

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
Wallace Ward
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A Teetering Margin

Yesterday's voting in the provincial general election was phenomenally close, and there will likely be recounts in some constituencies. As it stands, at 16-14, the Liberals can claim to be ahead, despite the uncertain factor of the voting to be held later in First Kings. At worst, for them, this could spell a deadlock; at best, victory by a teetering margin.

Both parties were long on election promises, but for the Liberals, the sky was the limit. They even promised, "in cooperation with the federal government's Canada Assistance Plan," to pay ALL old age pensioners \$100 a month although there is no such provision in the Plan as outlined at Ottawa. The Plan proposes to pay extra money to pensioners "where there is need," which is a different matter. They are also pledged to abolish the present school tax, to provide free school books for all students from grades 1 to 11, to pay at least \$1.25-an hour to all persons employed on government contracts, and to a crash program to meet "all needs" for senior citizens' homes, low rental homes and nursing homes, for low-cost dwellings and mortgage money for rural as well as urban areas, and numerous other things.

A strong point made by Mr. Campbell in enumerating his pledges was the need for haste in implementing them. "Prince Edward Island can't wait," he said, for the slowpoke Conservatives to get round to them. "Action now" is what they would get if they voted for him and his party candidates. The Island had been in a rut long enough. "We Liberals want to get out of that rut and allow the province to leap forward to a better day and to better opportunity."

Considering that the province, according to the Liberals at the last legislative session, has the highest per capita debt of any province in Canada and is headed for bankruptcy if it doesn't retrench, this "leap forward," if it takes place, will be something to watch. Let's hope it won't be from the frying pan into the fire!

Cabinet Growing Pains

One of the first problems facing Sir John A. Macdonald in 1867, recalls the Hamilton Spectator, was the necessity of assembling a cabinet of no less than 13 men to keep happy the political elements of Upper and Lower Canada and the Maritimes. During the First World War, Sir Robert Borden hived off 10 members into a special war committee, but the idea was dropped after the Armistice and by 1921 Arthur Meighen had assembled a cabinet of 21.

Mackenzie King made the last meaningful effort at cabinet paring in the winter of 1935-36 when he got down to 16 members which R. MacGregor Dawson, in his definitive "Government of Canada," 1947 edition, considers the irreducible minimum in terms of practical Canadian politics. That classic minimum has always been three French speaking members and one English speaking member from Quebec, four from Ontario, one from each of the other provinces, and one from the Senate. With the post-1947 addition of Newfoundland that minimum is now 17. After the Second World War began King assembled a war committee of six members and by 1945 it had grown to nine, but once again peace brought proliferation and never since has the cabinet been to realistic size.

Now Prime Minister Pearson talks wistfully of possible future changes, but the feeling is that it will take a more powerful leader than any on the Canadian scene today to muster the

courage and decisiveness to introduce a basic reform which has been overdue in this country for many years. With 26 members the cabinet now is too large, yet more ministers are needed to attend to the burgeoning responsibilities of government. Mr. Pearson hesitates to add them without splitting the cabinet into inner and outer circles, and yet he is afraid to make the split. In corporate terms, 26 people are probably 20 too many, but in a hyper-political state like Canada, which demands a geographically, racially and religiously balanced main stream of federal politics, reform does not come easily.

The most obvious answer, it is suggested, lies in the United Kingdom. Prime Minister Harold Wilson's cabinet today consists of 23 members and governs a country two and one-half times as populous as Canada in a far more absolute and central sense than is the case here. An additional 31 members of Parliament hold ministerial posts but they attend meetings of the inner cabinet only when specifically invited. The system was adopted in 1916.

Ontario Sets Example

Tired, evidently, of waiting for Ottawa to move in the matter, the Ontario government has introduced amendments under the province's Highway Traffic Act to establish safety requirements for car and tire makers. Under the new legislation the government would have power to require the incorporation of any safety device deemed necessary in or on any vehicle. In addition, an organization could be designated to test and approve or reject any safety device.

