The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

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For Greater Security

In a speech largely devoted to explaining the Canada Pension Plan as it appears in a 125-section bill now introduced in the House of Commons, Health and Welfare Minister LaMarsh touched on another subject of more than passing interest to Canadians in the old-age security pension bracket. She intimated that this pension, too, will be linked to the cost of living. As costs rise, so will the pension, now $75 a month.

"One of the criticisms made of the earlier (contributory plan) bill," said Miss LaMarsh, "was that it failed to provide for our elderly citizens who already are in receipt of pensions and who will have no opportunity to contribute to the Canada Pension Plan. Under the new Canada Pension Plan, however, in addition to the $10 increase in their pensions implemented just over a year ago, all future old-age security pensions will be pegged to the cost-of-living index and will increase automatically if living costs increase."

This, the minister added, will provide a greater measure of security and will protect the real value of the pension dollar for Canada's million pensioners. Later she gave a more detailed statement. The old-age security pension will go on to a sliding scale on Jan. 1, 1967, and the first adjustment will be made in 1968. If the cost of living has increased by less than 1 per cent, the change will be ignored. If by more than 1 per cent, the pension will be raised by the same percentage to a maximum increase of 2 per cent in any one year. If the cost of living falls the pension will not be reduced, but the decline will be taken into account in adjusting for future increases.

This is a fair and reasonable arrangement; doubly so because the cost of the increases in the pension will be amply covered by the existing taxation that supports the plan. And it will make for greater efficiency of administration to have both the old-age security plan and the contributory plan linked to the cost of living.

New British Budget

The new British Labor governmetn's first budget affords a good example of the old adage that you pay for what you get. It provides for increased expenditure on social services, but the boost in gasoline and income taxes and national insurance premiums will affect more than the affluent. The government admits that they will add to living costs, and the Conservatives claim they will lead to inflation.

According to the chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Callaghan, it was "mishandling by the Tory government" that left the country with a balance of payments deficit which may amount to the equivalent of $2,400 million this year, while the Conservatives maintain that it was the Laborites, by their blue-ruin campaign, that "created the atmosphere of crisis." These arguments have a familiar ring to Canadians, and no doubt to Britishers as well, for they are bandied about after almost every change of administration.

There will be disappointment in Canada and among Britain's European trading partners that the extra import duties, imposed as an emergency measure last October, are to be continued for the most part for another year. Two specific items affecting Canadian exporters are listed in this category—newsprint and planed softwood. Mr. Callaghan insists, however, that these higher cariffs are of "a temporary character," and that it is not the intention to cushion British industry from competition.

Nothing appears in the news dispatches with regard to provision of higher salaries for British MPs. Before the election, Mr. Wilson is said to have agreed with Conservative leader Sir Alec Douglas-Home that whoever won would push through a salary boost straight away. The present rate is £1,000 plus £750 expenses. Members on both sides regard themselves as being underpaid. It is doubtful, however, that the government, with its slim majority, and without a concrete pledge of support from its opponents, will risk putting this reform into effect until the storm over its tax measures dies away.

The Late Mr. Hughes

Political friends and opponents alike were in agreement on one thing about Wade Hughes during the years in which he sat in the Legislature: he hadn't a streak of partisanship in his makeup. He was not only invariably fair and courteous in his dealings with members on both sides; he simply couldn't conceive of any other way in which to conduct himself. Seldom indeed were the occasions on which he lost his temper, and then it was never on partisan grounds, but over some issue in which his moral indignation had been aroused.

In private and business life, as in his public capacity, Mr. Hughes showed sterling characteristics. One had to get to know him well, however, to value him at his true worth. He was essentially of a shy and retiring disposition, with a mind so richly stored that while he valued popular acclaim, he was independent of it.

He could have lived, more contentedly than most, on a desert island. Yet he set a high value on friendship, and on the social amenities that are truly conducive to friendly contact and not merely the empty formalities they too frequently are.

"Fidus Achates" is how the late Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan used to describe Mr. Hughes in his relations with his long-time colleague Premier Jones. It was said partly in jest, but only partly. A true compliment was implied by the veteran Conservative leader, who was a shrewd judge of men.

Achates, in Virgil, was the faithful companion of Aeneas in all his wanderings, and the term has come down from mythology with the two words inseparably joined. A grand old Latin word, "fides", expressive of the noblest of virtues among the Romans! Without pushing it too far in the context in which Dr. MacMillan used it, one can say that it was singularly appropriate to Mr. Hughes. Good faith was what he exemplified consistently in all his actions, and what he valued most highly in others.

In his death, as reported in our news columns yesterday, this province has lost a very fine citizen indeed.

