The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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The Financial Issue

According to Liberal Leader A.W. Matheson, the Provincial Government will have to find $2,000,000 to cover the proposed abolition of hospital insurance premiums, not to speak of about $2,500,000 for resources development, $1,000,000 for a new frozen foods plant and $5,000,000 for a new provincial office building. Mr. Matheson asks: "Where is this money coming from?" His point is a good one, notwithstanding that his own party, in some measure at least, is committed to these expenditures, and has also an obligation to inform the electors as to how, with the revenues at hand, it would implement its pledges.

Mr. Matheson, moreover, insists that the finances are in a bad mess, which would seem to indicate the need for a policy of retrenchment rather than of expansion—though neither party has indicated that it has any intention of pursuing this course.

If the Liberal leader's stand is illogical in this case, the Government is scarcely in a position to score on it. Its program will certainly involve a great deal of additional expenditure, and it hasn't said "where the money is coming from." Will it necessitate an increase in the sales tax, the gasoline tax, the liquor tax, or other tax boost, or is there a big windfall expected from Ottawa of which we know nothing as yet?

BUDGET FIGURES—At the last legislative session, the Government budgeted for an overall surplus of $18,386 for the current fiscal year, and a revenue surplus of some two and three quarter million dollars. In the ordinary course it would have waited until after the next session of the House before calling an election, and the public would then have some idea as to how these estimates corresponded with reality. As it is, it has no idea. It can only judge by what has happened to budgetary predictions in the past.

For the last fiscal year ending March 31, the Government had originally budgeted for an overall surplus of $90,665. This figure had to be changed last session to an estimated $621,673 deficit—owing, as the Provincial Treasurer explained, to early spring storms and the outbreak of fusarium rot in the potato crops, which practically accounted for the difference.

Going back to the previous fiscal year ending March 31, 1961, there was an overall surplus of $28,061, but this was considerably less than what had been budgeted for at the 1960 session. Here again, bad weather conditions, plus disastrous forest fires in the summer of 1960, interferred with the Government's calculations.

UNCERTAINTIES—How about this year, and the effect of unprecedented weather conditions on our economy, and on the treasury? The Government may have some idea, but the electors, as a body, are completely in the dark.

Again, Mr. McQuaid had estimated that as of March 31 this year the net debt of the Province would be $32,868,808. The Opposition leader maintained that on the contrary, it would be $36,500,000; and he predicted that by the end of the current year our total liabilities would be at least $47,500,000, as against $29,454,803 when the Liberals left office in 1959. Who will have proven to be right when the accounting is made next spring? How can the public tell, at this stage of the game?

There are reasons here, we submit, why every endeavor should be made by the Government to answer Opposition financial criticism, and why all its pledges involving increased expenditure should be scrupulously price-tagged, with the amount, if any, which it expects to receive from Ottawa, and how it expects to raise the rest. This obligation it assumed when it undertook to call the election at this time, and before the current year's accounts could be submitted to legislative scrutiny.

If the Government were running on its past record alone, this would not be so important. But it is its expansion polices that are being chiefly emphasized, and these—however meritorious in themselves—will have to be financed. Perhaps they justify a return to more deficit budgeting. We are not going to argue that penny-pinching policies would be preferable where the interests of our basic industries, or basic services such as education and public health and welfare, are concerned. But in any case, the electors have a right to know the cost of what they are voting for, and how it is going to be paid.

Another Glassco Report

Another shock wave at Ottawa has been felt as a result of the second report of the Glassco Royal Commission, whose basic recommendation is that the Government get out of its commercial enterprises and stop wasting the taxpayers' money. The Commission felt that "at least $50,000,000 worth of goods and services, which the Government now provides, could better be secured from commercial suppliers."

This waste goes on notwithstanding that the Government ordinarily pays no taxes, rent, service charges, depreciation and other usual and normal costs. Its charges to itself "often exceed" by 50 per cent the price it could get from private enterprise.

It's a devastating report—larded with such details as the following: Savings up to $600 per car or truck could be made—but are not—by bulk or central purchase of vehicles. One department pays $24.44, and another $12.94 for the same size brand of tire. In one department oil costs $2.00 and in another 47 cents a gallon. Storage cost in salaries of stationery supplies in the Labor Department run $44.29 for every $100, but at the Statistics Bureau it can be done for $6.66.

