

W. J. Hancock, Publisher
Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dow

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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink

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Too Much Apathy

The lack of public interest taken in Wednesday's civic elections is explainable, no doubt, on the ground that the contest was confined to the two Council seats in Ward 6, the incumbent councillors in Wards 1, 2 and 3 having been returned a week previously by acclamation.

We wonder, however, whether the new system of providing for election of half the Council membership each year, instead of the oldtime general election every two years, hasn't tended to dampen public enthusiasm with regard to civic contests.

This in itself is not a desirable thing, however worthy of re-election the incumbents of civic office may be. It bespeaks public apathy as much, at least, as it does public indorsation of the policies of the administration; and neither the office holders nor the electorate can take much satisfaction in that.

As Others See Us

The doings on Parliament Hill rarely get more than a passing glance from American press commentators.

Convincing Arguments

Mr. Macquarrie's proposal for the establishment of a parliamentary committee to examine the whole field of federal-provincial relations, to which reference was made in these columns recently, hasn't brought much response from the government.

At first glance, says the London paper, the idea would appear to be a dubious one. It could be argued that such a Commons panel would embark upon a bootless excursion into complex and sensitive areas of constitutional and fiscal affairs without specific purpose and without hope of practical or conclusive result.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The new Parliament has only been sitting a couple of weeks, but already the question of Easter and summer holidays has popped up. In reply to a query from Conservative House leader Michael Start, Liberal House leader George McIlraith said the government hopes for an Easter recess beginning with the conclusion of business on April 6—two days before Good Friday.



GOT STARTED AND CAN'T STOP

SAUDI ARABIA Welcomes Modern Age - But Cautiously

Saudi Arabia is welcoming the 20th century—but not with open arms. "Modernization we want, we need, and we will have, but on our own terms," a Saudi friend told Thomas J. Abercrombie of the National Geographic's Foreign Staff.

Half of Saudi Arabia's 6,630,000 people cluster in booming cities and the small oases dotting the desert kingdom. The rest of the population, hardy Bedouin, still graze flocks across the endless sands.

By Land-Rover, camel, and jet plane, Mr. Abercrombie traveled 20,000 miles through the Arabian peninsula—an area roughly the size of the United States east of the Mississippi.

At Riyadh, the huge glass-and-concrete buildings of the new Saudi Government ministries line the six-lane road leading from the airport. Yet the old ways persist. In the shade of the Ministry of Finance a family of Bedouin had pitched black tents.

Mr. Abercrombie was granted an audience with King Faisal, who told him: "Our country is large and the population is scattered. In the next 10 years we must build 10,000 miles of new roads. We must encourage industry, foreign trade, improve our agriculture, expand our communications facilities, build and staff more hospitals."

"Education is the key that will open the way for all these things. We are making strides. Hardly a town is without its school. For the first time we are enrolling girls in public schools. Shattering traditions centuries old to do it."

NO WOMEN DRIVERS The status of women in Saudi Arabia is changing gradually. Polygamy is now rare among the educated classes, but women are still forbidden to drive automobiles. If one is caught behind the wheel, her husband risks jail.

Calling at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Mr. Abercrombie found a friend entertaining in typical Arab style, plying the many guests with cups of hot mint tea.

PUBLIC FORUM

ORGANIZED CONFUSION Sir.—As a potato grower I am disgusted and ashamed of our potato organizations and the provincial government for their neglect and lack of direction, and just plain stupidity shown towards one of the best industries which this Island has ever been blessed with.

We have all the trappings of a major industry: we have a Potato Producers Organization which was conceived in obscurity and sucked in a vacuum of thought. This organization has taken a negative approach in all matters pertaining to the industry and this past month has shown it to be as uncontrollable and useless as ever.

Our Minister of Agriculture has made himself a controversial part of the plot. On April 21, 1965, we had the famous "MacRae Plebiscite" that 25,000 extravaganzas, that engineered a Marketing Board with the same make-up as before.