The government would also be able to prescribe tire standards, specifications and markings. Tires that did not comply could be banned from sale. "We don't want Ontario to become a dumping ground for rejects (tires)," said Transport Minister Haskett, noting that the U.S. government is expected to set tire standards soon. The regulations are expected to come into effect within the next six months—but not in time to influence changes in 1967 models, he said.

Other proposed changes would make it illegal to operate motor vehicles when the windshield or windows are covered by ice or frost, would require vehicles approaching in both directions to stop for school buses, and would permit non-paying passengers to sue the driver in accidents involving gross negligence.

The legislation is regarded as a compromise between the crack-down suggested by some parties and the plea of the motor companies that they police their own production. The position of the motor companies collapsed suddenly during the recent hearings at Washington and it became evident that some public guidance would be necessary and would be accepted by the manufacturers who had previously opposed such action. Mr. Haskett emphasized that the Ontario cabinet had no intention "right now" of drawing up new safety rules based on the legislation. It merely wanted to arm itself with the power to do so if makers don't go along with its wishes.

Precision Farming

The American West, which in the great days measured its wide open spaces in square miles, seems to be going into reverse. The future agricultural picture suggests farms measured in square feet.

To this end, Andrew Duncan, a westerner specializing in vegetable crops, is talking about new, small machines capable of sowing seeds closer together and harvesting crops bunched into clumps. Such "small, fast, efficient machines," he suggests, could multiply yields of concentrated plantings of cabbage, lettuce, onions, corn and—well, everything—by 100 per cent.

"Precision agriculture" is what Duncan calls the innovation. Machines that precise—and their development is not unlikely—would surely revolutionize row-crop farming.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The statue of Wolfe on Quebec's Plains of Abraham, wrecked by a bomb has been rebuilt on a similar scale with the deletion of the word "victorious" from the inscription. Now another statue of Wolfe, long an adornment of Canada House in London, is to be joined by a statue of Montcalm, the French commander in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. "The two incidents," comments the Windsor Star, "reflect a puzzling official view of history. We aren't sure whether the government of Canada thinks that Wolfe was not the victor, that the battle was a draw, or that it never did take place."



UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

The Boom, The Bite, And The Falling Dollar

This is a boom, this is a boom. More Canadians have jobs, and are earning higher wages than ever before in our history, according to government spokesmen. Our national productivity is at an all time high.

But when we read the newspapers, and especially those revealing "letters to the editor," we perceive a slightly different picture. Johnny Canuck, that average Canadian, is complaining of the tax bite; his wife is complaining of the price squeeze on her household spending; workers everywhere are asking for higher wages to compensate for those higher taxes and higher prices; workers are even striking to back up those requests.

So when does a boom cease to be a boom? When is affluence eroded by an increasingly important dollar? FIGURES CANNOT LIE. Politicians always present the most attractive side of the picture when they are in power, and the least attractive side when they are in opposition. But the truth lies somewhere between those two extremes; it is best measured, not by politicians whose veins course with warm red blood, but by computers whose life-blood is anti-freeze and oil.

So, let us see what is shown to us by the cold figures produced by the inanimate counting machines in our ever-reliable Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Let us look at the balance sheet of the First One Thousand Days of the government of Lester Bowles Pearson, otherwise known as "Mike."

335,000 more Canadians have got jobs; our gross national product has risen by \$10,056,000,000; salaries and wages have risen by \$5,469,000,000.

Those figures look pretty good—until we take a peep at what is behind them. Our population is growing fast—so of course more people are working; our dollar is losing in buying power—so of course wages should be rising; our work force is rising, and its product is priced in continuously inflating dollars—so of course the price tag on our national product is rising.

At the beginning of the Pearson Era, according to the Bureau of Statistics, 33.2 per cent of our population had a job; today that figure has risen very slightly to 33.8 per cent.

During the first 1,000 days of the Pearson Era, the Cost of Living moved upwards at a brisk pace—as any housewife can tell you. In fact, it moved upwards as far in those 1,000 days as it did in the 2,000 Diefenbaker Days when Flange Minister Donald Fleming—"The Housewives' Friend"—enforced policies which kept prices more stable.