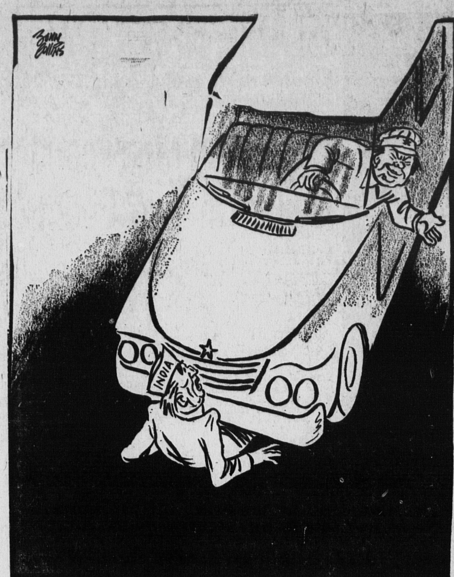
The Navy has enough wool and cotton underwear of one particular size stockpiled to last 1,000 years. The RCN also stores an 85-year supply of one size of boot, and has enough small kitbags to last 10 years. The RCAF has supplies of a certain type of electric light bulb to fill a 270-year requirement; it has also a wool stock supply good for 81 years, and enough tires to last until 1974. The Army won't run out of size one in men's plain black cotton overalls for two centuries, and its suppy of a certain type of flashlights will last deep into the 21st Century.

And so it goes. It is amazing that the experts were not sidetracked and baffled by civil service double-talk and rambling justifications; but they stuck to their chore and made their report. Now it's been tossed into the Government's lap, with recommendations involving revolutionary changes which, if accepted, will be felt in scores of departments, boards, bureaux, commissions and assorted Federal agencies.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker has announced that action has already been started to implement some of the commission's findings, and that most of them will be carried out "at the earliest possible date"—an indication, in itself, of the impact the report has made.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Conservatives in British Columbia have been trying to persuade the federal minister of public works, Hon. E. Davie Fulton, to leave federal politics and become their provincial party leader. Mr. Fulton says he's "still entertaining the idea but it is a difficult decision." We can well understand that. It has been about three decades since a wholly Conservative government held power in British Columbia. For about one decade, Conservative representation in the legislature has been small. At present, it is non-existent.



"NOW WE CAN DISCUSS IT"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Shakeup Needed In Federal Travel Bureau

Our go-getting Minister of Trade and Commerce, Hon. George Hees, may be the man to save us from severe curtailment of Florida holidays and similar foreign expeditions.

We Canadians are the world's greatest travellers, and we are the world's most lavish spenders visiting USA. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has just revealed that we spent a record $642 million, or an average of $35.66 for every Canadian man, woman and child, on foreign travel last year. But what hurts us is that foreigners together spent only $482 million here, and this was the eleventh successive year when we spent abroad more than foreigners spent in Canada.

Our lakes and forests are world famous as a sportman's paradise and a vacationer's dream. But whereas tourism used to be one of our most reliable and lush "invisible exports," it has now become an increasing drain on our international balance of payments. So much of a problem has this been that Canadians will recall with gloomy foreboding that 15 years ago a severe albeit temporary curb had to be clamped on our foreign travel.

PICTURE WORSENS

Last year, largely because we attracted only one-sixth of US tourist expenditure, and ranked even behind Mexico and the Caribbean islands, we had a deficit of $160 million in this field. But in the first half of this year, our deficit soared to exactly what it was in the whole of last year; we spent $230 million in USA and $99 million in other countries, while US visitors spent only $147 millioin and other foreigners a mere $22 million here.

This is a disastrous picture, and no doubt was in part responsible for the Government's determination and correct judgment to devalue our dollar and peg it at an advantageous international exchange value. This was done before the Canadian tourist industry reached its full-steam-ahead holiday months of July and August, and hence we may expect confidently that the full year's figures will be better than those of the first half-year.

But it seems assured that the 1962 total will be even less favourable than in 1961. If this trend were to continue, any government in Ottawa would be forced to reinstate those earlier Liberal travel restrictions, distasteful though they were.

