

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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No Explanation?

Had he "any information indicating any impropriety or anything of a scandalous nature involving any MP in any party over the last 10 years?" That, swears RCMP Commissioner George McClellan, was one of the questions put to him by Prime Minister Pearson back in November, 1964, and that was why he turned over to the Prime Minister a file on the Munsinger affair which, he says, he didn't get back until after April 1 of this year, a couple of weeks after the Liberal government ordered an inquiry into the affair.

Opposition efforts to have the Prime Minister explain the disturbing implications of this testimony were ruled out of order in the Commons on Friday; but surely that will not end the matter. Every member in the House has a right to demand an explanation. Nothing like it has happened since Confederation. It reveals Mr. Pearson in a scavenger role that even his own party followers must find nauseating. This took place about the time they were being lectured by him on standards of political ethics, and while he was charging his opponents with "scandal-mongering" on a deplorable scale!

Writing on the Munsinger case before this last damning revelation came to light, Peter C. Newman predicted in the Toronto Star that it will be remembered as a turning point in the conduct of Canadian public affairs. The Liberal approach, he claimed, was destroying the tradition that the actions of cabinet ministers in a previous regime, short of felony, are not subject to disclosure or scrutiny by a succeeding government. "By setting this precedent," he warned, "surely the Liberals must realize that whenever they leave office, the administration which follows them will immediately search official files, in an attempt to discover scandal. This possibility threatens the whole area of ministerial discretion, because hindsight is bound to be better than foresight, and no minister can now make any decision, without being conscious of the fact that it may be reviewed years from now, by a hostile regime."

Most people were prepared to believe that Mr. Pearson was, at worst, a reluctantly consenting party to this pernicious witch-hunt. Now it appears he was the instigator of it. "Anything of a scandalous nature involving any MP in any party over the last 10 years," was what he wanted, in secret, from the police. What more could Stalin have wanted when he ruled the roost in Moscow?

Now We Know!

It's like drawing teeth to get concrete answers to almost anything at Ottawa these days. The "exercise in semantics" which Mr. Macquarrie found so confusing in the explanations about the rescheduling of our causeway project was a case in point. Another one was given during the question period in the Commons last week, when Opposition Leader Diefenbaker tried to get from Labor Minister Nicholson the facts about what was going on with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Was it a fact, Mr. Diefenbaker asked the minister, if this corporation now has stopped lending even on pre-gold houses and thereby has dried up the past source of mortgage loans for residential purposes? Would the minister say now, for the benefit of expected householders and builders across Canada, that there is going to be some alleviation of the serious situation which has been created as a result of the virtual stopping of any additional amounts by way of mortgage loans?

Mr. Nicholson regretted that he could not give that assurance. The situation, he conceded, was "serious." But he was happy to say that as a result of studies he had made person-

ally in conjunction with the senior officials of the corporation, "while it is more serious in some areas than in others, it is not as serious as one would be led to believe by the telegrams and messages coming to members of the House." Further reports were coming in daily and it might be a matter of days before he could give further assurance.

Mr. Diefenbaker then asked if the minister would say whether it was a fact that in the housing construction field this year there will be some 35,000 fewer homes built than last year.

Mr. Nicholson replied that "if things proceed as they are," the situation "is not as bad as the right hon. gentleman would indicate." House building is not likely to reach last year's record figure of 165,000 houses. It might be down 10 or 15 per cent this year, largely because of the action of private investors; but nothing like the figures suggested by the Opposition leader.

At this stage Mr. Diefenbaker pointed out that it was the president of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation who predicted that as many as 35,000 fewer homes would be built this year as compared to last. Did the minister not agree with what the president of the corporation said?

Here the Speaker intervened, to suggest that the right hon. gentleman's question "to some extent is argumentative." It seemed, he said, "in any event the question has been answered in a general way by the minister to whom it was posed in the first instance." So that was that.

The Final Problem

In recent years, artificial heart pacemakers have been used to restore erratic hearts to regular, well-paced beating. Artificial heart valves have been put inside the heart to replace natural valves that were defective or ruined by disuse. Another development in this phase of surgery was attempted a few days ago in Houston, Texas, where surgeons of the Baylor University College of Medicine implanted in a 65-year-old man dying of a heart condition an artificial pump to take over most of the work of pumping blood to the body. A successful use of such a booster heart would be a step toward a true artificial heart for man, a seemingly incredible objective which many surgeons believe will be achieved in the not too distant future.

