

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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The Donald Autopsy

It remains to be seen what action the Pearson government will take on the Donald "autopsy report" of the Cape Breton coal industry. That's what it is being called in Cape Breton, and with good reason, for it recommends the elimination of mining operations there within 15 years.

The author of this report is a Montreal industrial economics consultant, and he was commissioned, back in June, 1965, with the aid of a special committee of government officials and "as a matter of urgency," to make "comprehensive recommendations for the reorganization, modernization and re-equipment" of the Cape Breton coal industry.

This was a follow-up to an election pledge given by the then Minister of Labor, Hon. Allan MacEachen, that the Pearson government would make "large scale investments in the Cape Breton coal mining industry in the immediate future and, early in 1966," would introduce "a comprehensive long-term program." Also promised was the opening of a new mine at Longan which would constitute "an essential part of this program to make the most effective use of the required capital."

Nothing has been done to implement this pledge, the excuse being that the details of policy would have to await the findings of the Donald commission. Dr. Donald has reported, in substance, that the whole scheme is cock-eyed. Naturally Cape Bretoners are indignant. They claim he hasn't followed his terms of reference and that his recommendations would be a waste of the required federal subventions—leaving the island without its coal industry and, in the most vague terms, proposing other employment for jobless miners without any suggestion of what the new industries may be.

"Undoubtedly," says the Cape Breton Post, "this report was delayed to such an unreasonable extent because the government could not make up its mind on its coal policy. The government has still not made up its mind. We have every right to demand that Ottawa's policy on coal be made known immediately."

And every right, one might add, to expect that it would be in accord with the government's explicit promises when seeking support at the polls.

Worthwhile Changes

The decision to drop the name "National Employment Service" in favor of "Canada Manpower Centre" appears to have met with general approval across the country. As explained by government spokesmen, it was taken to accommodate the new image of expanded and improved employment service, and thus more accurately reflect involvement with manpower programs that go far beyond the basic labor market activity of matching jobs and workers.

The change has not yet received the official blessing of Parliament, but it soon will. In the meantime, the insurance aspect has been separated from the employment side. Plans have been made, and staff engaged, to provide the comprehensive approach that will be needed increasingly to cope with a technological age.

There will be more emphasis on

counselling, training, labor force mobility, upgrading and research as well as labor market information. A very decentralized administration is being evolved in order that local offices can most effectively pursue their objectives.

These are all worthwhile aims, and mark the culminating step in an evolutionary process that has gone on, actually, since 1940, when the Unemployment Insurance Act created a commission to administer a national employment insurance service. During the next year, a country-wide network of local offices was established by the commission to conduct its operations. However, in 1942, when the National Selective Service Regulations were passed, the Department of Labor became responsible for administration of both staff and premises of the commission for the duration of World War II. Local offices became known as National Selective Service Offices.

In 1945 the local offices were returned to the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and they took on the dual name. For the next twenty years this identity was retained and during this time the employment service function of the local office steadily gained in importance as technological change and the increasing complexity of the labor market resulted in greater and greater demands on it. There were further significant changes, leading to the setup under the new Manpower administration and the appointment of service managers, as distinct from unemployment insurance office managers.

Liberal Reaction

According to a prominent Liberal paper, the Toronto Star, only 14 out of a total 2,000 delegates at the Liberal party conference this week were "sufficiently concerned to register a strong and loud protest" against the government's shelving of its promised medicare program for another year. The overwhelming majority uncritically accepted Finance Minister Sharp's bland explanation that medicare had to be delayed on the ground of "fiscal responsibility."

"This vacillation," comments the Toronto paper, "is turned into a virtue. And a giant Liberal assembly sits by, with scarcely a murmur of protest, as a Liberal finance minister offers the dubious proposition that he is helping the 'little people' of Canada by denying them the protection of medicare for another year. What kind of curious Liberal logic is this? Is this going to impress the aged, the sick, and the poor who have waited patiently for decades for the Liberal party to honor its pledge on medicare? Are they expected to postpone their ailments and their medical bills until 1968?"

