

The Passing Scene

Continued from page 3

ate, since local issues do have a way of affecting the larger horizon. After all, a province is simply a collection of towns, villages, and school districts.

The unfortunate thing is that the lull between elections is relatively unexciting as contrasted with the hullabaloo at election time. Of course, one would not recommend election day hysteria as an all year cultural diet. That would be calamity indeed. But it is possible to make peace just as exciting as war and I think it could be done in this matter of the post-election lull, with much benefit to all concerned.

Refreshment

The candidate who feels it is right and proper to tell the people, whose support he covets, what he proposes to do or not to do after his election should also be willing to take the same people into his confidence, periodically, during his term of membership in the Legislature.

To this end, I believe it would be well for him to go to the central places in his district, say, once or twice a year, and arrange a public meeting. This would provide a refreshing opportunity for the people to discuss with their representative all sorts of problems and issues which may arise from time to time, and the common charge of delinquency ("we never see our member except when he's looking for votes") would have to be dropped.

It would be good for the electors, a sort of safety valve, and it would be better still for the sitting member. It would help to keep him in personal touch with the political "grass-roots", as it were, something which is not always feasible in formal debates in the Legislature. (It might not be so good for his erstwhile or potential opponent, who would be at a disadvantage, but that is a chance the latter would have to take.)

If, after the meeting, there could be a "social hour", when one and the other could "sit round in merry chat", so much the better. The Women's Institute (surely one of our most useful organizations) in the country districts would be glad to provide refreshments and there would be a good feeling all round. There would be no Liberals or Conservatives, as such, but only people interested in the problems and plans of their government and, of course, in the needs and hopes of their neighborhood.

Such between-election get-togethers would cost something, but be sure, though, in the smaller communities especially, it need not be very considerable. But, whatever the cost might be, the member himself, whose emolument is little enough, should not be expected to shoulder it.

The government could very well put it in the annual budget in certain knowledge that it would be money well spent. Now and then, say once or twice during the life of the Legislature, there could be a special guest in the person of the Premier himself, perhaps a Cabinet minister, or even the leader of the Opposition, for this would be an experiment not in party politics, so called, but in the much wider and more important sphere of democratic education.

In The Schools

I do not know what training in practical democracy is given in our public schools, but I should imagine it is not very considerable. As soon as a child is old enough to be burdened with historical data, much of which has little significance, he is old enough to be initiated into the



SANTA VISITS ARMOURIES — big annual children's party Sunday afternoon. The biggest thrill for the youngsters came when Santa Claus strolled into the Mess with gifts for each and every child. Here, "The grand old man" is pictured making friends with one of his little guests.

workings of our political institutions. Not all at once, but in stages which need not be drab or uninteresting. Text books would be useful but they could in no wise take the place of teachers well-informed and well-grounded in democratic procedures and well-qualified to interpret them. This, in turn, would call for some over-hauling of our Normal School curricula but that, in the opinion of many observers, would help in more ways than one.

It is a tragedy that we expect twenty-one-year-old young men and women to take upon themselves the full privilege and responsibility of the franchise without giving them adequate preparatory training in either the techniques or practices of democratic government. Then we wonder why a vote is often regarded as a chattel. We ought not to wonder about it at all. The marvel is that, considering the scant attention given to the subject in our educational processes, political life is as honourable in its many sided facets as it is.

One method of interesting children of almost any age in sound political practices is by way of mock parliament. Years ago this was much more the vogue than it is now, although one notes with satisfaction that it is being revived in some of our universities. It could be used just as effectively in the junior schools in town and country if properly handled.

Many a boy would think it a great honour to be Premier for a day, or Speaker of the House, or Leader of the Opposition, or just a back bencher who tries, often unsuccessfully, to catch the Speaker's eye. Children like make-believe more than anything else so do many of their elders, for that matter. It can be used, and ought to be used more often than it is, to train young minds, always on the look-out for new experiences, in the thrills and adventure, the rights and duties, of our democratic ways.



Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Strange as it may sound to present day ears, the Lamaist Buddhist use a prayer wheel of various shapes and sizes for the purpose of offering prayers by mechanical means. Some of these prayer-wheels are turned by hand while others are driven by water or wind. Long strips of paper with a written or printed formula repeated over and over again are wrapped round the wheel, and as the gadget revolves the paper rolls uncoil, and so the prayer is said.

The virtue of the wheel lies in its being turned unwise — that is from east to west. The reverse action brings evil and undoes any good previously acquired by turning it in the orthodox direction. Ever hear of Sicily Sale Day. In the Lone Star state the first Monday in each month is set aside for the day on which all wandering livestock are marshalled to the public markets and auctioned off or returned to their owners.

