

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

W. J. Hancock, Publisher

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"The strongest member of weaker than the weakest link"

The Old Story

While traffic is reported as being eased somewhat on the Borden-Tormentine run, the freight congestion remains and ice conditions are still causing difficulty. This is the old story at this season of the year; but every year, until a new icebreaker is in service, the situation will get more precarious as the burden falls more and more upon the Abegweit of keeping our connections open.

Why hasn't there been action in making a start on construction of a new icebreaker, since evidently the MV Confederation will not be capable of this work and the causeway project is still hanging fire? A bad winter next year could put the Prince Edward Island entirely out of commission, and one bad accident to the Abegweit would leave us isolated so far as rail and motor traffic is concerned.

Surely the Legislature will not adjourn without a full discussion of this problem, and adoption of recommendations for immediate attention to the matter. There is no reason why it should not be brought up in the House of Commons, too,—by our own elected members, or by me, or by the member from Nova Scotia-Tillingate, Newfoundland, or the member from Lewis, Quebec, whose concern for our interests we appreciate but who shouldn't have to be fighting our battles for us.

We have been told, of course, that our own members are constantly at work behind the scenes, and that they are more effectively serving us that way than by being "big blathersmouths" in the House. But that's an old alibi, and it's wearing pretty thin. For one thing, we are more inclined to accept the late Premier Les's dictum, that the wheel that does the squeaking is the one that gets the grease.

And if our members do get down to discussing this matter, here and at Ottawa, can't they say something by way of protest about the inattention to the needs of our ferry patrons during long hours of waiting on the piers? We thought this matter had been disposed of last year, when there was a barrage of complaints that brought it prominently to the attention of the railway authorities. Yet, only last week, travellers were held up for 32 hours at Tormentine, with no facilities on the pier for accommodating them, or even for obtaining sandwiches or other refreshments. This is remedied, at least, that could be remedied, and about which our elected spokesmen should be sounding off in loud, indignant chorus.

Farm Markets & Europe

From the point of view of American agriculture, we must be very firm in negotiations with the Common Market, making sure we get full value for every concession we make. Perhaps the biggest test of Atlantic trade co-operation in the next few years is going to be the test of agricultural trade policy. The tremendous natural advantages of North America as a food producer must not be sacrificed either

because we are unwilling to bargain in trade or because Europe turns to a new protectionism in agriculture." These thought-provoking words are not from a speech by Trade Minister Hees, or Finance Minister Fleming, at Ottawa, as one might expect in view of their importance to Canadian farmers. They are from testimony given at Washington by Mr. Orville Freeman, the U.S. secretary of agriculture, before the House ways and means committee, in supporting the Kennedy administration's program for tariff reductions in meeting the new European trade challenge.

Agricultural items account for only 10 per cent of the Common Market's total exports to the United States. It is necessary, Mr. Freeman pointed out, for western Europe to gain concessions on industrial goods if it is to extend generous terms to farm imports. President Kennedy has recognized the importance of this basic point by offering to scale down the tariff on manufactured goods by as much as 80 per cent on a reciprocal basis.

By the same token, Canada will be able to maintain its farm market in western Europe only if the Canadian government offers generous industrial concessions to the Common Market. There has as yet been no sign of any policy which parallels the Kennedy program. But it is equally important for Canada's voice to be joined with the voice of the United States in making certain that the disadvantages of a closed farm policy are fully understood by the Common Market.

It is worth noting, in this connection, that Mr. Freeman referred to the need for safeguarding the agricultural interests of all North America—not just those of the United States. Surely it is not too much to expect the same breadth of vision to be shown by our Canadian spokesmen in discussing the implications of this movement.

Was This Needed?

The Opposition made out a strong case against the adoption in the Legislature of amendments to the Industrial Corporation Act, vesting authority for the expenditure of millions of dollars in a 5-member board appointed by the government and including no fewer than three members of the government. The bill passed on a straight party vote, and we must say that it leaves a good many questions unanswered in the public mind.