The work force increased six per cent in the first 1,000 Pearson days; but the Cost of Living increased seven per cent. Adjusting our national productivity for these two factors, and we see that its real increase was approximately 3.4 per cent per annum—not very impressive contrasted to say West Germany or Japan. Salaries, when adjusted for increases in the size of the working force and in prices, rose 10.5 per cent, or slightly more than productivity.

THAT GRIM TAX BITE. But in that same period, the governmental tax from direct personal income tax rose about 50 per cent—surely you noticed? The take from corporation income tax rose, by about one-third; and the yield from indirect taxes rose by about two-fifths. Thus federal, provincial and municipal taxes, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, have risen by nearly four billion, repeat four billion, dollars to a total of 114,132,000,000 during the

past 2½ years. Provincial premiers and municipal mayors of course have played their part in that. What is the lesson in the figures? Affluence is comparative; it is largely personal. As a nation we are living beyond our means.

Too Many Menial Tasks

Fort William Times-Journal

Dissatisfaction with their jobs is leading to the resignation of a considerable number of police officers in major centres of Canada, observes the president of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association. Some 65 officers in his city resigned last month and in the past four months some 80 have decided to leave the force. He claims that working hours, restricting police regulations and lack of public appreciation or support for police officers is responsible for resignations by municipal and RCMP personnel.

Public regard for policemen should be high. Many of them are called upon to risk their lives on occasion to protect the public. They represent the barriers against unhappy disorder and the destruction or loss of property. They protect the citizens from the criminals.

If police in general do not have the respect they should have from the public, part of the answer may be found in the fact that so many of them are detailed to menial tasks of traffic direction. Some day soon this situation may be remedied by divorcing ordinary traffic problems from the police forces proper, allotting the task to a special group, preferably wearing uniforms distinctive from those of officers with law enforcement duties other than traffic regulations.

Tax 'Em All, Says Charlotte

London Free Press

Ottawa's ex-mayor, Charlotte Whitton, has opened a campaign for a new municipal taxation base in which she would eliminate all exemptions. Even the municipality would pay taxes on the property it holds.

Miss Whitton believes that the extra taxes the governing bodies of all levels would pay should be a sufficient subsidy to ease the load of the harrowed taxpayer. In addition she claims that run-down property that the government control cost the taxpayers too much; they might be made productive if facing a municipal levy.

In her usual succinct terms Miss Whitton says "the worst racket the church of God runs is accepting tax-free property." She adds she "would make an honest woman out of the Assessment Act."

Miss Whitton says schools and hospitals too should pay municipal taxes. Then a pro per grants would be made by the supporting bodies so that the ratepayer would not be carrying a double load.

Whether she thinks her taxation manifesto will rate her high among the nation's deserving municipal elite she launched an attack on the neglect being shown women. She says the last two prime ministers have declined to place potential women senators in office. Surely Charlotte isn't hinting.

A Year Of Rice

Milwaukee Journal

Rice is an accessory in the diets of most Americans—something enjoyed occasionally as a change. But to one-third of the world's people rice is the staff of life—the basic, sometimes the only, item on the daily menu. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has declared 1966 to be international rice year, dedicated to the more than a billion human beings to whom rice means survival.

Seven thousand varieties of rice grow in a wide range of climates all over the world. The cereal grows in tropical African swamps and high in the Himalayas—wherever enough water is available. In much of Asia, where most rice eating peoples live, the growing, storage and distribution of the cereal is sadly inefficient. Because of primitive farming methods, an acre yields less than half as much rice as in Europe and North America. In some underdeveloped countries half the crop rots on the ground, for lack of storage facilities, or is eaten by rodents. Marketing is so backward that most of the world's rice goes no farther than the place where it is grown.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is undertaking projects to improve rice technology in more than a score of countries during rice year. This is a humanitarian effort of importance to all nations.

The Wrong Tip

Toronto Telegram

The venerable New York Times, which likes to pride itself on accuracy and being first with the news, has been caught with its slip-sliding.

On May 11, the Times published a front-page story which said: "Joseph (Joe) Bonanno, long-missing Mafia leader, is alive and hiding somewhere in Europe, a government source said today."

