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Disaster At Pictou

At the time of writing, the fire at Pictou was still out of control. The ferryboat, Prince Nova has been destroyed, along with several fishing craft, two piers and a freight shed; the residential part of the town was threatened and a high wind was driving the flames northward into the shipyard of Ferguson Industries Limited, Pictou's chief industry.

The North Nova was, until recently, on the Wood Islands-Pictou route and it is fortunate that this service will not be disrupted by her loss. Yet the damage will undoubtedly be very heavy and industry in our sister Province, as well as the Maritimes generally, will be adversely affected. So far there has been no report of any fatality or serious injury to the firefighters or others involved, but this is about the only redeeming feature of the disaster.

We have a sentimental interest in the stony old boat which sank at her berth amid the flames, and which served us so well for many years despite her limitations in accommodation. Along with the Dunning she provided the first transportation service on the Wood Islands route, which today is so important in our communication with the mainland. We felt, too, that with the Prince Nova around it might be possible, in case of accident to the Dunning or Lord Selkirk, to requisition her again. These considerations, however, are of minor importance in view of the extent of yesterday's fire damage, and of the anxiety over what yet may happen before the flames have been subdued.

Fiscal Claims Reviewed

The meeting of finance ministers and provincial treasurers, called by the Federal Government, is now under way at Ottawa; and this, as noted previously, will be followed by a meeting of officials comprising the continuing committee on fiscal relations. The opening brief for this Province, presented yesterday by Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, deals only with the tax rental agreements and general financial arrangements between the Province and Federal Government. It does not attempt to restate, at length, the Island's position as set out in the brief presented in November, 1957, but merely to reiterate some important points.

The present meeting, as we understand it, is the prelude to a full-scale inquiry into the whole field of fiscal relations with Ottawa, and it is important that we provide all the data available for a study of our grievances. There is very little concrete information in Mr. MacDonald's statement, but we assume that such material is being prepared and will be presented in due course.

Chiefly stressed by Mr. MacDonald is the need, over and above the general tax-sharing arrangements, for a system of fiscal need grants payable to those provinces in which per capita income falls below a certain average. The past agreements have contributed in large measure to the orderly development of provincial finance, but the formula is still unsatisfactory, inasmuch as each province receives about the same per capita amount, regardless of whether it is rich or poor. The disparity of taxable income among the provinces is so great that equalization in respect of the major direct tax fields is not enough; some additional correction should be made in respect to local sources of revenue.

The Federal Government has recognized the deficiency of the tax potential of the Atlantic Provinces by the payment of special assistance grants—in our case of \$2,500,000 annually for four years. This, said Mr. MacDonald, is appreciated very much; but it does not go far enough. The whole basis of conditional grants should be re-examined and a more flexible system

devised. If not, it should at least include a basic guaranteed amount across the board before any compensation for the rental of tax fields is calculated, as well as an assistance grant supplementary to the other payments, for the less favored provinces.

A strong plea for assistance to the municipalities was included in Mr. MacDonald's statement, which, as noted above, was in the way of an opening gambit and by no means a full-scale presentation of our manifold claims upon the federal treasury.

A Communist Defeat

Elections in Iceland are usually not followed with much interest by the outside world, but the returns announced last week were read eagerly in every capital affected by the cold war. Memories of Icelandic opposition to the American military base at Keflavik, plus the current fishing dispute with Britain, have evidently obscured certain other developments which are much more encouraging. In this election the Communist party campaigned on a "Yanks-Go-Home" platform and were badly beaten, losing 25 per cent of their popular vote and a seat in Parliament.

Since the beginning of this year Iceland has been ruled by a minority party, the Social Democrats, with only eight of the seats in the Althing (Parliament). This has been possible because of support from the Independence Party (which held 19 seats) plus divisions among the other parties.

Previously a coalition government which included Communists had come to power partly because of Icelandic discontent over a "foreign" military base on the island, over relations with the bigger NATO ally, Britain, and over lack of economic integration within NATO which might have helped Western markets for Icelandic fish.