Against this background, there has of course been some serious head-scratching in Ottawa, about the promotion of tourism in Canada. Reduced air fares, the saving of holiday time by the "Big Jet" airliners, and the worldwide "Travel now - pay later" scheme: all these are tending to boost international holiday making. With our immense natural attractions, we should enjoy a substantial advantage in this field; perhaps even return to the pattern when, for at least 24 successive years prior to 1951, we always enjoyed a favourable balance on tourist account. But despite great efforts by provincial governments, notably those of P.E.I., B.C. and Ontario, as well as the great advertising campaigns by Trans Canada Air Lines and the railway companies, we are just not attracting visitors, especially from USA, in sufficient numbers.

A GREAT BOOSTER

The situation is not helped by the sub-optimum associations enjoyed by the federal Canadian Travel Bureau. This is a poor little misplaced foundling cared for by our Department of Northern Affairs. The well-heeled Yankee tourist is dumped under the same governmental umbrella as the tubercular Eskimo.

Tourism is a selling job. The best Canadian selling job today is being done by Trader Hees and his band of merry men staffing the Canadian Trade Commissioner offices all around the world. How wonderful it would be to see each of these promoting tourism in Canada! An imaginative stroke, and one likely to be taken soon, is the transfer of the Travel Bureau into the field of responsibility of Hon. George Hees — to the benefit of our tourist industry and our international balance of payments.

India Moves Cautiously

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

India is quietly moving about four battalions of seasoned infantry troops from the east Pakistan border to the Communist Chinese frontier following a decision to reject the Chinese settlement terms and eventually reoccupy Red-seized border territory.

High Indian diplomats in Washington concede this move could cause a new flare-up in the India-China war if the Reds choose to challenge the presence of Indian troops in territory which the Chinese propose should be turned into a virtual no-man's land after Dec. 1.

Prime Minister Nehru is reported to accept this risk, though even with fresh troops his forces may be far from adequate to meet the fury of a new enemy thrust.

But the Indians also see the possibility that the Chinese, having gained their limited objectives especially in the Ladakh area to the northwest, may choose to ignore the lack of an Indian withdrawal, providing the Indians do not launch an assault on established Red positions.

BIT BY BIT

As seen by B. K. Nehru, India's Washington ambassador, the Red Chinese may be working on a play to seize India in stages.

"They have achieved what they were after," he suggested in an interview. "They have given us a bloody nose; they have established themselves in the Ladakh territory that they wanted and now they are putting themselves before the world as advocates of peace."

Nehru suggests India must be prepared for a long and costly struggle.

"If there is a lull now, the Chinese may come back again in three or four years and try to take more territory—taking India piece by piece."

PAKISTAN PRESSURED

Withdrawal of a substantial portion of Indian troops from the Pakistan border would seem to indicate some form of easing of tensions between the two Commonwealth countries. Apparently the United States and the other allies have been able to bring some pressure to bear on Pakistan, which went so far recently as to threaten to sign a no-war pact with Red China.

There still is great hatred between the Commonwealth neighbors, particularly on the question of Kashmir, but it may be significant that the Indian troops' withdrawal is reported coming from near the Kashmir area, indicating some increased Indian confidence that Pakistan won't attempt to seize the disputed state.

Ambassador Nehru says the India-China war may be long and costly, but India never again will trust Red China.

The development of India, concentrated in pure economic growth, now will be broadened to take in long - term military strength, with the target of increasing India's total troop strength from the present 60,000 to some 2,500,000, armed with the best equipment available.

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.

OTHER GROWERS AFFECTED

Sir,—The Department of Agriculture is to be commended on its efforts to compensate the grain growers for their losses in harvesting their crop due to bad weather conditions.

In Prince County and part of Queens we had a heavy loss in our pea-bean crop due also to weather conditions. In the canning crop there were over 200 acres never harvested, in the cold crop around a thousand acres never harvested, and a great deal of the crop that was harvested was second grade. It cost a great deal more to grow a crop of peas than grain, which leaves a great many farmers with little or no income to face a very hard winter.

I have in mind a farmer who had a bill of $250 for seed, fertilizer, use of machinery, etc. Many just about broke even.

In all fairness I can't see why these farmers shouldn't be included as well as the grain growers in their crop losses due to weather conditions.

I am, sir, etc.,
ELDON DRUMMOND
President, P.C. Federation of Agriculture

The Speed Reader

Minneapolis Tribune

It's no longer what you read but how fast you can read it. Anyone who can't whip through a 400 page book in one evening — even allowing for time consumed in explaining why he forgot to pick up the steak while en route home— is practically illiterate and in sad need of a speed reading course.

The speed reader gulps paragraphs and even pages at a glance. He does not read each word or each line. He thinks not about word sounds and meanings.