Exactly one week later, the Times again carried front-page report dealing with Bonanno. It said in part: "Joseph (Joe) Bonanno, the 61-year-old Mafia leader who has been hunted around the world by government agencies for 19 months, unexpectedly walked in the U.S. court house at Foley Square yesterday and gave himself up."

The Times tried to cover up for its earlier story by saying that at times Bonanno was reported to have been seen in his native Sicily, Italy, Algiers, Mexico, Canada and Haiti.

New York police insisted that Bonanno has never been off the continent. Even the best of newspapers receive bad tips on occasion.

GREAT APES GROW FEW

The orang-utan is dying out and now numbers between 2,000 and 5,000.

Farmer's Lung

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Farming involves tasks in the barn, hen house, wood lot, fields and garden. Dusts including material from fungi, moldy hay, grain, pigs, cattle, and birds may cause serious respiratory disorders. All of these have been blamed for farmer's lung, the main occupational disease among agricultural workers.

Authorities are not certain whether the symptoms stem from an allergy, infection, or mechanical irritation that ensues when the particles are inhaled. At any rate, improvement occurs when the victims avoid this type of work.

A 47-year-old dairy farmer developed fever, weakness, shortness of breath, and a feeling of pressure over the breast bone. He delayed seeing his physician for six weeks because the condition was better one day and worse the next. He thought he had a cold, but when questioned, recalled that discomfort began shortly after his first exposure to chopped-moldy-hay spread about the barn as bedding for the young stock. Sputum studies and chest X-rays led to a diagnosis of farmer's lung. He improved rapidly while hospitalized and was advised to change occupations. It was not until he became short of breath after revisiting the barn that he was convinced and became a truck driver.

Chills, fever, cough, weakness, and shortness of breath ensue within six hours after exposure to the irritants. The disorder is suspected when the symptoms recur after repeated exposures. The disease is serious, and means that the farmer must look for a new livelihood. Some climates are more conducive to the condition because the forage does not have time to dry before it is stored in the barn or outside in a stack. Spoilage encourages decomposition leading to considerable amounts of dust laden with moldy material.

Pigeon and parrot breeders contact an identical condition initiated by inhaling dust containing bird excreta. In all probability, pigeon-breeder's lung is a variation of farmer's lung and other such conditions as thrasher's chills, haymow fever, grain asthma, hystinosis (cotton dust) weaver's cough (moldy cotton yarn), and mill fever.

WANTS ANSWER T. U. writes: How long does it take to receive an answer in your column?

REPLY The majority of letters are answered promptly but more than a month is required for processing. Some letters are not answered in the column because they lack general interest or are unsuitable.

TOEING-IN L. L. writes: Would wearing the right shoe on the left foot and vice versa correct pigeon-toes in a child?

REPLY Yes, but it may be easier to correct with passive stretching, or with special devices on shoes.

NOT FATAL Mrs. D. writes: Do some women die of the menopause?

REPLY The menopause does not cause death. When a woman dies during this period, some other cause is responsible.

LAZY GALL BLADDER F. M. writes: Could a nonfunctioning gall bladder cause a bad taste in the mouth?

REPLY Yes, but only as part of the associated indigestion.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Keep clotheslines strung high. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO (May 31, 1941)

Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell arrived in London, England, with messages of goodwill and encouragement from the churches of the United States, after attending the general assembly of the Church of Scotland.

A chief petty officer of British warship said that hundreds of German seamen floundered helplessly in the sea with no life floats to cling to after 40 British salvos and three "Steel fish" sent the 35,000 ton Bismarck, pride of the German Navy, to the bottom.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 31, 1956)

Brigadier W.W. Reid, DSO, ED, was re-elected president of the Provincial Council of the Boy Scouts Association at the annual meeting held at the "Centre" at Summerside.

In a most impressive ceremony, No. 20 Queen Charlotte High School Cadet Corps was presented with the Corps Standard at Victoria Park. Mrs. K.M. Johnston, wife of Lt. Col. K.M. Johnston, officer commanding 5 Signals, made the presentation on behalf of the Regiment with which the Corps is affiliated.