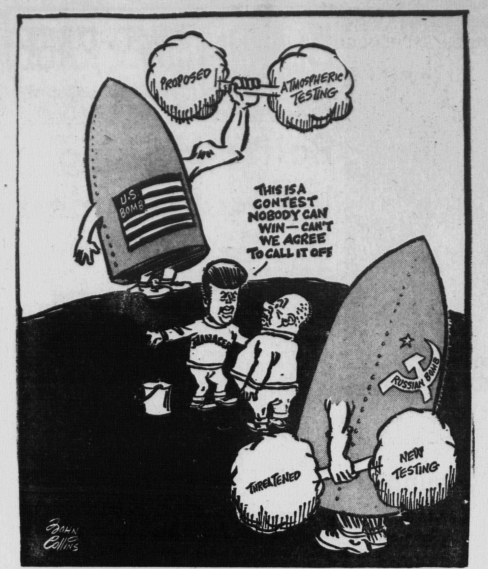
We are not questioning the government's intentions, but it has laid itself open to the charge of slighting legislative authority; and that charge was not refuted by stating that the corporation must report to the Legislature each year and that the provincial auditor has authority to check the accounts. That isn't the same thing as ministerial responsibility at all.

Still less convincing was Premier Shaw's complaint that the Opposition was objecting for purely political reasons and that this was the sort of thing they did "every time we bring in legislation to help the Province." What the Legislature and public expected was a full explanation as to why the Act should be amended in this manner, and why, if complete government control and participation in this measure is necessary, it should be vested in a corporation at all. If this isn't government by commission, as the Opposition leader charged, it comes so close to it that it is a distinction without a difference.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Shaw Government acted properly in moving to take away the right of the urban areas to tax non-resident workers, except where these workers are non-residents of the Province. This measure has caused a lot of bickering and hard feeling, which we can't afford at any price.

Ontario's deputy public works minister complains that women's spike heels are cutting the life expectancy of provincial building floors from seven years to five. That, comments the Ottawa Citizen, must be happening to floors all over the continent and wherever else this peculiar fashion persists. Spike heels may prove one of the most expensive forms of feminine adornment ever invented by the fashion industry.



WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

OTTAWA REPORT by Cecelia Nicholson

Hopeful Economic Prospects Cited

Canada, in the slang of the common talk, is "up". Statistics now being released here show that Canada is well on the way up from the underdog and even dangerous economic position into which we slipped during the early and mid Nineteen-Fifties.

Last year, for the first time in nine years, we sold abroad more goods than we purchased from foreign producers, says the Bureau of Statistics. Year by year, our foreign trade deficit has been clawed down from the ruinous level of \$724 million in 1956. Last year we got out of the International red figures, and achieved a foreign trade surplus of \$88 million.

To pay for our excess imports we had to borrow \$100 million in foreign capital. To pay it in simpler words, we sold off each year a further part of the old farm to pay the bill for the high living beyond our earnings.

Our over-valued dollar was a severe handicap to our exports, and also to our domestic industries. By making foreign goods cheaper in our domestic market, our dollar devaluation suggested, should have fallen to perhaps 45 cents US in the mid-Fifties, but over the past several months, it has been brought down to around 38 cents US, largely thanks to the operations of the Bank of Canada under its brilliant new Governor, Louis Rasminsky.

All forecasts are now confirmed by positive indications that our economy is heading into a substantial boom. Our gross national output in the last quarter of 1961 hit an all-time high and the most widely respected economic forecast — that prepared by the Prudential Insurance Company of America — estimates that it will jump a further 7.3 per cent during 1962.

More jobs, more pay. The experts in our federal Finance Department have a rule of thumb relating tax yield to gross national product. Each 1 per cent increase in the latter creates approximately a 2 per cent increase in the former. Thus, on the present scale of taxes our increased G. N. P. should yield an additional \$700 million in revenue to the government this year. Finance Minister Donald Fleming budgeted for a deficit of \$650 million in the fiscal year just ending, but predicted that our national accounts should be roughly in balance by the end of this year. That now looks like coming true.

ABBOTT'S BUDGET

We could have solved our problem by stringent curbs on public consumption.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest to the readers of this paper. For early edition the opinions of correspondents are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The deadline is 10 a.m. on the day of publication. Send all correspondence regarding letters addressed to the editor.

FARMERS' PROBLEMS

Sir—I believe that we can all agree that the farmer of Prince Edward Island is the real backbone of this country. The food that we eat daily comes from the food that sustains us for our daily tasks. Therefore we owe a debt of gratitude to the agriculturalists of our land.

From observations I am led to believe that the farmers of Prince Edward Island are being unfairly treated. For instance, consider the potato situation. I have been reliably informed that the average price for a 75 lb. bag of our island potatoes. Our farmers were being paid as low as 35 cents per 75 lb. bag. I have been told recently that the price was up to 70 cents for a 75 lb. bag. But that lasted a very short time. What is wrong? Who is to be blamed for this situation in which the farmer finds himself?