From the Agricultural Department comes the yearly warning "that only certified seed potatoes or better could be planted and that this regulation would be enforced." There was no enforcement of the regulation and as it has been learned from the recent meeting, Mr. MacRae had given from 25-30 individual growers permission to plant table stock.

A RARE SIGHT Sir.—Is it unusual to see a crane in the winter? On Feb. 4 my son David and I saw a crane feeding in a nearby brook where it was free from ice. When we got too close it flew further up stream. There seem to be quite a number of robins putting in their appearance lately. So maybe spring is near.

me it means our potato organizations and the provincial government has not shown responsible leadership; it means also a disease problem that is capable in very short order of disposing of our seed business; and if our seed business should go, so also would our table stock.

This latest meeting of potato producers has brought out a term that is a bit confusing. What is table stock seed? Could our table stock seed be better than our Seed seed? Some farmers think so. When our own potato farmers distrust our own best product (due to disease) how can we expect to sell our foundation seed abroad. Is it not a sad state of affairs? This would be like a dairy farmer not drinking milk or using dairy products due to its doubtful quality. How long could a dairy farmer sell milk if he had no ground rules in the production and care in the marketing of a good quality product?

The lack of control and direction is scandalous and would not be tolerated anywhere else but in P.E.I. We don't need more organizations but we need more responsible leadership.

I am, Sir, etc., LARRY YEO Lot 16, Prince County.

MALCOLM A. MACLEOD Grand View, P.E.I.

Asiatic Cholera

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Cholera vaccination is recommended for persons traveling into or through an infected area. For many years the disease was confined principally to Burma, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, but in recent years it has reappeared in Thailand, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Iran, and the Philippines.

Less than 100 years ago cholera epidemic took New Orleans by storm and within 12 days, 8,000 of the 35,000 inhabitants perished. The death rate was so high undertakers and clergymen were unable to cope with the situation. Despite these wholesale deaths the epidemic was described as typical.

In 1832 the disease struck Chicago and seven per cent of the 700 residents died. Most of these victims lived within two blocks of where I am writing this article. If the same ratio were to prevail today, it would mean the smothering of more than 230,000 lives in 90 days. In the next 30 years after this outbreak, the dread disease continued to ravage the city periodically.

Cholera has been eliminated in most parts of the world by improved standards of living, public health, and sanitation. The vaccine gives partial but incomplete protection. However, this may be all that is needed to save the person's life. Cholera is a super-diarrhea with abdominal pain and vomiting.

The victim rapidly becomes dehydrated, leaving the skin cold and clammy and the face drawn and withered. Muscular cramps occur and thirst is intense. Recovery usually is prompt when the fluid and chemical loss is replaced. From three to 25 quarts of intravenous fluid may be needed at combat dehydration.

Antibiotics are the least helpful, although they do kill the causative organism. Prevention is worth more than treatment because intravenous fluids are not readily available to those living in areas where the disease is rife.

SMOKE IRRITATES W. V. D. writes: My husband and I are nonsmokers. I would like to know if "second-hand smoke" is dangerous? We often find ourselves in a smoke filled room.

REPLY No, because it is diluted. On the other hand, I have been in "smoke filled rooms" that are so dense, my eyes burn and tear, coughing occurs and my head aches.

WE WONDER K. G. writes: Are the new drugs for tuberculosis classed as wonder drugs?

REPLY No, even though they are excellent antibacterial products. The term "wonder drugs" was coined by science writers and applied chiefly to the sulfonamides and penicillin, which still retain their priority rank.

COINCIDENCE Mrs. H. writes: My husband and I, both in our 50s, each lost a nail from a big toe. Is there any significance in this?

REPLY Perfect harmony is the aim of all marriages, but don't you think you are carrying it too far?

HAIR STRAIGHTENING Carol writes: Some girls iron their hair to make it straight. Is there any harm in doing this?

REPLY Yes, if the shaft or scalp is burned.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Illinois.)