It is The Star's contention that "in the whole range of Liberal policy in recent years, no issue has constituted so firm a moral commitment as the pledge to launch medicare by July, 1967. If the Liberal party can ignore so solemn and so clear-cut a commitment, how can it be trusted to honor its new pledge to launch medicare by 1968, especially when a large majority of the Liberal cabinet is known to be opposed or indifferent toward a medicare program? And if inflation can be used to justify a delay in medicare this time, what assurance can Mr. Sharp offer that it won't be used to justify another delay in 1968?"

Pertinent questions, which call for answers as debate on the issue continues in Parliament.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Moving with the times, the Republic of the Congo has africanized the names of its leading cities. Leopoldville is now Kinshasa. Elizabethville has become Lubumbashi; Stanleyville, Kisangani.

Strange news from Communist Russia: A new book of Bible stories, recently put on sale in Moscow book stores, was sold out in a matter of minutes, according to the book-seller—all 100,000 copies.

A U.S. company is now marketing an item called "People Crackers." These, notes the Financial Post, are in the shape of people which dogs have always found most agreeable to chew up—milkmen, mailmen, burglars, policemen and dogcatchers. The cracker makers have obviously accepted the dietician's principle that food must not only be good to taste but good to look at. Lest humans take offense at the shape of the food, advertisements remind us that fair is fair. People, after all, have been eating Animal Crackers for years.



"WHAT'S SO FUNNY, DADDY?" CHANGING ITS FACE

Communism In Western Europe

So engrossed has the rest of the world been in the evolution of Communism in Eastern Europe that it is all too easy to overlook what is happening to the Communist Parties of Western Europe.

This major concern with Eastern Europe is perhaps natural. There Communists are in control, and their decisions are the decisions of governments. Yet there remain in Western Europe two large Communist Parties—admittedly neither very effective now—which once participated in government and posed a big enough threat to raise the question of whether they would take over all the reins of power. These are the Communist Parties of France and Italy.

NEVER A PACE SETTER The French Communist Party has never been a pace-setter; and since the demise of the unimaginative but dominant Maurice Thorez, it has tended to mark time under the leadership of Waldeck Rochet.

The Italian Communist Party has always been a rather different kettle of fish, more creative and often a bellwether of changing patterns of Marxist thinking. Much of this was due to the late Palmiro Togliatti—sometimes an opportunist, yet perceptive and with a touch of brilliance. Nobody in the Italian Communist Party has emerged effectively to take his place—certainly not Luigi Longo, his formal successor in the post of party secretary.

But more than the loss of effective leaders, the changing context in which Communist Parties in Western Europe find themselves operating has brought about their loss of power and influence. Gone are the immediate post-war days when cruel poverty and even the threat of starvation gripped the working-class in Western Europe's industrial cities.

Our Yesterdays

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (October 15, 1941) A vast German force of tanks and motorized infantry has broken through the defences west of Moscow, forcing the Russian central armies into retreat, with the hour of supreme crisis for the Soviet capital admittedly at hand.

Authoritative Japanese agencies spread a blanket of gloom over prospects for a new lease on Japanese-American friendship, and the leaders of the Empire held a series of consultations which hinted at decisions of great importance.

TEN YEARS AGO

Canadian Trade Minister C.D. Howe appealed to United States corporations to throw open more of their branch operations in his country to Canadian investors and managers.

Blood Pressure

By Dr. Theodore R. Van DeBun Blood pressure tends to increase with age. Five per cent of men in their early twenties have systolic readings over 140 mm., while more than half of those in the 60 and 64 age range exceed this value. This does not mean that high blood pressure in this age group is normal and harmless. Hypertensives carry an increased risk of developing heart attacks, strokes, and kidney trouble. Women with raised blood pressure fare better than men.

The systolic blood pressure is less important than the diastolic. The former is the tension of the heart during contraction whereas the latter is the pressure that exists while the old ticker is at rest. The diastolic represents the resistance against which the heart must overcome in order to force another load into the circulation. The normal reading varies from 70 to 90 but most physicians are not concerned unless it exceeds 100.

STAIR CLIMBING AND VEINS C. B. writes: I have varicose veins and have heard of climbing stairs should be avoided as much as possible. If so, why?

