

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew  
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Hospital Insurance

In an informal preliminary report on the progress that is being made towards the establishment of a Hospital Insurance Plan under a Federal-Provincial agreement, Deputy Minister of Health Curtis stated that at least a year of "concentrated planning" is required before a Province can be prepared to place such a scheme in operation, and that it is unlikely the time could be shortened substantially here. This leaves the date still indefinite so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned.

Dr. Curtis mentioned certain problems which, he said, are just as pressing in this small Province as in the larger Provinces. That may be true; and it would be unwise to venture into an agreement without having made adequate preparation for it. But the difficulties here ought to be no greater than they are elsewhere; and it must be remembered that the seven Provinces which already have adopted a plan or given notice of their intention to adopt one by next Jan. 1 had no more time in which to consider the matter than did the other three. Newfoundland with its thousands of miles of coastline and, in many areas, isolated hospital facilities and shortage of doctors, is a much more difficult Province in which to carry on public health activities than P.E.I., where hospitals are relatively close together and where there is no acute shortage of medical personnel. Yet, Newfoundland started in on the program last July 1; and reports say that everything is going better than had been expected.

The committee which is inquiring into ways and means of implementing the Plan is made up of capable and public-spirited citizens who, doubtless, are doing everything in their power and within their terms of reference to bring about participation at the earliest possible date. It may be, however, that the committee was given a little too much to do—for example, devising a formula for meeting the expenses of the Plan. This, after all, is the responsibility of the Provincial Government; and we cannot see that there was much point in passing it along to the committee, even for advisory action.

Certainly, the Plan has to be paid for; and the quicker this question can be settled—we have an idea that is what is holding it up—the sooner it can be put into operation. Frankly, we feel that our people are going to be a little disappointed if the program does not go into effect next Jan. 1, that being the date that was first suggested—tentatively, to be sure—by Provincial authorities.

The Arrow Program

W. R. McLachlan, an official of A. V. Roe Limited, thinks that Canada must develop its own defence system or become a satellite of the United States. In addressing the Ontario's Government's annual industrial development conference, Mr. McLachlan had this to offer: "In the days ahead Canada will have to undertake projects more costly and more advanced or abdicate her present position as a respected partner in the free world. The alternative is to turn the job of national security over to someone else. If we do that, we can forget all our wonderful dreams and hopes of Canadian nationhood. We will become a mere political and economic satellite of our neighbour to the South."

These words were spoken shortly after the Federal Government had decided to review the Arrow jet interceptor program—which has already cost Canadian taxpayers many hundreds of millions of dollars—and committed Canada to purchasing certain types of United States' missiles. The review will take place next March; and the general belief—although the Prime Minister has not definitely said anything to substantiate it—is that at that time the Arrow will be scrapped, as being far too expensive for Canada's ability to sustain.

It is understandable, of course, that A. V. Roe would like the Arrow program to continue. It is understandable, too, that the firm should

be inclined to equate the continuance of the program with Canada's security. Nevertheless, there is a limit to the amount of money that Canada can afford to pay on any one segment of defence; and, if interceptors just as serviceable as the Arrow can be purchased in the United States or Britain at much lower cost, there is no economic or military justification for carrying on the Arrow development program.

Mr. Pearson's Suggestion

In a recent speech at Halifax, Liberal leader Lester B. Pearson made a practical suggestion for a Federal assistance policy for economic development of the Atlantic region. "We suggest," said Mr. Pearson, "the Federal Government should, in co-operation with the Provinces, consider a program of industrial development to diversify the economy and expand employment opportunities. The development of more industries is surely a more certain way to raise the level of income and production in this part of Canada than relying on subsidies which, though helpful, never really solve any problems. I think the importance of this subject would justify the establishment of a new unit or agency of government which would be responsible for considering the type of project that would qualify for capital funds."