Pigs In The News

Recently in the House of Commons an argument arose as to whether a hog-feeder is a farm machine. If so, it can qualify for loans under the legislation permitting farmers to group together to purchase machinery in common and obtain a loan. Agriculture Minister Hays lent the weight of his opinion to an affirmative view on this point.

But the Windsor Star raises a moot question in this connection. How, it asks, could one hog-feeder serve several farmers, unless the pigs were owned cooperatively and housed under one roof? A hog-feeder couldn't be hauled from farm to farm to feed pigs at their proper time. One can just hear the hungry hogs squeal if that were tried!

Certainly, also, pigs could not be driven from one farm to another to attend the pig-feeding. Pigs are the most ornery animals to drive. To drive one pig is most difficult. Would Mr. Hays himself endeavor to take on ten?

Our Windsor contemporary concludes, in the circumstances, that it might be best to call the hog-feeder a new-fangled trough, and let it go at that. Some of the members, it adds unkindly, know what a trough is.

WHO SAID TOPLESS BATHING SUIT?

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Why Did Flag Committee Reverse Itself?

Among all the emotion and the charges of political chicanery attending the report of the Special Committee on a Canadian Flag, the true significance of that report has been substantially overlooked.

The committee was named on 15th September. Forty-four days later it submitted its report to Parliament, having held forty-five meetings — a probably unprecedented record of intensive committee work. Its fifteen members included seven Liberals, five Conservatives, and one from each of the three smaller parties. In geographic spread, it included five French-Canadian MPs from Quebec, and ten non-French-Canadian MPs from other provinces, made up of four from Ontario, two from B.C., and one each from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Three of the five Tories on the committee were former cabinet ministers. The chairman of the committee was Herman Batten, a veteran Liberal MP from Newfoundland; he would only vote in the committee to break a tie, and so in the result he never did exercise his ballot in any of the votes—all, unusually, secret- taken during the committee's proceedings.

NARROWING THE CHOICE

The committee first voted on three motions: one, that a national plebiscite should be taken— motion defeated by a vote of nine to five; two, the adoption of only one National Flag—motion carried fourteen to nil; three, that the Canadian Red Ensign be the National Flag of Canada— motion defeated ten to four.

The votes were secret, but it is a reasonable surmise that the four votes in favour of the Red Ensign were those of the four English-Canadian Conservatives.

Now what has been overlooked is that significant second motion. This surely means that Canada should have just one flag, and the vote on this was unanimous. But at a later meeting on another day, this totality of the committee found itself faced by another motion: "That the Government be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to provide that the Canadian Red Ensign may continue to be flown as a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and of her allegiance to the Crown."

An amendment was moved to substitute the "Royal Union Llag," commonly known as the Union Jack, for the Red Ensign. The amendment carried by a vote of seven to two, with five abstentions — presumably by the Conservatives. The amended motion then carried by eight to one, again with five abstentions.

Thus the committee came to recommend, reversing its previous stand, that Canada should have two flags. That reversal deserves closer study. I would guess that the Conervatives abstained in protest against the committee' irregularity in overriding its own previous unanimous vote— an irregularity which will surely be interpreted by some as suggesting that the committee suffered outside interference in this matter.

WHOSE FLAG

Then comes the matter of the Union Jack. Why should just one of the eighteen or so Commonwealth nations unilaterally decide to adopt the flag of one other commonwealth nation as its symbol of Commonwealth membership Must all other Commonwealth nations now likewise adopt the Union Jack to signify membership And what about that "allegiance to the Crown" Some Commonwealth nations do not recognize any crown; they merely accept the monarch of the Mother - country as the Head of the Commonwealth.

Its a strange thing that, when he had the chance at a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers at the beginning of our flag hassle, Prime Minister Pearson never raised this subject for decision by all the member of the Commonwealth; it is obviously something which Canada unilaterally has absolutely no right or power to decide.

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 corrrespondence regarding letters submitted.

WINTER SIDEWALKS

Sir, — Mr. F.W. McArthur's letter which appeared in The Evening Patriot on November 10th is very timely and should receive the consideration not only of our City officials, but also our citizens in general.

For a great number of years past our winter sidewalks have been left in a most dangerous and disgraceful condition. Some five years ago the writer had the misfortune of falling on a badly kept sidewalk on Sydney Street; the result—a compound fracture of the right arm and, but for the efforts of some of our good doctors in the City, my right arm would have been lost. As it was my trade as a stenographer was sharply curtailed—not a pleasant thought.

As a sidewalk casualty the writer is willing and glad to stand up and be counted, if by doing so, it will help to prevent even one human being from experiencing the same fate.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ROSE G. RYAN
Charlottetown.

CLOUDS

Sir, — The term clouds has a certain significance attached to it that is fascinating Their billowy formations for instance, We often say. There's not a cloud in the sky!