The eye must travel down the middle of the page, picking up two or three words to the line. This is supposed to provide a club to the peripheral material and give the reader a rough idea of what the writer has to say.

I'm frankly appalled by those who claim an ability to read from 4,000 to 20,000 words a minute— not only appalled but suspicious. I have to go at full throttle to read 500 words a minute and have no burning desire to read 40 times that fast.

I doubt that the 20,000 words a minute man gets much pleasure out of reading or has more than a foggy notion of what he's read. He has no time to look up the meaning of a strange word, to appreciate a deft turn of phrase or to ponder a fruity sentence. He must skip over these obstacles and hurry on to the end of the book so he can brag that he read "War and Peace" in five hours.

The slowpoke, however, should try to increase his speed. With so much printed matter at hand, the plodder can absorb only a fraction of what's available. He thus cannot keep himself fully informed—and it is a truism that an informed citizenry is our best hope for the future.

Use of car safety belts could save 1,000 lives a year in Canadian accidents, says the Canadian Highway Safety Council.

Easy Fainters Shouldn't Drive

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

A MAN LOST control of his car and killed a pedestrian. All he remembered prior to the accident was a violent coughing spell. Tests showed he had not been drinking and that he was mentally alert and well coordinated.

This man had cough syncope (fainting) and physicians testified in his behalf when the case came to trial. The condition is not common but numerous reports on the disorder have appeared in medical journals. Serious accidents have occurred on several occasions and it is obvious that victims of this disease should not drive.

Coughing sets up a reflex that slows the pulse or lowers the blood pressure. As a result, the blood supply to the brain is curtailed and the individual blacks out or faints. This is all it takes to relax the hold on the steering wheel and to veer off the road.

We do not know why some people faint more readily than others. In all probability they inherit a nervous system that is overly sensitive to certain body reflexes. Many individuals faint when they see blood, smell obnoxious odors, or with ordinary pain such as that associated with a hypodermic injection. Others faint when the reflex is set into motion by pressure on sensitive nerve centers in the neck or when persons with certain types of heart disease try to exert themselves. Passing out often is preceded by weakness, giddiness, blurring of vision, pallor, and sweating.

Last week we told of narcolepsy, a strange malady in which the individual loses consciousness after laughing or becoming emotionally upset. This is more closely related to sleep or coma than is a faint. Epilepsy also is easily confused with fainting. In the major form (grand mal), jerking movements of the extremities and head occur. The minor type (petit mal) resembles a blackout and is momentary in duration.

These different conditions are mentioned because the bystander can be helpful in describing the behavior of these individuals to the physician. The victim is unconscious and cannot recall what happened.

HAIR BALLS

A.L. writes: I swallowed a human hair yesterday and this has me very upset. Could this be trouble producing?

REPLY

The hair should pass without a tickle. Hair balls form in the stomach occasionally when girls or women tug continuously at and chew their own hair. These masses may get so large they must be removed via surgery.

WORKING OFF ANGER

A.C. writes: I'm all for your advice to blow off steam to some friend or even foe. But suppose, as in my case, there is absolutely no one? What would you suggest as a safety valve?

REPLY

Get a workshop with a hammer and saw — and hammer and saw.

Our Yesterday's

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(November 30, 1937)

There has recently been erected in Brudenell, cemetery a monument to the memory of two brothers, James and Donald Dewar, who were born in Perthshire, Scotland and came with their wives to Montague River in the early years of the nineteenth century. "The heart is Hilghland and blood is strong" that cements the ties of kinship and binds their memories to the beloved "Sea girt Isle."

Clive E. Johnston, Charlottetown, of the staff of the local branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, has been transferred to Glace Bay, N.S., and left Saturday to take up his new duties.

TEN YEARS AGO
(November 30, 1952)

The constant and expanding inroads by beavers on valuable timber lots, and the damage done by water when dammed up by these industrious workers has caused Hon. Eugene Cullen, Minister of Industry and National Resources to declare an open season on the offenders for a more or less indefinite period.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Norris and children Barry, Marilyn and Paul of Fortville, Indiana, arrived in Montague last week where Mr. Norris, a graduate of Alberta Bible College, will minister to the congregation of the Church of Christ in Montague, Murray River and Murray Harbor.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A philosophy professor says going to jail has become a status symbol to juvenile delinquents. Once they've been there for a while the status must seem uncomfortably quo. —Ottawa Journal.