The reported shift of votes from the Social Democrats to the Independence Party may prove an additional setback to the Communists who based some of their influence on the Social Democrats' need of their cooperation. It is evident, too, that in trying to make an issue of the fishing dispute and of Iceland's membership in NATO the Communists overplayed their hand. As a result, the air base stays on guard.

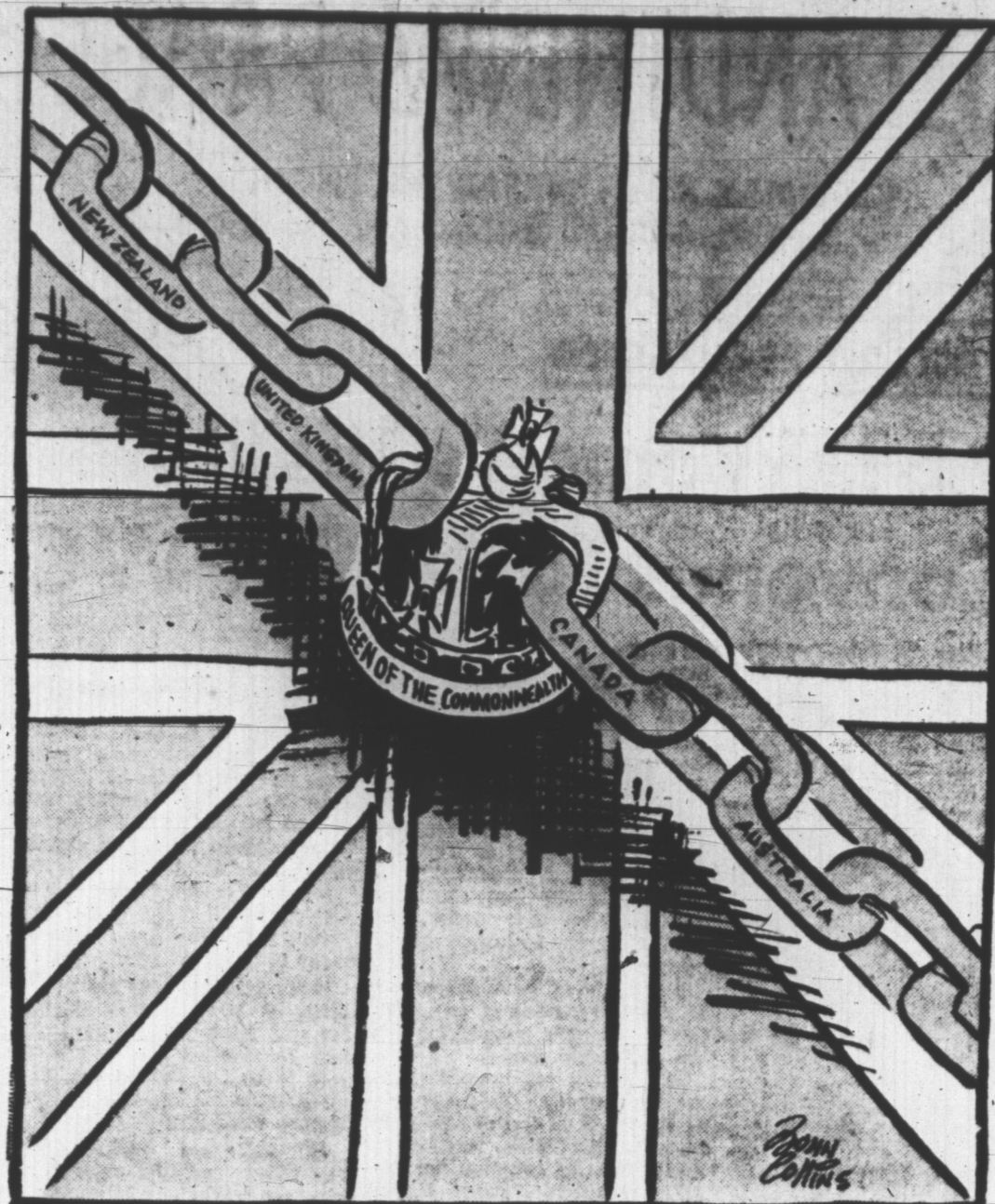
EDITORIAL NOTES

At least 46 persons died in accidents connected with holiday activities in Canada during the past weekend—10 in traffic mishaps and 17 through drowning. An appalling toll indeed.