REPLY There is no reason why walking up stairs is any harder on the veins than walking on the level. The effect of gravity is the same. Why not have the condition treated and climb mountains if so inclined?

RHEUMATIC FEVER G. Z. writes: Is there a cure for rheumatic fever?

REPLY Most individuals with rheumatic fever get well, with reasonable care. In this respect, the disease is curable. On the other hand, the heart may be damaged during an attack of rheumatic fever and should scar tissue develop there is no cure although surgery may be helpful.

LUNG HEMORRHAGE J. W. writes: What is the cause of bleeding from the lungs?

REPLY There are many causes but tuberculosis heads the list, followed by bronchiectasis. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Don't pet a dog unless you know him. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van DeBun should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van DeBun, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Canada In Two Parts

The question of a French Commonwealth, paralleling the British Commonwealth, and of Canada's joining up, seems to have been broached rather mysteriously in talks in Quebec City between Premier Daniel Johnson and President Leopold Senghor of Senegal. Senegal is a former French-African colony. Canada has been supplying technical aid to it and other French-African states, with Quebec furnishing some of the links. President Senghor, it is understood, has been in Quebec discussing cultural relations, especially the exchange of teachers; how the French Commonwealth—so far only a paper project—got into it is not explained. But Mr. Senghor is quoted as saying he can see no reason why a nation can't belong to two Commonwealths. It would be useful for Canada to belong to both, he adds. Perhaps so. However, some further information seems in order from Mr. Johnson. After all, when invitations are issued for Canada to join some international organization or other, the invitations should go to Ottawa, not Quebec. The Organization of American States has been after Canada to join for years. But it has always sent its invitations to Ottawa, a city generally recognized as the capital of Canada. Unless Mr. Johnson has decided to put his two-nations-in-one theory of Confederation into operation unilaterally, Ottawa is still the place to go. The idea of Canada associating itself, culturally at least, with a French Commonwealth, is not unattractive. But it could not be the same sort of relationship as that with the British Commonwealth. The Queen of Canada is head of that Commonwealth and under this symbolism the ties of comradeship, confusing though they be to outsiders, are not to be duplicated elsewhere.

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Widening The Policy Gap

The national Liberal policy conference in Ottawa placed the government party more squarely than ever on the road to continentalism. The strongest voices took the North American approach on economics.

Narrow "buy-back Canada" nationalism is soft-pedalled. Delegates generally opted for the broad view. Resolutions favored a North American free-trade area and a welcome mat for foreign investment, which is largely from the U.S.

Significant moves towards greater Canadian control of the economy at the expense of U.S. investment failed to make much impact.

One of the effects is to widen the policy gap between the Liberals and the New Democratic Party, whose more nationalistic approach calls for strong measures to assert Canadian control of the economy. SEEN AS SHARP VICTORY Some observers picture the conference results as a black-white defeat for the left-leaning nationalistic policies of Walter Gordon, the former finance minister. The victor was his successor, Mitchell Sharp, looking outward to the benefits of "close U.S. ties."

Quebec And The Queen

Hamilton Spectator Some Quebec separatists are already filling the air with warnings of what may happen if the Queen is given "a special" welcome at Expo '67 next year. While they willingly admit they like her as a person, they despise the title "Queen of Canada" and it is against the title, not the individual, that they will vent their displeasure.

Now that the government has been forewarned, perhaps measures will be taken by the police to keep known nuts and other separatist extremists out of town or at least under close surveillance when Her Majesty visits Montreal next year. It would be ridiculous to hide

Always On the Rise

Fort William Times-Journal their trousers under the billowing folds of skirts. By the middle ages, men dressed in trousers without embarrassment. With the pants they wore a short tunic, often made of undyed woolen cloth. A cloak for cold weather completed the wardrobe. Women went about in long, shapeless dresses. The shape of the dresses improved over the centuries, but, in the early 1900's, a lady crossing a muddy street still had to gather up her skirts. The rise of the skirt began innocently enough with a tunic-like overskirt in 1912. The novel caught designers' attention and three years later the overskirt had become the whole dress. HELP NEW LANDS West Germany is backing 2,774 aid projects in 95 developing countries.

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