

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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An Academic Question?

Premier Campbell says that if the matter of leadership comes up at all at the national Liberal convention in Ottawa next week, he would expect the convention would express its full confidence in Prime Minister Pearson.

One wonders, however, what the unspoken thoughts of Mr. Campbell and his cohorts are on the attitude of the Pearson government in refusing to review or alter its decision to defer its promised introduction of medicare for a full year, until July 1, 1968.

Now this solemn assurance of Mr. Pearson's has been repudiated, and there are a lot of dismayed Liberals who feel that they have been double-crossed.

Medicare by mid-1967? That's for the birds, now. The decision to defer it without informing, let alone consulting, the Liberal parliamentary caucus beforehand—who cares about that?

Other informants say that the policy battle on this issue has been deferred, not settled. Many of the party rebels who attacked the government for its shelving of medicare insist that they are far from satisfied with the government's explanation of its decision.

A Dire Alternative

The official proposals for peace in Viet Nam have had a cool reception in the world, not because they are unfair or unrealistic, but simply because they are not believed.

What has added to President Johnson's difficulties in this case has been the reaction of former President Eisenhower, whose views could have a profound effect on the future of the Viet Nam war and who was originally opposed to American involvement in a land war in Southeast Asia.

It was, says Weston, "a mad proposal, made by an old man on behalf of his Goldwaterish brother Edgar, who wants to be re-elected to the Illinois legislature, but if should not

be lightly dismissed." For if President Johnson's offers of a compromise settlement in Viet Nam are rejected by the foreign ministers of the United Nations, and he is then being urged by the joint chiefs of staff and even goaded by Eisenhower to go all the way for a military victory, the prospect is for an even more savage war in Viet Nam—even at the risk of intervention by Communist China.

It is easy to understand the doubts of the colonial nations and of the officials in Hanoi and elsewhere who have suffered under colonialism in the past. They simply cannot believe that the United States would fight such a savage war for a principle, rather than for commercial or military advantage.

In The Times writer's view, this could actually happen. The President is the ally and not the opponent of those who want an honorable settlement in Viet Nam; but if he is rejected and forced to choose between de Gaulle's proposals for a humiliating American surrender and Eisenhower's proposals for an all-out military victory, the chances are that he will choose the safe political alternative—which is Eisenhower's.

Fine Achievement

In 1967 Canada's first bank—the Bank of Montreal—will be observing not only the Centennial of Confederation but also the 150th anniversary of its founding. One of the ways in which it is marking the occasion is by the publication, in both English and French, of a comprehensive history of the bank, setting forth its long record of activities in illuminating perspective.

The author, Merrill Denson, is rated as Canada's foremost business historian. In this story of how banking was introduced and the distinctive pattern of the Bank of Montreal set for all the chartered banks of the country, he has completed the most ambitious work of his career.

The paintings depict the events and scenes in the history of the bank and also of the country—for the two were often closely interwoven in the vital and turbulent years between 1817 and 1842 covered in the first volume. The paintings themselves will be on travelling exhibition across Canada during the Centennial year.

Priced at \$7.50, this handsome first volume makes us wonder what all the talk of inflation is about.

Unwelcome Prospect

Underlined in Ottawa news reports is the heavy backlog of work facing our MPs now that they're back on the job of legislating. It is an imposing list indeed. But we failed to note any reference to the report on bilingualism and biculturalism which is presumably in the offing.

Our Yesterdays

Will it be another 200-page progress report, like the last one, or a final summation of all the labors involved in the monumental task of "putting our country's divisions on display," as the commission insists on conceiving its objective to be? In any case, if it is tabled it will doubtless give rise to more dreary discourse on the same theme, which could go on and on—right into Centennial year.

EDITORIAL NOTE

President John W. Holmes of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs says Canada needs "a touch of grandiosity to lift it from the failure of will and imagination from which it is at the moment suffering." Simple enough remedy for that. Put Dief back into power! All his opponents' claim that he's bristling with grandiosity.



WASHDAY IN OTTAWA

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Fire Losses Increasing Year By Year

If suffocating smoke were to curl into the bedroom of your sleeping children tonight, would they know what to do to save their lives? Or would they be panicked when awakened by the sound of crackling fire?

These are the sort of questions which must be raised in the mind of every parent, every household head, who might happen to read the Canada Gazette. But who does?

The Canada Gazette is the federal government's notice board. It has strange publication dates: every Saturday, and the second and fourth Wednesday in each month. It prints general notices, Orders in Council, proclamations, and regulations amplifying our laws.

Actually, the problem is too big for the cities to handle alone. It is becoming increasingly clear that at least part of the answer is for governments or private agencies—or both—to find ways to enable poor farmers to earn a better living in the rural areas where they are.

The United States' attack on rural poverty began before its program and has been stepped up by that program. The work of RAD (Rural Areas Development) has been important. Programs have been shaped to encourage new rural industries.

Hidden Taxes In Bread

Housewives in Arizona found there were 151 hidden government taxes in one loaf of bread. The number of taxes in a Canadian loaf of bread may not be as high, but there are plenty. The farmer who grows the wheat has to pay taxes on the machinery required to sow and harvest the crop.