Years ago the potato business in all its phases was not nearly so acute as it is today. A remedy was found for the potato situation, or the industry will be a thing of the past on P.E.I. The farmers of the island are perishable. Therefore, we must market them at the proper time or be at a complete loss. Other industries have the advantage of being able to hold over their products for indefinite periods of time. Not so with the farmer.

Canada At Geneva

By Alan Harvey, Canadian Press Staff Writer

It can be reported without undue paradoxism that Canada is playing a useful and vigorous role in the Geneva conference on disarmament. Our delegates are probably times when the big powers with that External Affairs Minister Lester B. Pearson, who has been strictly a big-power affair, though Canadian delegates are not invited to the meetings, they can do little more than tug at the coat-tails of their powerful neighbors.

It should be realized, of course, that Canada's influence perhaps tends to be exerted most frequently at somewhat less than top level. That is to say, Green and his officials are not necessarily in the thick of things when the subject is disarmament. Berlin. This is a big-power affair, and though Canadian delegates are not invited to the meetings, they can do little more than tug at the coat-tails of their powerful neighbors.

The Age Old Story

Through it all precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

IMMIGRATION PEAK

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Little League Tensions Lead To Nervousness

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen MANY children of age between 8 and 12 years of age have been organized into Little League baseball teams. They have been based on the community, the sponsors are given publicity, tournaments are conducted, "all stars" are selected at the end of the season.

Baseball is a wonderful activity for the young, but it is not preferable to mischief making and delinquency. But these youngsters are not held back by the anxiety, frustration, and pressure, especially when winning is emphasized. They are not concerned with the need and feelings of Little Leaguers.

The important question is whether the child is mature enough to hold his own in the proposed sport. The players should not be treated as miniature adults, with no concern for their safety and welfare.

Many of our most successful and well adjusted men grew up in an era when boys were not coddled but were made to accept responsibility and responsibility to hit in the pinches and not making the all star team may not be the hardest parents have been to let blow. The boy may become back stronger than ever.

Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics. He is a member of the Ontario Medical Association and speaks at various public appearances.

TIED MOTHER

Mrs. A. B. writes: I'm 25 years old and feel like 80. I'm tired and nervous all the time and often feel I'm going to have a heart attack. I have several children and people tell me I have them too fast. Can you advise me?

FORM OF INSANITY

V. W. writes: What is the treatment for hebephrenia? Psychiatric care, usually in a mental hospital. This includes the use of drugs, shock, and psychotherapy. Hebephrenia is a form of insanity marked by incoherence, lack of insight, meaninglessness, silliness, and hallucinations.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

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NOTES BY THE WAY

When a man's wife can read him like a book, it's time for him to turn over a new leaf.—Hamilton Spectator.

An exasperating woman had spent almost two hours looking over the store's stock, complaining constantly, criticizing incessantly. "Why is it," she snapped at last, "that I never get what I ask for in here?" Perhaps, Madam," said the third saleswoman, "it's because you're a too polite."

London Hates Change

The new face of London, England, with its skyscrapers rising to dizzy heights and overlooking towering historic buildings, is causing great misgivings in many quarters. There are some who feel that some quarters should be preserved as is — and not muddled by towering modern buildings.

OUR YESTERDAYS

Included in the list of passengers on the liner, "Lady Sojourner," Canadian National Steamship, which sails from Halifax tonight, is Mrs. Benjamin Ross, Charlottetown. The ship is leaving on a voyage via Boston to Bermuda, The Bahamas and Jamaica.

Berton E. Robinson, who for the past year and a half has been editor of the Pioneer and Island Farmer, has joined the production department of the Canadian Broadcasting Commission. He, with his wife and Mr. Robinson, during his short stay in Summerside, will be conducting a course and the instructors who have completed a 16-day visit to the United Kingdom.

TEN YEARS AGO

The Northern Cross and the Zenith, the two RCAF Lancasters returned to their base in Summerside yesterday. The planes carried members of the special aviation course and the instructors who have completed a 16-day visit to the United Kingdom.

Ronald Cameron, B.A., student at Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax, will be the student secretary of the ministry of housing, has expressed the opinion that the trend towards higher buildings in England, and everywhere, is inevitable, but obviously some control must be exercised.

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