It is expected that the current session of Parliament, which began on January 18, will end July 18. The Commons has now passed the spending estimates of seven government departments—and still has to deal with estimates of 14 others. Seven of these, however, have been before various House committees.

Liquor law enforcement has broken down in Ontario, complains the Sudbury Star. There has been no wholesale prosecution of those who serve liquor and beer until impairment or drunkenness results. The province has failed to come to grips with teen-age drinking and vigorous court action against those who supplied the teen-agers with the liquor. This indictment, says The Star, is not directed against any local situation; it is part of a province-wide picture in which too much death and destruction on the highway can be traced to impairment and drunkenness.

Maritime development receives special attention in the current issue of the Financial Post, Toronto, which notes that the value of construction in the Maritimes this year is spiraling up to new records. New Brunswick's construction projects will reach \$196 million for the full year against \$161 million in 1958. Nova Scotia will hit \$190 million against \$164 million. Prince Edward Island will be close to \$30 million which compares with \$24 million in 1958 and is more than double the Island's 1957 total. Largest percentage gains will be shown in construction of new manufacturing facilities.



THE VITAL LINK

A Negative Approach

Globe and Mail, Toronto

Details of the national crop insurance plan have been made public simultaneously with the latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures on farm cash income across Canada. This is a lucky coincidence. The farm income figures tell a great deal about the crop insurance issue which was not related by Agriculture Minister Harkness in his statement to the Commons.

Constitutionally unable to provide crop insurance directly, the Dominion Government will pay half the administration costs of Provincial plans, and 20 per cent of the premiums charged. It will also stand ready to provide loans to Provinces faced with heavy runs on their insurance funds. To be eligible, Provincial plans must be actuarially sound, and apply to 25 per cent of farmers, or acreage in the insured area. Farmers will be covered up to 60 per cent of yield for losses due to weather.

A PRAIRIE PLAN — It has been clear from the announcement confirms it—that start and Mr. Harkness' application the national plan will be essentially a Prairie Provinces plan. This region, more than any other in Canada, still

A Precious Tradition Dying

Ottawa Journal

When Oxford and Cambridge, those bastions of classicism, now think of abandoning Latin as a compulsory entrance subject, the ramparts of tradition appear to be imperilled.

The long fight seems about done. Latin is doomed to go down, the way of Greek, to be a pedantic, eccentric pursuit where it once was the indispensable requirement of all who pretended to education. The universities are now only dallying with the timing of official oblivion.

Vernacular tongues, for better or worse, have won. For centuries it has been argued that English can do anything that Latin can do—and better. Even in Shakespeare's time there were the champions of English and the defenders of the classical languages.

Shakespeare has always been a principal exhibit of those who say that Latin is a superfluous. Yet when Ben Jonson wrote of his contemporary playwright's "small Latin and less Greek", he did not mean that Shakespeare was what he was because he knew so little, but in spite of what Jonson certainly felt was a handicap. How much better, Jonson believed, Shakespeare would have been if he had been trained in the disciplines.

FURTHER MISCONCEPTION — There is this further misconception: so high were the standards of Latin instruction in the sixteenth century that Shakespeare's "small Latin" was by our standards not at all small. Shakespeare knew enough of the language to pass Oxford's entrance examination with rather more distinction than most of today's candidates.