ASK NEUTRALITY CHECK PHNOM-PENH (Reuters)—The Cambodian head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, renewed his offer Saturday to let a reinforced International Control Commission ensure the neutrality of his country. But he said the United States, not Cambodia, should pay the costs of strengthening the commission to enable it to play a bigger role.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Happiness is learning that your daughter's boy friend has had his electric guitar repossessed.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

A mechanical sparring partner has been covered by a U.S. patent. Put two of the machines together and they would probably put on a better fight than some of the recent heavyweight boxers.—Ottawa Journal.

Little Bobbie, while at a neighbor's, was given a piece of bread and butter, and politely said, "Thank you." "That's right, Bobbie," said the lady. "I like to hear little boys say 'thank you.'" "Well," rejoined Bobbie, "If you want to hear me say it again, you might put some jam on it."—Hamilton Spectator.

The Insider's Newsletter reports that James Bailes, operator of the Durham (England) Driving School, has started a course for back-seat drivers. Believing that "there is definitely a role for back-seat drivers who know what they are talking about," Mr. Bailes has set out to teach non-driving wives the right way to point out their husband's mistakes. What puzzles us is that so far, only 15 women have enrolled for the course.—Calgary Herald.

When asked why he left his last position, the agent said, "Well, I just couldn't take the way the manager and assistant manager were always fighting. They fought all the time, eh?" "Yes, if it wasn't the manager and me, it was the assistant manager and me. One of 'em was always fighting."—Montreal Star.

Sign on a supermarket billboard: "Help a poor unwed mother. Take one of her kittens!"—Toronto Globe and Mail.

"Well," Mabel said, "personally I think it's not fair to go to the cinema regularly with a boy you admit you don't like very much." "Oh, I don't know," Ethel replied coolly. "It's right enough. After all I enjoy the films and he enjoys my company."—Hamilton Spectator.

A successful politician is one who can rock the boat himself and then convince everyone there is a terrible storm at sea.—Niagara Falls Review.

A university research team comes out with an opinion that the modern bathroom is a disgrace something many mothers have known for years, a fete picking-up towels.—Fort William Times Journal.

Come, Come, Judy

Toronto Daily Star

At this stage of Canada's cultural development, State Secretary Judy LaMarsh's proposal to spend \$6,000,000 for a single Leonardo da Vinci painting is a money could be much more usefully invested.

The national gallery in Ottawa now has a permanent collection of more than \$20 million worth of Canadian and European paintings and more than 400,000 persons visit it each year. The government allots between \$300,000 and \$400,000 a year for the acquisition of new paintings.

But the gallery's main function is the encouragement of art throughout Canada. This it does through its reference-library, travelling exhibitions and publications programs.

The demand for such services will grow tremendously next year when the dozens of new art galleries and community centres being erected as local Centennial projects are opened for business. They will need not only exhibits but trained personnel to organize and handle showings and art studies.

When Dr. Jean Sutherland Boggs, the newly-appointed curator of the gallery, comes on staff next month, her major effort should be directed toward the expansion of existing gallery services across Canada. The annual operating budget, now running at about \$2,000,000, should be increased proportionally to meet the additional costs.

A \$6,000,000 painting would be an exciting acquisition for the national gallery, but it needs viewers that appreciate more than just the price tag.

Cowichan Sweaters

Hamilton Spectator

Westerners from as far away as the Pacific Coast and almost every corner who worships a kindly old skip are jealous of fortunate folk who own Cowichan Indian sweaters. All of them will be shocked to learn, therefore, that a London Daily Mirror columnist has savagely attacked Prime Minister Harold Wilson for wearing his Cowichan sweater in public.

The Cowichan sweater is as lively as a rainbow, as weather-proof as a sou'wester, and about as light as a ton or feathers. It is expensive too.

Evidently Mr. Wilson is very attached to his Cowichan sweater. That's undoubtedly why he wore it the other day on the golf course when he was entertaining Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew of Singapore, who, incidentally, was conservatively dressed in a dark pullover.

Love or a sense of duty are no excuse, however, according to the Daily Mirror columnist. "If Harold feels he's got to wear this horrible jumper to please whoever presented it to him, why doesn't he wear it in private, where only his nearest and dearest will have to suffer if he asked, rather tartly

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