Here are a few examples of cases of curious tenures by which estates used to be or still are held, in the British Isles: Solomon Attfield held his estate on condition that he and his heirs should accompany the king each time he made a sea voyage and hold the monarch's head if and when he became sea-sick.

The lord of the manor of Houghton, Cumberland, had to hold the stirrup of the king when he mounted his horse; to carry a hawk for His Majesty, to present him with a gray hood or a white assign whenever he warred in Scotland. A certain duke of Scotland relinquishes his rights to his property if it should ever get warm enough to melt the snow from the loftiest peak of the highest mountain in Scotland.

The heirs of William de Albarmarle hold the manor of Leaton "by the service of finding for the king two arrows and one loaf of cat bread whenever the sovereign hunted in the forests of Eatmoor." The forest is no longer a hunting ground yet the heirs of Albarmarle keep the arrows and bread ready for any stray king that might go a-hunting.

And the heirs of Geoffrey Feembrand still hold 60 acres of land in Suffolk, England, on condition that they pay the king a yearly rental of two white doves.

Most of these curious tenures have passed away. But for over 700 years the Corporation of London has yearly discharged two quit-rents to the reigning monarchs for parcels of lands in the counties of Salop and Middlesex there.

Elizabeth's husband:

Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh

Exiled from Greece as a baby (where his uncle had been king), he grew up a commoner. Now he's married to England's next queen, yet he can never become king.

There's a revealing close-up of Philip in January Reader's Digest. Read how—despite his sudden rise to importance—he has stayed remarkably human... how he keeps up his naval career, works hard at being royalty. Learn why Britons agree Elizabeth really picked herself a man.

Get your January Reader's Digest today: 37 articles of lasting interest, condensed from leading magazines, current books.

Address and Presentation

Mrs. Sophia Murchison, Bonshaw, was honored previous to her departure for Ottawa, Ont., when a group of friends gathered to present her with a generous gift and to read the following address.

To Mrs. Sophia Murchison, Bonshaw, P. E. I., November 27th, 1951.

This small gathering has been arranged that your friends in Bonshaw and surrounding communities might have the pleasure of meeting together with you, once again in your own home and expressing to you our regret that you must leave it for a part of each year. We would like you to know that your many acts of kindness to us all during the years when you served the public faithfully as postmistress, will not soon be forgotten.

As the wife of a busy country doctor you, too had many calls upon your time and your deep interest in the welfare of those in his care, will long be remembered with gratitude. You have always shown a keen interest in the welfare of the community and been a loyal supporter of your church.

As an appreciation of yourself we ask you to accept this small gift as a token of the high esteem in which you live in our hearts. May God continue to bless you and grant you the good health to return each year to your old home and your old friends.

St. Catherine's District, Bonshaw District, Riverdale District, Argyle Shore District, Appin Road District.

Card Of Thanks

Mrs. T. M. Murchison of Bonshaw, wishes to thank her neighbours and friends for kindly calling at her home, prior to her departure for Ottawa where she is spending the winter months, presenting her with a warm-hearted address and a generous purse of money.

Lessons Learned In Korea, Japan May Be Useful

By BILL BOSS Canadian Press Staff Writer WITH THE CANADIANS IN KOREA, Dec. 24 — (CP)—Lessons learned in Korea and Japan about the provision of amenities for the troops may prove useful in other theatres in which Canadians serve.

Canadians here are well provided with such comforts as cigarettes, chocolate bars, fresh socks and a daily bottle of beer. So much so, in fact, that wags are talking about sending cigarettes home in "parcels from Korea" to help the folks who have to pay Canada's high taxes on fags.

This is largely because the Canadians are to draw upon both American and British sources of supply.

The picture is less rosy where leave and rest-camp facilities are concerned. The Canadians get their share. They have the largest allocation at the Commonwealth leave centre in Tokyo, with between 400 and 450 men monthly spending the allotted five days there.

Officers are accommodated there on the scale set by army leave hotels during the Second World War, when the Canadian army led the way in provision of such amenities and the other ranks generally got a better deal than the officers.

Now soldiers from Korea merely change from slit-trench soldiering to a five-day stretch of barracks soldiering.

In Korea the operational commitment does not allow units to take their men out for more than a few hours at a time, once a week, to freshen up. They can't even have a good "sleep in" once in a while. The nature of the theatre doesn't permit setting up a brigade rest camp that might meet the bill and most Canadian units have ceased filling their vacancies at the Divisional rest camp, which is almost a day's journey from the brigade area and a disappointment to the soldier once there.

of which the corporation are tenants in capital to the crown. The actual site of the property itself has been lost in antiquity. But the ceremony is still carried on in much the same manner as it was in A. D. 1211.