That Mass Resignation

Sudbury Daily Star

If one employee of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation quit his job there wouldn't be a ripple of interest. Is it to be assumed that a "mass resignation" is for publicity purposes? Particularly when the accusation of "political interference" is made over the cancellation of a program. Could the Canadian people care less? This country is not devoid of talent. It could be said that every employee of the CBC is expendable. As for commentators and those airing opinions they are a dime a dozen in all provinces in Canada. It is the easiest thing in the world to round up people ready to drop a hat to express an opinion on anything. That is one of the troubles with the CBC broadcast — too many people ready to air their opinions

has been attempted, notably in Southern Alberta and Southern Manitoba, it has greatly increased the prosperity of the areas concerned. The South Saskatchewan River dam will provide similar benefits for a large part of that Province.

If the experience of the Federal crop insurance plan in the United States, and the Canadian Government's experience with the Prairie Farm Assistance Act (in operation since 1939) can be taken as guides, a great deal of Ottawa's money is going to be poured into the Prairie Provinces for crop insurance in the years ahead. The PFAA has so far cost the Dominion Treasury over \$200,000,000—about enough to pay for the South Saskatchewan dam and related works to irrigate 500,000 acres.

This is a great pity. It is a pity from the standpoint of the Canadian taxpayers who must pay the shot, and from the standpoint of Prairie farmers whose basic problem is not being remedied but merely powdered over.

The crop insurance plan will make sense only if there is built into it some provision for the steady spread of irrigation and diversification meaning the steady disappearance of the need for insurance. It is to be hoped such a modification will be made.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE DISCUSSIONS

Members and staff of the Hospital Services Commission of P.E.I. will attend the meetings listed below.

The forthcoming Province Insurance Plan will be discussed and questions regarding operation of the plan will be answered. All adults are urged to attend these meetings, which will be held in the hall of each District.

- EAST
MONDAY, JULY 6-8 P.M.
Tracadie Hall
St. Columba Parish Hall
Kingsboro School
TUESDAY, JULY 7-8 P.M.
Rollo Bay Parish Hall
St. Margaret's Parish Hall
St. Charles Parish Hall
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8-9 P.M.
Forest Hill
Bridgetown Hall
St. Teresa's Parish Hall
THURSDAY, JULY 9-8 P.M.
Cardigan Parish Hall
Lorne Valley Hall
New Perth School
FRIDAY, JULY 10-8 P.M.
Marie School
Morell Rear School
St. Peter's Lake School

- WEST
MONDAY, JULY 6th-8:00 P.M.
St. Anthony's Hall, Bloomfield
Elmsdale School
TUESDAY, JULY 7th-8:00 P.M.
O'Leary Hall
THURSDAY, JULY 9th-8:00 P.M.
Coleman Hall
Union School
MONDAY, JULY 13th-8:00 P.M.
Glenwood Hall
CHARLOTTETOWN
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8-8 P.M.
Prince of Wales College
THURSDAY, JULY 9-8 P.M.
Community Centre
PARKDALE
THURSDAY, JULY 9-8 P.M.
Parkdale Hall

New Drugs For Many Illnesses

By Herman N. Budeszes, M. D.
THERE ARE several new drugs and treatments which I would like to discuss today in our regular monthly review of a new method of diagnosing infectious virus diseases such as influenza, measles, mumps and chicken pox.

The drug for treating depressed persons is JB616, or Catron, as it is known commercially. MENTAL CHANGES — Investigators report that the drug produces mental changes such as elevation of mood, reduction in depressive alertness and ability to maintain work and social adjustments.

Its action is reported to be "appreciable rapid and lasting." A drug with a vastly different purpose is Poquil. The raspberry-flavored liquid is reportedly effective in eliminating pinworm infection, often with a single dose.

NO SIDE EFFECTS — Doctors report a cure rate of more than 95 per cent following treatment with the drug. There were no side effects.

Diabinese is a new potent anti-diabetic tablet which reportedly is more effective than previous oral therapy.