A Plea For Sanity

The 22 scientists, backed by the American Federation of Scientists, who have called upon President Johnson to halt the expanding use of anti-personnel and anti-crop weapons in the Viet Nam war, not only point out the immoral aspect of waging war in such a way, but they point to the even more ghastly possibilities of retaliation in kind.

Facial Paralysis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Bell's palsy is a common neurological disorder in which all the muscles on one-half the face are paralyzed. The victim is unable to wrinkle his forehead, corrugate his brow, or close the eye on the affected side.

Treatment in the past was a matter of "wait and see what happens." Spontaneous recovery occurred in 55 per cent, but there was no way to determine who was going to be lucky and who would be left with a partial or complete paralysis.

The modern approach is to determine whether the nerve is swollen and nerve excitability exists or the fibers are "going dead." This is important because the swelling can be relieved surgically (decompression) or with one of the corticosteroids such as cortisone.

Plastic surgery is suggested when the nerve fails to regenerate and the face continues to sag. This procedure is never done when the remaining defect is slight, but is helpful when there is a marked asymmetry of both sides of the face.

TAUT FACIAL MUSCLES C. W. writes: My problem is facial muscles. People avoid talking to me because mine have too little "give"; I can't show a responsible expression. Could I be helped?

There are many inherent reasons for having a masked face, especially if the skin is taut, as in scleroderma. On the other hand, there are several neurological disorders that do the same, including Parkinsonism.

THOROUGH CHECKUP F. R. writes: Why does the doctor look into a patient's ears when he is examining him for pain in the abdomen?

Some physicians insist upon doing a thorough examination regarding the nature of the complaint. Now and then abdominal pain stems from glands in the abdomen that are enlarged because of an infection in the throat or ears.

EXAM NEEDED B. Q. writes: How can you tell whether certain symptoms are due to heart trouble or to nerves?

By thorough examination, X-ray, and electrocardiographic studies. When the results are normal, and there is evidence of emotional aggravation, there is a good possibility that symptoms are of nervous origin.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Keep the back straight when lifting. (NOTE—All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Violence In Nigeria

By Joseph MacLennan Canadian Press Staff Writer

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is entering its seventh year of independence and tribal violence and wholesale bloodshed.

A note of despair for the future of the big west African federal republic seems implicit in reports of new riots in which 1,000 people or more have died. The tendency of the country to disintegrate because of racial and regional differences—it has four regions, or provinces—has never been more apparent.

Yet talk of secession is soon overtaken by talk of a looser federation, or "confederation"—some form of association that would enable Nigeria to preserve a single international face. Some observers see Nigeria, with its 5,000,000 population, as a nation-building test for all Africa.

Simple fear is at the root of the Nigerian malaise. The backward Moslem Hausas of the Northern Region fear the thrusting Ibos of the eastern province and the Yorubas of the western and mid-western provinces. The Christiana and pagan people of the three southern regions fear the North, which is twice as big in population and territory as the three combined.

Nigeria, however, built up an enviable reputation for stability and promise after attaining independence from Britain Oct. 1, 1960. The Ontario-sized country welcomed western investment and, much to the envy of other African countries, even started an oil industry. It now is the second biggest oil producer, after Canada, in the Commonwealth.

What went wrong? Actually the post-independence honeymoon came to an end by May, 1962, when the radical Action Group split, leading to a declaration of a state of emergency in the Western Region, which has been troubled ever since.

Nigeria underwent two general strikes in 1963. As a measure of growing corruption, a study showed that though unemployment was Nigeria's most serious social problem, the lot of the wage earner was little better than his unemployed brother.

DISPUTED ELECTION The 1964 general election turned out to be just short of open warfare. Southerners were convinced that census figures had been rigged to ensure northern political dominance in perpetuity. A Western Region

election in 1965 again became the occasion for violence and killings. Criminal elements seized the opportunity of political disorder to rob and pillage, and anarchy seemed near.

Then came the first army revolt Jan. 15, probably resulting from the reported plan of Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sardauna (sultan) of Sokoto and Northern Region premier, to impose a military solution on the political problems of the southern regions.

Maj.-Gen. Johnson Aguiyi-Ironi, an Ibo, emerged as head of a military government and there was a feeling that Niberti was reborn. Discredited politicians were sent packing.

But soon Aguiyi-Ironi's actions were interpreted in tribal terms and his desire for a unitary state—as opposed to a federation—were seen as an attempt at Ibo domination.

KILLING RESUMED Killings began again in May and increased in July, when Aguiyi-Ironi was toppled. Some Ibo officers were killed in revenge for the January action and many more escaped or were repatriated to the Eastern Region.

His successor, Lt.-Col. Yakubu Gowon, 31, is in the happy position of being a Christian from the north, belonging to a small tribe, enhancing his value as a mediator. But he faces a mammoth task even in restoring confidence in the army.

And the new Hausa-Ibo violence puts in jeopardy Gowon's other main achievement, a constitutional conference designed to work out an acceptable form of government for Nigeria. Conference delegates, significantly enough, include the once-disgraced Awolowo and Enahoro.

Some observers have pointed out that division of Nigeria into two or three countries would not necessarily make better friends of the tribes. As one West African journal puts it: "Even if it is ingenious to suppose that closer acquaintance makes for friendship, withdrawal can never lessen suspicion."

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