The operation in Houston was the third known attempt to save a life by giving a patient an auxiliary heart. This pump was not intended to become a permanent part of the patient's body, but only to see him through the crisis until his own heart might again be strong enough to do its job unaided. Regardless of the outcome, each of the three cases has made a contribution to the future of artificial heart research by assisting failing hearts. One specialist has noted that as many as 400,000 heart patients each year might benefit from such devices—either auxiliary pumps or, in the more distant future, total permanent replacements for diseased hearts.

Artificial heart pumps of several designs have been tried on animals, and scientists at many institutions are pursuing these problems today. But as a writer in the New York Times points out in this connection, the ultimate test and the only hope of saving lives must come through attempts to use some of these devices in man. And the surgeons who must try this ultimate test also face another strange and tragic problem—what to do if the pump proves more durable than the patient; how to decide when to "turn off" such a patient whose brain has undergone irreparable damage but whose artificially bolstered breathing and blood circulation may still be maintained.

A heavy responsibility to assume indeed! It is with a feeling of profound thankfulness that we reflect that we, at least, will never be called upon to make such a decision.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Hamilton Spectator complains that our vaunted Centennial coins will contain almost every well-known member of the wildlife fraternity except the beaver, the mink, the raccoon, and the gopher. The rabbit, the wolf, the bobcat, the goose and the dove are to be honored, and there is to be a fish on the back of the dime. Perhaps the beaver can't complain of being neglected, because he's on the back of our present nickel and probably will get preferential treatment again in 1968. But what has the government got against the mink? Why is it being ignored? "We can only assume," says the Hamilton paper darkly, "they suspect it looks like a weasel."



SUPERMAN'S CAPE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

New "Wonder Drug" Possibilities Foreseen

In the "red mould," Canada may be perfecting a truly new wonder drug. Called Myxin, it is a member of a group of soil bacteria known as "myxobacteria." It is a red-colored mould, from an ordinary sample of Ottawa City soil panned on the here.

Although the credit for separating and developing this discovery goes to scientists of the Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Minister Joe Greene is playing it cool at this stage despite, as he explained to me, the arrival here of droves of foreign companies seeking licences to produce it.

If, and it is a big "if," Myxin fills every hope and expectation, it will prove to be perhaps the most powerful, most widely effective and cheapest antibiotic drug yet known to man. By a strange twist of fate, 20 years ago Flight Lieutenant J. J. Greene, D. F. C. was discharged from the RCAF at war's end. His breast carried that little strip of ribbon diagonally striped in blue and white indicating his recognized gallantry in action; but he was suffering from a staphylococcus infection which the RCAF doctors had been unable to cure. Today Hon. J. J. Greene, Privy Councillor, carrying the tough load of the Agriculture portfolio paradoxically on his Toronto shoulders, obviously took pleasure and pride in announcing that in the last few days this new Canadian drug has proved effective against that very persistent infection.

When rumors began to circulate about a new wonder drug passing all tests in the laboratories of the Agriculture Department, Agriculture Minister Joe Greene moved fast. To forestall wild speculation which might end by disappointing sufferers, he called a press conference and pointed out the very preliminary and largely uncorroborated tests yet made, and the need for thorough checking. Later, sitting in the Government Lobby outside the Commons Chamber, Joe Greene told Ralph Cowan and me some-

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.

PRICES TO FISHERMEN Sir, - It was with interest that I read the recent Fisheries Issue of this paper. It painted a glowing picture of prosperity within the industry and seemed to indicate an unlimited potential.

As a fisherman and part owner of a purse seine, I must comment, however, that an industry that was apparently unable to pay more than two cents per pound for mackerel last summer can hardly be described as booming.

Last summer, during a visit to Saint John, N.B., I personally saw mackerel on the Saint John fish market selling for 35 cents per pound. These were unprocessed fish of no better quality or size than the mackerel we sold for two cents.

We quote prices paid in the in-shore fishermen for other fish also: split hake 3 1/2 cents; eel five cents. These prices are no better than those paid 10 years ago while the price of boats and gear has doubled in that time.