Perhaps the strangest of all these curious tenures is the following:

"The tenant of a farm near Yorkshire holds the right to his property so long as he pays a yearly rental of a snowball at midsummer and a red rose at Christmas" to his landlord.

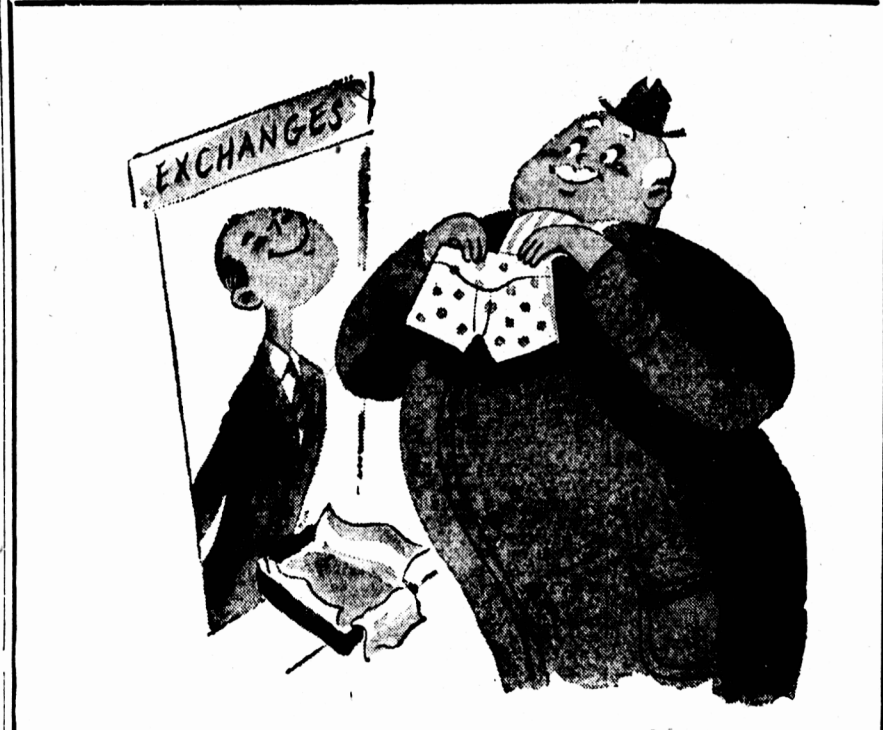
The tarantula, like many other members of the spider family, is an expert at making tunnels. At first there is a sheer descent about five inches deep, below the surface. Then the tunnel takes a sudden spiral turn before dropping straight down to its end. It is at the spiral part that the tarantula keeps an eye open for enemies that may be lurking about.

Unlike most other spiders, it hunts its game without webs or snares. But it does have one trump card up its sleeve, namely: little balls of dirt bound together with silk and slung from its mouth. These are used when an enemy is about to be attacked. How? Well, this tiny cannon ball is kept near the spiral lookout and,

at the approach of an enemy, the wise little spider mounts a ball, spreads its legs and leaps.

Many of us are inclined to believe that the Indian race is fast dying out. Nothing could be further from the truth. In all North America there are approximately 6,000,000, and there are probably

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE L. S. STEVENSON Branch Manager 140 RICHMOND ST. All Profits for Policyholders



MANY HAPPY RETURNS AFTER CHRISTMAS

Of course, we'll exchange cheerfully

We sincerely hope that this did not happen to you. But in the event that it did... please bring it back. We'll be happy to EXCHANGE it for something more suitable or sizeable. We want you to enjoy your gifts from HOLMAN'S. So please... don't suffer in silence. Bring it back promptly and let us make things right.

HOLMAN'S

SUMMERSIDE — CHARLOTTETOWN NEW GLASGOW, N. S.

STORMY WEATHER AHEAD --

OVERCOATS

CASH SALE 3 Days Only

We guessed wrong and find ourselves left with two complete racks of Top Quality Overcoats which must be disposed of by the end of the year.

LESS 10%

HERE'S OUR OFFER FOR

THUR. - FRI. - SAT.

These Overcoats are by the most famous Brand make on today's market.

We are unable to mention the name of this Overcoat as it is prohibited in our contract as a sales attraction.

PLUS —

YOUR CHOICE OF A —

HAT — SCARF — & GLOVES —

A COMPLETE OUTFIT.



A reduction of 10% off the original price of the Overcoat—plus your choice of any Hat, Scarf and Gloves—A complete outfit. Remember not just any hat, scarf or gloves, but your choice from a large range of quality merchandise.

All styles and colours.

JACK CAMERON'S

"No One Ever Regretted Buying Quality" — J. J. J.

139 KENT STREET

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.