No one—not even the most ardent critic of the Liberal Party—could possibly find fault with Mr. Pearson's suggestion. In fact, in its essence it is the very thing that was suggested by Mr. Diefenbaker in the last two election campaigns. In a sense, it is a Liberal reinterpretation of a Conservative idea, that has not yet been put into operation. Many Maritimers, however (Liberals and Conservatives alike) will ask this question: "Why did not Mr. Pearson advocate such a program when he was an influential member of the Government and thus in a position to help formulate Federal policy, instead of waiting until he was in opposition with no opportunity of putting his ideas into practice? Goodness knows, the Liberal Government was reminded often enough of the need for the sort of thing which Mr. Pearson now advocates."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Hon. J. Waldo Monteith, Federal Minister of Health, is to be in the Province this week, presumably to discuss the Hospital Insurance Plan with Provincial officials. It is to be hoped that his visit will result in a definite decision to go ahead with the plan at an early date.

The Quebec District Retail Merchants Association, in a brief to the Stewart Commission, condemned the use of "premiums" and suggested that they be abolished. There is an easy way to get rid of them. That is by merchants' refusing to handle them.

The Royal Commission on Price Spreads has been told that "commissions dealing with agricultural products frequently show lack of consideration for the consumer." That's putting it mildly. More often than not, commissions forget that there is any such person as a "consumer."

A member of the Royal Commission on price spreads asked a woman who filed a brief why she thought that increases in food prices usually follow wage increases in food processing plants. It wasn't exactly an intelligent question. How else can the increases be passed along to the public?

If the Highways Department's 5-year road-building plan continues as well as it has begun, there will be no cause for complaint. It is an ambitious plan and an expensive one. But it will be money well spent and it can be expected to reap rich dividends in public service over a period of years. We think the Hon. Mr. MacKay and other departmental officials deserve a word of praise and encouragement.

The President of the Canadian Federation of Sales and Advertising Clubs has warned salesgirls not to try to become "walking encyclopedias"; it might tend to make customers feel "inferior". We don't want to pass any judgement on salesgirls, but we must say it is the first time we have heard it suggested that the average customer is likely to feel humble in the presence of knowledge. Usually, it is the customer, not the clerk, who professes to "know it all"



THE EMPIRE LOOK

OTTAWA REPORT

A Talented Minority

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: Hazen Argue, the young new leader of the C.C.F. group in Parliament, is following up an impressive sessional performance with an inspiring cross-Canada speaking tour.

The 37-year-old farmer from Saskatchewan has been a Member of Parliament for 13 years. He won prominence chiefly as his party's spokesman on wheat, proving himself a buzzing blackfly who could consistently get under the skin of Trade Minister Howe with his profound knowledge of grain-producing and grain marketing.

When the Diefenbaker tidal wave swept the country last March, Hazen Argue was the only candidate of any political

colour in the whole of the three Prairie Provinces who could beat his Conservative opponent. C.C.F. giants of the calibre of national leader M.J. Coldwell, foreign affairs expert Alistair Stewart and proceduralist Stanley Knowles were swept away, but Argue alone survived.

Four successful C.C.F. candidates from B.C. and three from Ontario joined him to form the thin red line which remained of that once much larger parliamentary group.

At the beginning of last session, the very young little C.C.F. band was alert but unsure of itself. Stanley Knowles, then on the payroll of the Canadian Labour Congress at a pleasant advance on his former \$10,000 per year M.P.'s pay, at first sat in the gallery of the House of Commons, master-minding his young successors. But his advice was desired less and less, and his appearances in the gallery thinned then faded away, as the young eight-man group confidently matured, and frequently usurped the role of opposition to the government from the much larger yet proportionately less vocal Liberal Party.

Liberal leader Lester Pearson himself put on a magnificent performance of parliamentary industry. In the first three months of the session, he made over 300 interventions in the proceedings, by speeches or questions or short statements. With less opportunity as the leader of the smallest group, Hazen Argue was even more impressive, making 200 interventions, including 28 long speeches on a broad range of topics.

He was very well supported by his busy aides. Bert Hurdidge,

the wealthy forest farmer from the Kootenays, is in years and politics the father of the group. An active Liberal turned C.C.F. he proved himself a witty and sure shoot-anchor to his younger colleagues. Ernie Regier, a 42 year old schoolteacher from Burnaby, who once sought the Conservative nomination in Saskatchewan, always showed himself the most balanced and deep-thinking of his group.

The three Ontario M.P.s are young men of widely differing qualities.