Clash With China Feared

By Boris Misher Canadian Press Staff Writer There is growing concern in the United States that the escalation of the Vietnamese war may touch off an American-Chinese clash in Southeast Asia. There also is fear such a clash would not be confined to the Vietnamese theatre, but might rekindle the Korean War.

The undercurrent of anxiety over the risk of a Chinese-American conflict was indicated in the current U.S. senate foreign relations committee hearings in Washington, where Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman, sought clarification of overall American objectives in Asia, particularly long-range future policy toward China.

There are "rumors of drastic action" against China and, said Fulbright, "I don't know what the real policy is. That overshadows the whole thing." MUST BE STOPPED Talk at United Nations headquarters has been that U.S. State Secretary Dean Rusk is convinced that Chinese expansion in Asia must be stopped—and the sooner the better—even at the expense of open warfare.

This could be one source of the rumors disturbing Fulbright. But Fulbright is not the only one disturbed. Committee members revealed by their questions that their dominant concern about the war in Viet Nam was the possibility of Chinese intervention, with the likelihood of a land war and perhaps the use of nuclear weapons.

Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, who advised President Eisenhower in 1954 against U.S. military intervention in support of the beleaguered French forces in Indochina, told the committee heavily increased American military strength in Viet Nam might involve the risk of war with China.

The retired general, a former ambassador to France, said he expects additional U.S. troops in Viet Nam would be matched by the rebel Viet Cong as well as troops from North Viet Nam, with the possibility of reinforcements coming from China.

Hard Man To Replace

There are not likely to be many volunteers for Nelson Castonguay's job as Canada's chief electoral officer. When Mr. Castonguay succeeded his father in the post following the 1960 federal election he could have had no idea that the job would eventually entail being perpetually in a state of instant alert.

Ready, aye, ready has been his watchword in recent years as he has stood on guard for the signal from Parliament Hill to set the electoral machine in motion time and time again.

There have been five elections since 1957. Like the toy makers who must prepare for the next Christmas as soon as the current one is over, Mr. Castonguay has been constantly on the go. In addition he has borne the burden of representation Commission which requires being a member of the 10 provincial commissions engaged in redrawing boundaries for the federal ridings.

Ring In The Old

We're all for modern inventions. We wouldn't give up our electric dishwasher, our no-shovel furnace or our vacuum cleaner for any inducement. But it is pleasant to note that many early inventions are so good that they never have been replaced. In fact, some that for a time seem to have been outmoded have come back.

Take the pencil. We salute the man (or maybe it was a woman) who first thought of boring a hole in a long stick of wood and filling it with a thin round stick of lead. But then came the automatic pencil that you didn't have to sharpen, and wooten pencils seemed doomed. Not so. We know one editorial office that uses more than 200 ordinary pencils a month.

Some old inventions have never even been challenged. One is the umbrella with its clever folding apparatus. A plastic substitute for the metal frame is promised, but basically the design remains the same. Unless

the natural scientists find a way to control the weather so that it rains only late at night, the original umbrella surely will be used for a long time. Many other devices of early origin are necessities today: the paper clip, the rubber stamp, the spindle, to mention a few office supplies, the broom and dustpan in the kitchen; the hammer and shears in the workshop. We are glad to note that these old-timers are still taken for granted.

For no matter how grateful one may be for new labor-saving devices, it is comforting to know that many old-fashioned tools are still needed. Long may they serve.

BUYING FISH NET CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago is buying \$6,000 worth of fish net to keep small fish out of water intake pipes in Lake Michigan. The fish are alewives, related to the herring. They were so plentiful last April that the intake pipes were blocked.

travel bargains
Charlottetown to:
Montreal \$14.00
Moncton \$ 3.20
Saint John \$ 5.00
Halifax \$ 5.40
Sydney \$ 9.00
Corner Brook \$16.00
Toronto \$20.00
Winnipeg \$34.00
Vancouver \$56.00