Well, if that was the case, day after day, week after week, it certainly would be very monotonous. But the Divine Architect ordained it otherwist. How refreshing, after a succession of hot dry days in summer, to see the rain clouds gather. It made glad the hearts of the people of Samaria in the Prophet Elijah's day, after experiencing three years of drouth. It makes the heart of the prairie farmer rejoice to see the rain clouds after a lengthy period of dry weather.

Then there are the war clouds that are hanging over a number of places in the world at the present time. The discerning eye can detect an ominous looking cloud on the horizon of international affairs, and it will need wise Statesmanship in order to avoid a clash of arms.

It causes a chill to run down the spine, as one attempts to visualize the result of another World War. Many will think that it is time enough to bid the Devil, "Good Morning", when you meet him. But, are we ready to meet him? What about our spiritual resources? Have we as individuals; as a Nation appropriated the spiritual content which the Most High has placed at our disposal? If we have not, let us do so. For tomorrow may to too late. It is later than we think.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W.D. JOHNSTON
Montague, P.E.I.

The Feminine Mystique

Ottawa Journal

The author of "The Feminine Mystique" happened to be in Ottawa the other day when a curious little news story from Toronto caught our eye.

It told of a long-haired 12-year-old girl who, disguised as a boy, threw three touchdown passes in a grade school football game before a hard tackle knocked off her helment and revealed the awful truth.

The shocked, hurt and no doubt bewildered boys who so properly banished the intruder probably didn't connect their misfortune to Mrs. Betty Friedan's call for women to throw off their household chains and seek creative fulfilment. And rightly so.

We are sure nothing was farther from Mrs. Friedan's mind than throwing touchdown passes when she told Ottawa women that many of society's ideas on "faminity" are outdated.

Yet, the men have been warned. There are always a few girls around who can run faster, jump higher and even throw a football better than a good many boys. There is nothing wrong with that.

But it would be disastrous to add this talent to the already formidable array of womanly devices for shattering male egos. Spirited competition between the sexes is tolerable for men; but let women not risk total war by invading sacred male grounds in disguise. Besides, if it came to war, we all know who would win.

A Dramatic Indictment

Montreal Star

Five men went on trial in Akron, Ohio, 44 years ago, for murder.

Three escaped, among them the one alleged to have shot the victim.

He was convicted in absentia. sentnced to the electric chair, and has just been found.

His life since breaking out of jail raises quite dramatically the question of the jusitification of capital punishment.

Would society have been the better if he had been executed 44 years ago?

After breaking out of jail, he embarked on a career of apparently undeviating respectability.

He found work, then enlisted and served a total of 20 years in the U.S. Army and Air Force.

He married, and has one son.

When the pursuit finally caught up with him, he was living in a soldiers' home.

He was just 20 years old when he was arrested and accused of murder.

Would it have been better if he had not had the opportunity to live the next 44 years?

That question is not altogether fair.

The two suspects who faced the music were paroled after a few years in prison.

If Exhibit A had stuck it out, he might have had a similar experience.

By running away, he forfeited his chance to tell his story. (It might not have helped, of course.)

It is not certain, then, that he would have been executed.

But the circumstances fit well enough to constitute an indictment of the death penalty.

Letters From Our Readers

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

An automobile editor suggests something be done about the lack of toilet facilities on some interstate expressways. This is not a problem for a medical editor to solve but many individuals with kidney and bladder disease are unable to use these highways for this reason. They have intense urgency and frequency and cannot travel far without going to a rest room. One of my patients lived 20 miles from my office and her technique was to stop for gasoline at four stations on the way. Her cystitis was remedied and she is grateful to be relieved of this embarrassing condition.

An Oquawka, Ill., man was amazed at my opening sentence on the suicide toll. I said, "No one knows how many persons commit suicide because the family often protects the victims by blaming death on other causes."

He writes: "I thought physicians, not the family, were superseded by the coroner's office with the responsibility of certifying the true cause of death. Has this practice been changed?"

The answer is no, but the story told by the family plays an important role in determining whether death was accidental or intentional. Did the individual slip off a cliff or jump? Drink poison by mistake or intentionally? Shoot himself accidentally while cleaning the gun or with suicide in mind?

The deceased may have succumbed to a broken neck which is mentioned on the certificate. The reason is not known and the cause is omitted.

More on poison ivy: An Evanston, Ill., woman writes: "Most of the nature lovers in my native Brown county, Ind., have learned that wherever poison ivy grows, so does the jewelweed. On coming into contact with poison ivy, they look for the jewelweed, pick a large stem, and crush leaves and stem to extract the sap and rub on exposed areas. This helps even after redness and itching have developed. I understand the University of Indiana has attempted unsuccessfully to make a stable solution of jewelweed extract but apparently only the fresh plant has therapeutic value."