Clinical studies with more than 6,000 persons indicate that many diabetics who did not respond to previous oral therapy will now be able to discontinue their injections of insulin by using the new drug. OVER 80 PERCENT EFFECTIVE — Research indicates that Diabinese can control the disorder in more than 80 per cent of the cases. However, it should not be used in the juvenile or "growth-onset" types of diabetes, nor in patients with severely "brittle" diabetes.

There is good news for tuberculosis patients, too. A study indicates that one big swallow of PAS, a rather nauseating medicine, is better than the three or four smaller doses generally recommended for TB patients.

Dr. Albert H. Coons, visiting professor of bacteriology and immunology at the Harvard Medical School, has been honored by public health officials for developing a new method of diagnosing more quickly infectious virus diseases. The method uses a fluorescent dye to tag anti-bodies so they will glow under ultra-violet light. Thus, the presence of a specific virus not only can be detected under a microscope, but it can be accurately located within the cell.

QUESTION AND ANSWER — Mrs. M. S.: I have had three miscarriages and am told that these were caused by the condition of my cervix, which is dilated, as in the first stages of labor. Would surgery correct this so that I could carry a full-term baby?

Answer: It is possible that a plastic procedure on the cervix may correct your trouble. A competent gynecologist is best able to answer your question after a careful examination.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There's quite a difference in the looks of the bathing girl ten years ago and today, the men, however, are looking just the same.—New Glasgow News

Everybody knows that the Soviet Union is just across the Pole from the Canadian Arctic. Not so many were aware how close a neighbor Siberia was and is until the question of a road and ferry across Bering Strait, linking North America with the Russian coast, was brought up in the Commons Resources Committee. Somehow we doubt if this road will be built before they dig that tunnel under the English Channel.—Ottawa Journal

The Age Old Story

Twenty-five years ago Sixty scouts and leaders are now enjoying themselves at Camp Roma, Brudenell Point, overlooking Georgetown and Lower Montague. The camp opened on Tuesday with Scouts from Summerside, Montague and Charlottetown attending. Camp Chief is William Warren and the assistant is R.C. Parent.

W.S. Hughes, Charlottetown was elected president of P.E.I. Canadian Legion at the annual meeting held at the Canadian National Hotel last evening. Other officers are vice-president, W.A. McLaggan, Montague; chairman, B. W. Robinson, Summerside; treasurer, Leo Bradley, Charlottetown; secretary, G. E. Sherren, Charlottetown.

TEN YEARS AGO

(July 7, 1948) The appointment of K.M. Johnston, Charlottetown as commanding officer of 5 Division Signals Regiment (Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel has been announced by Headquarters Eastern Command. Col. Johnston succeeds Lt. Col. Frank J. Storey who has commanded the unit for the past two years.

Reverend H.E.D. Ashford, M.B.E., B.A., B.D., comes this week to take up his duties as minister of Trinity United Church Charlottetown. Rev. Mr. Ashford comes here from Calgary where he has been Field Secretary for Western Canada for the Missionary and Maintenance Department of the United Church of Canada.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files) Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by? behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

The Poets Corner

"WHEN I HAVE FEARS"

In Europe, once, on the grand tour of tears I followed you, John Keats, you and your fears the whole hard, futile way from Hampstead Heath to Rome; your room of death, your home in death.

I leaned one frail red flower against the stone—that frail white stone on which no name is shown—and, riding back, I saw not Roman streets through trolley-windows, but your face, John Keats.

My tears, your fears, were for an unfulfilled page; but now that I have lived long past your age, I ask: is it more frightening to die, the page unfilled, the quill not nearly dry.

than to be marching, hale of limb and lung, for years behind the coffin of your song? —Aaron Kramer in the New York Times

MAXIMS

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WARNING! Illustration of a man in a suit and hat, looking surprised or warning. Text: WARNING! There will be an interruption of electric power between Stanley Bridge and Cavendish on Wednesday, July 8th between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., weather permitting, to enable us to install voltage regulating equipment on this line. MARITIME ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

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