceptance.

These would include union of Cyprus with Greece, combined with communal guarantees for the minority Turkish-Cypriots. In effect, the communal guarantees would be a response to the Turkish demand for island partition which the Greek-Cypriot majority has rejected.

VOLUNTARY MIGRATION

In addition, there might be encouragement of voluntary migration from the island. This would apply particularly to the Turkish element which might be resettled in Turkey through some form of international financial aid. Johnson is likely to indicate in the interest of North Atlantic solidarity and the avoidance of a Turkish-Greek clash, the U.S. might be prepared to contribute substantially to such an aid program.

But the White House is reported under no illusion Inonu and Papandreou will snap at the suggestions. For centuries Turkish - Cypriots called Cyprus their home. It would be no easy job to encourage them to leave voluntarily. It might even be a harder job to discourage them from returning.

Thus the task of bringing Inonu and Papandreou into direct negotiation is only an initial step in the grand struggle to protect Cyprus from internal convulsions and destruction. But Americans believe this initial step injects a measure of hope a war between Turkey and Greece can be avoided.

Masters At Home

Regina Leader Post

A university professor in Toronto has come up with a detailed survey purporting to prove that the father image is stronger in Britain and that the Englishman not only is master of his own castle but is more masculine any time, anywhere, than his North American counterpart.

Without taking sides on this highly controversial question it would appear that there is a more sharp demarcation of feminine and masculine duties and privileges in the English homes.

Perhaps this accounts for the findings of the professor.

For instance, few Englishmen know their way around the family kitchen, except perhaps for a nodding acquaintance that is sufficient to furnish them with a midnight snack.

What's more, far from resenting this withdrawal from kitchen duties, the average English housewife welcomes it.

She would be as affronted if her husband offered to wipe the dishes as he would be if she volunteered to go into his office and do his work for him.

The European man seems to be the front for his household. He is the one who is outfitted first.

World travellers are quick to notice the difference, even at first sight, in say New York and London.

In the former, the little woman is apt to have a mink stole and the fine plumage.

Her quietly dressed mate is obviously content to have the window dressing where it belongs — on his wife.

In Europe, usually it is the man who leads the way. His impeccable tailoring, immaculate white shirt, highly polished shoes often arrest the eye far more than his quietly dressed, conservative wife.

A woman who ought to know, having lived abroad and in the U.S. for almost equal periods, once said that she thought that of the two estates in life the European woman's is most natural and most feminine.

"They may not have as many worldly goods, nor the opportunity to exhibit them as much as their American and Canadian cousins," she said, "but they are far more serene and contented with their lot."

Perhaps the real secret lies in the fact that European women seem to be perfectly satisfied to "enjoy being a girl" as an American composer once phrased it.

Long ago, the French sagely recognized the wide difference in the female and the male, in appearances, logic and also in duties. "Vive la differences," they cried.

So, perhaps the professor in Toronto is correct. Certainly, the European male of the species seems to point up these differences.

REFORM MEETING HELD

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican's commission on liturgical changes met Tuesday to elaborate reforms proposed in the Vatican Ecumenical Council decree on public worship. It was the third meeting of the commission, headed by Giacomo Cardinal Lercaro of Bologna.

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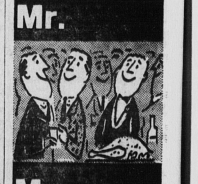

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