This is news to me but the plan cannot be recommended until more scientific evidence is obtained. If I contacted poison ivy, I would be inclined to trust good old soap and water, plus a solvent such as cleaning fluid or even gasoline. But keep your fingers crossed. We are finding that many weeds and plants have medicinal value and the clews often come from old wives' sales or from the medicine man in the bush.

INFLAMED POCKETS

Mrs. W. writes: Could diverticulas cause blood in the stools at times?

REPLY

Yes. These tiny pockets in the colon may become inflamed and bleed.

CORTISONE AND ULCER

H.S. writes: Can an ulcer victim take cortisone?

REPLY

Cortisone and ulcers do not mix. The lesion might be reactivated by the hormone in those who have had ulcer.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In the future, it may be said of the Great Flag Debate that seldom before have so few paid so little attention to so much said by so many.— Calgary Herald.

The little boy exhibited a scraped knee to his mother. "I was walking down the street and I fell and hurt myself." "Did you cry when you got up?" asked his mother. "Of course I didn't! What's the use of crying if there's no one around to hear you?"— Galt Reporter.

Recently, in Los Angeles, the board of education was faced with a problem that had its members biting their nails. The word language, on their newly printed report cards, came out "langauge". To correct the spelling would cost the city $1,389.50 and make the report cards late. The board was also worried about what the incorrect spelling would do to the children's morale. It seems to us they should forget about the juvenile morale probem and be thankful that at least some children are going to learn, early, that adults can make mistakes. —Hamilton Spectator.

There is one good thing about rock-and-roll records: when they wear out, you can't tell the difference. — Calgary Herald.

Jonas Hanbury, the first man to carry an umbrella regularly in the streets of London, was pelted with clods by angry coachmen. They were afraid he would do them out of a livelihood— little realizing that in time smart young men would be calling cabs to protect their umbrellas. In fact, one man who actually was forced to open his, straightway took a cab back to the store to have the thing rerolled.—London Observer.

The travel pattern from Canada to Europe is changing sharply. In 1962, the last year for which complete figures are available, eight out of every 10 travellers who went to Europe, did so by air. More than 200,000 Canadians made the trans-Atlantic trip, about 25,000 more than the previous year. The starting fact is that only eight out of every 100 went on business, once the principal motive for air travel to Europe. The majority now go to visit friends and relatives or go for foreign holidays.— Peterborough Examiner.

De Gaulle's New Victory

By Boris Miskew
Canadian Press Staff Writer

President de Gaulle has scored a new victory in his battle for Europe—by braking West German acceleration toward the establishment of a NATO mixed-manned nuclear fleet.

The French president for some time has fought the United States - proposed nuclear force for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, fearing that such a force would confirm U.S. domination of Western Europe.

His latest battle was won in Paris where former chancellor Konard Adenauer of West Germany lent his ear to de Gaulle earlier in the week

Adenauer, himself a staunch backer of the proposed nuclear fleet, returned to Bonn apparently under the spell of the French leader's power of persuasion and met with Chancellor Ludwig Erhard.

The result: A West German decision to stop pressing for the soonest possible creation of the force which would result in a multilateral nuclear fleet.

The West German decision came at a time when that country's defence minister, Kai-Uwe von Hassel, was in Washington doing what he could to promote the cause of the nuclear fleet.

It also came at a time when the U.S. expressed willingness to delay a little the final signing of the nuclear fleet treaty—originally scheduled for about Dec. 1—so Britain's Prime Minister Wison could discuss the matter with President Johnson when the two leaders meet in Washington Dec. 7-8.

The statement Wednesday announcing West Germany's decision to stop pressing for the creation of the fleet emphasized, however, that West Germany continues to be ready to sign such a treaty.

The creation of the fleet would permit West German ships to be armed with nuclear weapons although the final decision to use the weapons would rest with the U.S. president.

France has argued that the establishment of an eight-power group to frame the conditions of the nuclear force treaty is a violation of the NATO principle of unanimity. The eight countries, all NATO members, are the U.S., West Germany, Britain, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, Greece and Turkey.

BILATERAL AGREEMENT

French officials have described the proposed treaty as a bilateral agreement between Bonn and Washington. They regard it as a threat to the independence of Europe because it would make West Germany dependent on the U.S.

France considers the proposed treaty incompatible with the year-old French - German treaty of co-operation and with the building of a United Europe

West Germany on the other hand regards force—to consist initially of 25 surface ships manned by international crews and carrying Polaris missiles—as a further step in integrating German military forces with the Atlantic Alliance.

Failure to push the treaty through could result in a West German effort to obtain independent nuclear arms. Creation of the force would practically result in a sort of NATO within NATO.

Britain's Labor government has indicated opposition to the force as currently conceived. Much will depend on the outcome of Wilson's talks on the subject in Washington next month.

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