**BREADTH OF C.C.F.**  
They include philosophical, unionist and pragmatist socialists. Murdo Martin, the socky and popular fire-fighter from Timmins, is perfectly bilingual in English and French. He always shows a realistic mental balance in his participation in the work of Parliament. Kirkland Lake's Arnold Peters is a labour union official who is apt to show that rigidity of mind and singleness of purpose, so different from the flexible realism of his former leader M.J. Coldwell, which will alienate so many voters from a political party closely associated with organized labour. The successor to the Port Arthur seat in which Trade Minister Howe defeated himself is Douglas Fisher, a smart young librarian and schoolteacher who shapes up to inherit the "world affairs" mantle of Alistair Stewart, if he can soften that arrogant self-satisfaction which is his worst enemy.

It will be interesting to see how this orchestra of talented individuals will react to the external pressure to reshape their party as the political arm of the Canadian Labour Congress. They did well on their own in their first session. Over the next three years they will be playing for keeps for recognition as one of our two chief political parties. They must assess whether the labour union membership is really a promising springboard from which to seek political leadership of Canada.

Nasser Hits A Snag

Canadian Press Staff Writer

By David Rowantree

President Nasser's dream of ruling an Arab empire from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean appears to have hit a snag.

The rift between him and President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia comes as a reminder that the Arabs do have a choice of leaders and that Arab nationalism can have a choice of friends in the world.

Tunisia and Nasser's United Arab Republic have broken off diplomatic relations. P.E.I. has some far-reaching effects.

Nasser caused the rift by meddling in the affairs of Tunisia and harboring enemies of Bourguiba who have plotted his death. The Egyptian dictator accuses Bourguiba of being a tool of imperialists.

**DUAL LOYALTY**  
Tunisia is an important base

forceful speaker. His interests are wide and varied including world problems. He has fought a vigorous campaign for reduction of interest rates on small loans with some success. He also led a delegation of M.P.'s to discuss world food disposal with American Senators and Congressmen.

Yet when he visited P.E.I. last week there was not one word of editorial comment or welcome in either of Charlottetown's papers. I wonder why! Could it be discrimination, prejudice, political snobbery or has the C.C.F. a cabalistic connotation for the people of other political stripes in P.E.I.?

Our Island is behind the rest of Canada in many things but in intolerance, prejudice and yes, religious bigotry we must be away out front. Is it not time that we opened the windows of our minds to the sunshine of tolerance and friendly understanding and let it penetrate into the dark corners where the cobwebs gather?

I am, Sir, etc.  
MURIEL MACINNIS  
Borden, October 16.

Not Immune To Adults' Disease

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.  
**RHEUMATOID** arthritis is primarily a disease of adults. However, this does not mean that children are immune. In fact, it has been estimated that of the 4,700,000 Americans now suffering from this crippling disease, some 127,000 of them are children.

So I think you parents should know a little more about rheumatoid arthritis than you probably do.

UNDER THREE

Most young victims of this form of arthritis are stricken when they are less than three years old. For some reason it seems to strike girls twice as often as it does boys. And there is an indication that the disease travels in families.

As in the case of rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis usually occurs in children following a strep throat infection. This is one reason why it sometimes is mis-diagnosed as rheumatic fever, or even as osteomyelitis or leukemia.

LARGE JOINTS

In youngsters under the age of eight, the disease seems to attack the larger joints, such as the knee, more than any other.

Despite the fact that rheumatoid arthritis is the most crippling form of arthritis, most young victims have a pretty good chance of recovering from the effects within a two year period.

However, if the disease does not subside within the first three years, the outlook isn't too encouraging. Some young victims will be plagued by the illness for 20 years or even longer.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT

Early hospital care is necessary in most cases. There should be prolonged bed rest for the young patient and adequate physical therapy.

By acting to remedy the situation early, you will be doing a lot to help your youngster should he ever be stricken by rheumatoid arthritis.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

L. C. What would be the cause of a very bitter taste in the mouth on awakening every morning? I have had this since taking some black capsules for a leg hematoma.

A. The presence of a bitter taste in the mouth may be due to many things, such as an infection in the teeth, nasal sinuses, or the throat. It also may be due to constipation or some other digestive disorder. Some drugs might be responsible for the condition.