Surely there is no room for complacency and certainly there is still room for improvement if the fishing industry is to remain a worthwhile and profitable occupation. I am, Sir, etc. LEITH ROBERTSON East Balic, P.E.I.

thing of this new discovery. "It looks better and gives more hope than any similar antibiotic at the same stage of development," he said. "But it has a long way to go before it could be used in medicine, although agricultural use is nearer. Preliminary tests show that it destroys plant bacteria which cause fruit fireblight, potato ring rot and alfalfa blight; and destroys the fungi which rot cereal roots. It may prove to be the most powerful antibiotic of its class ever developed; it has a very broad spectrum, which means it can be used against many infections. It has proved itself capable of destroying 34 different bacteria and 49 species of fungi."

THE RED MOULD HAS PROVED ITSELF capable of inhibiting the growth of organisms, which cause crop disease. Might it equally inhibit the growth of malignant animal organisms? It is being tested as a possible weapon in the war against cancer, and this work is being carried on in the cancer research institute of the Saskatchewan University at Saskatoon. But, stressing the danger of raising false hopes among mankind, Mr. Greene reiterated to us that this work is in its very early stages. "It will be at least another year before the red mould has been developed to the point where it can be produced commercially for agricultural use; four more years before clinical tests reveal its medicinal usefulness. But meanwhile, the red mould has some other attractive angles."

"I envisage that it will be cheaper than existing antibiotics," Joe Greene said. "It moulds more quickly, and water is a substantial part of it. In fact you just pour water, any tap water, onto it, and it grows!"

Time And The Years

We call it daylight saving and we move the clock's hands ahead, telling ourselves that we have gained an hour of daylight. What we are doing, of course, is trying to hurry the season by altering our own schedule, the routine of our daily rounds. We indulge the notion that we can manage time, and we succeed so far as our own affairs are involved. We somewhat change the pattern of our lives. But time and the seasons remain unchanged. The sun rises on its own schedule and the stars stand in their places as before. Neither the rise of the tides nor the growth of the leaves is altered one iota. Violets will bloom on a May morning and roses will scent the June afternoon with no concession to the circling hands of any clock. Bees will haunt the blossoms

Twilight Of The Gaels

The famous Celtic twilight from those western outposts of the British Isles where Celtic is still spoken tells us that the tongues of Brian Boru, Robert the Bruce, and Owen Glendower are not holding their own against the speech of Hengist and Horsa. In short, the native languages of Ireland, Scotland and Wales are still being swallowed in the vast sea of English like Celtic-speaking King Arthur's brand Excalibur in the misty mere.

Much is heard of this slow but steady retreat of the Gaelic

Our Yesterdays

Lord Beaverbrook, dynamic Canadian-born newspaper publisher, responsible for the upsurge of Britain's aircraft production under Prime Minister Churchill, was named Minister of State which made him deputy Prime Minister and virtual dictator of all British war production.

British Imperial troops who fought the German invaders of Greece came back to Egypt after the loss of perhaps 8,000 tanks and trucks and many first-line planes.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 2, 1956) World Heavyweight Champion Floyd Patterson defeated England's Brian London in an 11th round knockout in Indianapolis.

Tomy Lee, ridden by Willie Showmaker, won the Kentucky Derby in the 85th running of the race at Churchill Downs.

Inactivating Viruses

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Viruses elude most germicides including the sulfonamides and antibiotics. Recently it was demonstrated that many are inactivated by a 90 to 95 per cent solution of ethyl alcohol, sodium hypochlorite (200 ppm.), or a five per cent concentration of carbolic acid.

Lord Lester selected the later as a microbe killer 100 years ago. This English surgeon used remarkable judgment and became the first advocate of antiseptics in the operation room and for infections. He even sprayed carbolic acid into the air during surgery and whenever it was necessary to expose open wounds. Dr. Morton Klein of Temple University conducted laboratory tests with these antiseptics and found that all had anti-viral powers in the concentrations mentioned. In his opinion, ethyl alcohol should be standard equipment in every doctor's bag. Sodium hypochlorite is an effective bactericide and viricide for cleaning equipment in medical offices and laboratories. It also inactivates viruses when used in the laundry of families with a viral illness.

He found that most germicides and detergents used as disinfectants in restaurants and the food industry were ineffective against many common viruses responsible for respiratory infections. A protein jacket protects the active infectious genetic core of the virus and is essential to the life of the microbe. Anything that dissolves this coating destroys the virus unless the critter first enters a cell where it sheds its jacket and is capable of causing disease. Each viral coating is composed of different chemicals and some are more difficult to inactivate than others. Those with fatty and protein coverings are more easily destroyed.

The body cells manufacture protective interferon in response to infection by a variety of viruses. The substance has been isolated and many interesting laboratory experiments have been conducted. None have proved practical but the potential is there. We need an internal remedy not only to destroy viruses that cause infection but to eradicate those responsible for certain cancers.