Favorite story in European Common Market circles concerns a discussion to build an all-European car. "We will furnish the motor," said the German delegate. "We will design the body," said the Italian. "We will provide the accessories," said the Belgian. "And we will collect the taxes," said the Frenchman." — Lausanne Gazette.

The talkative lady was telling about the bad manners of a recent visitor. "If that woman yawned once, Albert, while I was talking, she yawned a dozen times!" "Maybe she wasn't yawning, dear," said the husband; "Maybe she was trying to say something." — Montreal Star.

In his anti-noise campaign Colonel Riss ben Aoma, governor of Casablanca, has decreed that cars in a wedding procession must give up the custom of horn-blowing. Police are now authorized to stop noisy parades, impound the cars, and let the wedding procession proceed on foot. — Le Vigie, Casablanca.

Controversial Airport

Milwaukee Journal

Washington, D.C., gets its new mammoth Dulles International jet airport this weekend. President Kennedy and former President Eisenhower speak at dedication ceremonies Saturday. Scheduled flights start Monday.

Lumbering mobile lounges will carry the first passengers from terminal to and from planes. The 20 "waiting rooms on wheels" so far ordered have cost $4.6 million. That makes them controversial and so does the whole radically new system of passenger handling.

The design of the 10,000 acre airport — largest in the nation —is controversial and so is the location. It is 26 miles west of downtown Washington. Only six miles more distant, to the north-east, is Friendship jet airport which has been serving both Washington and Baltimore. Opened only 12 years ago and costing only about $18 million, it still could handle more traffic.

$106 MILLION SO FAR

Dulles has cost American taxpayers $106 million so far and by 1980 expansion will bring the figure to at least $185 million. When the project was first planned in 1956 the cost estimate was $50 million.

The air lines have announced shifts of numerous jet flights from Friendship to Dulles and more are expected to follow. This means large added expense to the carriers, particularly for lines that continue service at both airports. It will deprive the Baltimore metropolitan area of convenient jet service it has had. Income at Friendship will drop, at the expense of Baltimore.

COSTLY GAMBLE

Business at Washington National airport is expected to be similarly affected. That close-in airport, however, will still be used by propellor planes, as is now, and by the many short haul passengers passing in and out of Washington.

It has been predicted that six million passengers will be using Dulles International airport annually by 1975. As of today, however, it appears to be an almost fantastic extravagance, even if its revolutionary new features work out perfectly.

Measuring The Danger

Winnipeg Free Press

Because of the nuclear arms race between the great powers, the United Nations may not be able to do anything practical to reduce radiation fallout and its dangers, but it can at least take note that the dangers exist and bring them to public attention.

To do this, the General Assembly has approved a resolution, sponsored by Canada and co-sponsored by 42 other countries, asking the UN scientific committee on the effects of atomic radiation, composed of scientists from 15 countries, to continue its assessment of fallout risks. The assembly also voted — with no opposing votes but with the Soviet bloc countries abstaining — to seek to use the facilities of the World Meteorological Organization for the collection of data on radioactivity.

SOVIET INHIBITIONS

The unwillingness of the Communist countries to have the meteorological organization used to collect data can be put down to the inhibitions of a closed society. But no country could afford to vote against that part of the resolution asking the scientific committee to continue "its review of those studies and further investigations that should be undertaken in the interests of increasing man's knowledge of the effects of radiation, and to report to the General Assembly at its 18th session" — which will be next fall.

Already the scientific committee has issued warnings about the dangers of fallout. Four years ago it estimated that between 400 and 2,000 cases of leukemia would develop each year from the effects of bombs exploded up until that time; and that from 2,500 tp 100,000 children would eventually be born with major defects from the same cause.

These figures were based on nuclear explosions up to 1958. Undoubtedly the committee would have to revise its figures greatly upwards today to take account of the many and large nuclear explosions in the atmosphere in the past four years.

A few months ago, the committee put forward the theory that even a small radiation dose may cause some damage in human beings, both immediate and long - term. The committee called for world - wide action immediately to reduce exposure to an absolute minimum.

One can only hope that the investigations of the scientific committee will not result in truly horrifying statistics when the next report is made in 1963. But perhaps something of a horrifying nature is needed to jar the nuclear powers out of their senseless rounds of testing and polluting the atmosphere.

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