However, a thorough examination by your physician would be necessary to determine the exact cause.

power politics. They seem to think, for the present at least, that the West can give them the best deal.

The hands of all independent Arab politicians have been strengthened by Bourguiba's action.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Hon. James Sinclair, former minister of fisheries, always had a good sense of humor. He still has, amid political adversity. In a letter to The Vancouver Sun he relates the Vancouver British Columbia "salmon czars" get handout from Ottawa. "The truth of the matter is that the only handout the B.C. salmon industry has got from Ottawa is one cast-off politician," he writes. Mr. Sinclair now is president of the Fisheries Association of British Columbia.—Windsor Star

**The Ace Old Story**  
For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

**The Poet's Corner**  
HERPESIDES  
On every island there is deep unrest  
That leads across wide waters to the shore,  
And every land is island, every quest  
A latitude to set a compass for,  
sand and rocks  
Enough for trees and human habitation.  
Or granite may pile up in jagged blocks,  
Or lava break the waves in black libation.

Always there will be journeys to the last  
Discoverable Olympus to be found.  
Everyone thinks his islands are the best,  
Everyone thinks his grave is holy ground.  
Why should they not? The end can only come  
When voyagers return and are at home  
—Eltha Nayer  
in the New York Times.

**MAXIMS**  
The greatest remedy for anger is delay.

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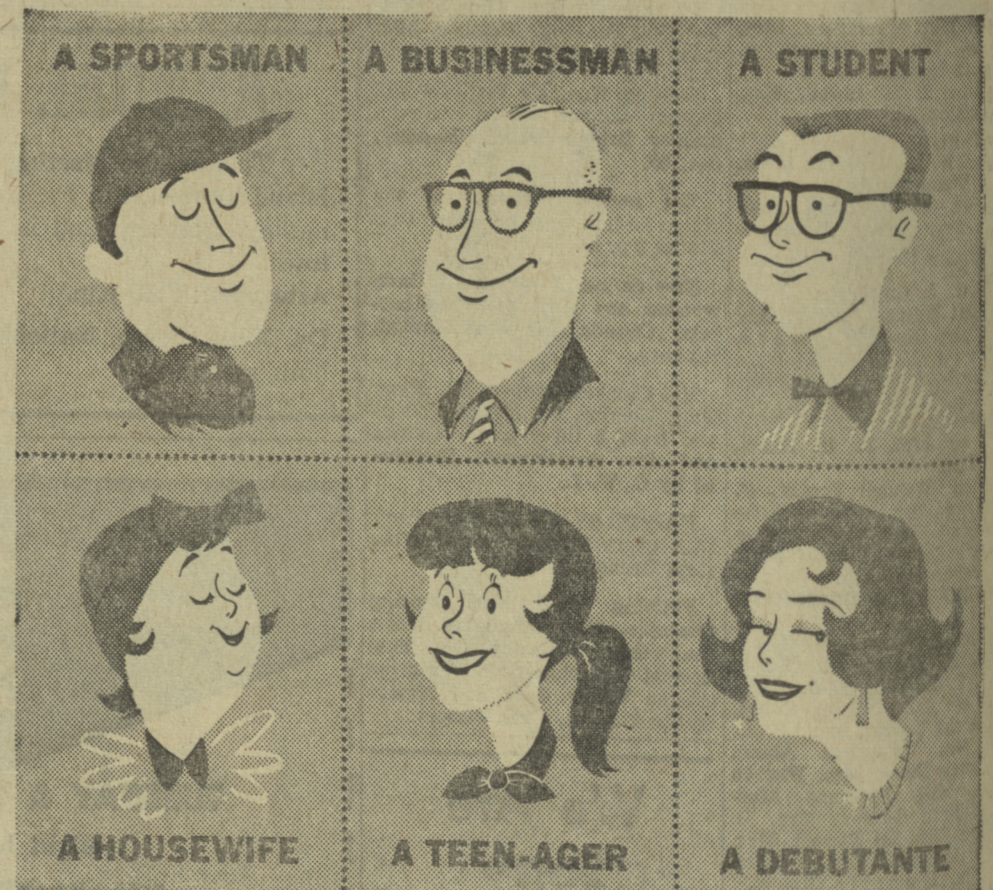
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