GOOSE-GREASE REMEDY Mrs. M. writes: Will rubbing goose grease on the chest do any good in the case of a cold?

REPLY This remedy went out of fashion with the appearance of salicylates and the steam kettle. Youngsters of the goose grease era hesitated to admit to discomfort from a cold because the smell of the treatment was worse than the ailment.

NOT RELATED K. S. D. writes: Could a slight trace of albumin in the urine be due to gall bladder disease?

REPLY No. Our leaflet on albuminuria describes the various causes of albumin in the urine.

RECOVERY PERIOD Mrs. B. writes: How soon after gall bladder surgery is a woman healed enough to resume normal activities?

REPLY Three weeks for a woman of leisure and three months for the faintest who does heavy work.

PROSTATE AND DIET R. G. writes: Does prostate gland trouble call for a diet of any kind?

REPLY No, except to avoid highly spiced foods and alcohol, which have a tendency to irritate the bladder wall.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Keep youngsters away from sick people.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A father down the block, reading his little girl a bedtime story was rather taken aback when she asked sleepily, "Daddy, are you coming to me live?" - Calgary Herald.

Family associations are what lend antiques their real value—like having a living-room chair that four generations have tested. - Edmonton Journal.

"What were those unusual greens we had to-night Cook?" "You remember, ma'am, you said those geraniums in the garden looked so lovely you could eat them?" "Yes." "Well you have!" - Windsor Star.

A motorist stopped on the main drag during our last snow storm to help a woman driver who had stalled at the curb. He found her taking sand out of the trunk of her car and sprinkling it around the front wheels. "It ought to go under the back wheels," he said. The woman sneered at his stupidity and replied, "The back wheels go around all right. It's the front wheels that won't turn." - Kiel Record.

Welcomed At Washington

WASHINGTON (CP) - The word that Britain and the rebel regime of Ian Smith in Rhodesia have agreed to informal talks about prospects of a negotiated settlement was welcomed here. The United States government has morally backed Britain in the prolonged showdown—in trade embargoes, on the British-Canadian-U.S. oil lift to Zambia and in the United Nations.

But there have been deep reservations ranging from the danger of losing face among African nations if Rhodesia muddles through, to alienating further such white allies as South Africa or Portugal. While British Prime Minister Wilson has invited left-wing labor party in supporting the U.S. in Viet-Nam, President Johnson faces thunder from his right on Rhodesia.

Some of this reflects anger about British-flag vessels still trading with Cuba and particularly North Viet-Nam. Some represents the conviction the white Rhodesian rebels are the spirited 20th-century successors of the American revolution of 1776.

GOLDBERG'S WARNING The U.S. has 20,000,000 restive Negroes of its own to keep in mind—a factor in UN Ambassador Arthur Goldberg's statement Wednesday that failure to resolve Rhodesia "with justice to the African (Negro) majority would undoubtedly strengthen the forces of extremism, violence and racism in the heart of Africa."

As Congress resumed, a series of Republican and southern Democrat members attacked U.S. support for Britain's Rhodesia policy on grounds Britain persists in trading with enemies.

British-flag vessels calling at North Viet-Nam have been explained here unofficially as a dwindling element, representing Hong Kong ownership that Britain has difficulty regulating.

But Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, chairman of the armed services committee, this week told an interviewer from the weekly magazine U.S. News and World Report: "In the case of Britain, we have fallen over ourselves to accede to their requests in their difficulties in Rhodesia—which certainly are minor compared with what we face in Viet-Nam."

MOBERATE VIEW Elements as moderately-minded as columnist Walter Lippmann have suggested Britain may have burdened the UN with a Rhodesian situation which is highly volatile just to escape some hard decisions by itself.

Father right, there is a newly-organized National Co-ordinating Committee for Friends of Rhodesian Independence, which seems to lump together assorted elements including the John Birch Society.

It has published full-page advertisements in Washington newspapers urging U.S. support to break the Rhodesian trade embargo.

Why Sell Yourself Short?

Why do so many people voluntarily highlight their own poor features and failings? Why is it that many of us simply cannot accept a compliment gracefully? This Special Request Feature article in May Reader's Digest gives you sound reasons for avoiding self-abasement and shows you how you can remedy this age-old problem and how you can act with much greater mental force. Get your May Reader's Digest today—on sale everywhere.

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