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Paardeberg Anniversary

Tomorrow, February 27, will mark the fifty-fifth anniversary of the battle of Paardeberg in the South African War. Canada was not largely represented in that conflict, but Prince Edward Island sent thirty-one volunteers in the First Contingent, and sixteen reinforcements. Their company, which included ninety-four recruits from New Brunswick, was commanded by the late Major W. A. Weeks, Charlottetown, father of Major General E. G. Weeks, now of Ottawa. Two Island men, Roland Taylor and Alfred Riggs, lost their lives, and their sacrifice is commemorated in the South African War monument on Queen Square at which the surviving veterans will gather in memorial service tomorrow, as has been their custom for many years.

Few now are left of those who served gallantly in this early conflict, and it is fitting that their comrades of later wars should pay them honour, as it is planned to do at an appropriate function in the Canadian Legion home on Monday night.

Compared with the numbers engaged in subsequent wars in Europe and the Far East, the South African War may seem of minor consequence today. But it was significant in marking the first occasion on which Canadian units fought alongside troops of the Old Country and from other parts of what was then the British Empire. In putting forth her efforts Canada acquired a new sense of nationhood which continues to bear fruit today.

And if the casualties were comparatively slight, the hardships involved called for courage and endurance on a heroic scale. The regimental commander, Colonel Otter, noted in an official report that in a march of one thousand miles since coming to the country, averaging seventeen miles a day, not a man had fallen out. At the conclusion of the war, after the march-past at Pretoria, General Roberts paid warm tribute to the gallantry of the Canadians, especially at Paardeberg.

The medal for the South African campaign is a five-pointed star with gold centre surrounded by a ring of bronze, on which are the words "South Africa" in raised letters. In the centre is a miniature of Queen Victoria. The medal is of the same size as the Khedival Star, and its ribbon is of four colours, a strip of khaki in the centre, two of white and one each of red and blue. No service decoration is held in greater honour, and on this occasion it takes precedence over all others as we join in saluting its surviving recipients.

Eisenhower & Marshal Zhukov

Almost every day now someone asks the President of the United States if he has any intention of inviting Marshal Zhukov, the new Minister of Defence in the Soviet Government, to make a visit to Washington. Each time the President's reply is a cautious one, to the effect that, while he would have no objection to having the Marshal as his guest for a day or two, he does not believe the time is propitious for any such social appointment. It will be recalled that the President and the Marshal held somewhat similar posts in Germany at the time of the German surrender. Naturally, they saw a good deal of each other and, apparently, were on friendly terms. The President admits, not at all grudgingly, that the Russian commander was "a good and competent soldier." At that time neither had any political responsibility; each was responsible to his own civilian superiors. The common effort in which they were engaged made for a camaraderie which, at the time, gave some promise of being perpetuated by their respective countries in the future years of peace. That this did not happen was certainly not the fault of General Eisenhower nor, it may be assumed, that of General Zhukov who, until now, has had little or no influence in the deliberations and machinations of the Kremlin hierarchy; and, even now, whatever his personal views may be, he has no power of direction with respect to Soviet foreign policy.

There is no assurance that Marshal Zhukov would accept an invitation from President Eisenhower were it forthcoming; for that decision would be one for more powerful officials to make; and in the present unhappy state of affairs there is nothing to indicate that Soviet foreign policy is directed towards a greater measure of amity with the United States and other countries of the free world. The only hope—and it is not a particularly strong one—is that Marshal Zhukov, remembering his

wartime pleasant associations with Mr. Eisenhower, may try to persuade his superiors to adopt a more conciliatory and more reasonable attitude in their dealings with the Western powers.

The French Presidency

The office of the President of the French Republic is, in almost every sense, a sinecure. It is largely ceremonial in character; and the President does not need to know much about political affairs—or about anything else, for that matter. He is elected to his post by both houses of Parliament for a seven year term and then, for all practical purposes, forgotten. The late Georges Clemenceau, great French statesman of World War One years, used to say that, when the time came to elect a President he voted for the stupidest person on the list, on the grounds that stupidity for an official who has nothing to do is much better than brilliance.

The only little chore that comes to the office is that of nominating candidates for the Premiership at times of political crises which, during the incumbency of the present President, M. Rene Coty—a very able man, so reports say—have occurred with what he must regard as monotonous and annoying regularity. But even in this respect he has scarcely any responsibility. He simply talks with the leaders of various parties; following which conversations he comes up with a name, almost always selected from a small coterie of former Premiers and other Cabinet officials, which he passes along to the Assembly. If his nominee is turned down—a frequent occurrence—he keeps on going through the same procedure until a settlement is reached. No one blames the President for anything, and no one gives him credit for anything, which represents a pretty good state of affairs in the life of any mortal.

As a matter of fact the recurring crises in French political life are not as serious as they might appear to outsiders. For one thing, the Assembly, which wields the real power in the political life of the country, keeps on functioning whatever happens to the Premier and his cabinet. For another, the Premiership is never really vacant, since, under the law, the outgoing Premier must retain office and its powers until a successor has been approved by the Assembly.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The late Father Monaghan was known and esteemed far beyond the parish of Alberton, which he served so faithfully for so many years. His intellectual endowments were shown in his student days, when he obtained his degree of Doctor of Divinity on graduation, and before being ordained. Since then his life was an example of devoted service in his high calling.

The debate on the Draft Address is following the pre-election pattern, with considerable repetition and with an increasing number of members electing to read their speeches. This practice was discouraged in years gone by, and except in the case of ministerial announcements was prohibited altogether. Have the rules changed, or is Mr. Speaker more lenient than the oldtime rigid disciplinarians who filled his chair?

Mr. C. G. Power had the following complaint to make in Parliament the other day: "Owing to our hypersensitivity with respect to the language used in the House, and owing to the decisions of successive Speakers, we have to some extent lost the flavor and saltiness of the forthright language of our pioneer forebears, and in our attempts to become gentlemen quite a number of us have become little Lords Fauntleroy, minus the lace collar and well brushed curls."

As announced in the House by the Minister of Health and Welfare, the Disabled Persons Act is effective as from January 1st, but there are strict requirements as to the eligibility of the beneficiaries. Without consulting the Minister we can state definitely that the Act does not cover the case cited in Parliament the other day by Mr. George Nowland, of a constituent who wrote saying "he had his gall bladder out, and he now wanted a gall bladder pension."

Perhaps it will help our Civic Water Commissioners in coming to a conclusion on the fluoridation question to note the following excerpt from the Hansard reports of the House of Commons proceedings of February 14. To the question "Has it been definitely proved that one part per million of fluoride in a water supply will help to prevent tooth decay?" the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare tabled the following answer: "Yes, to the extent of about 65 percent. This has been proved by research studies carried out in Canada and in the United States, including one conducted by the Department of National Health and Welfare over the past eight years working in co-operation with the department of health of the Province of Ontario, Brant county, Lambton county, and the city of Stratford."



Grown Some

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the public. Opinions do not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

DEALER'S COMPLAINT

Sir.—I am not buying any more P.E.I. potatoes. I thought you might possibly be interested in the reason. It can be told in one word, "Sabagos." We stopped buying Island potatoes two years ago, when all we could buy were "Sabagos."

Today we won't take a chance on the 10-pound paper bags of Island potatoes, either, because the chances are about nine or better to one that they will be Sabagos.

When you boil potatoes and roll them in parsley, or brown them, roast them, bake them or steam them in their jackets, you do not want a flatly-shaped potato, to begin with. But that is the Sabago. Nor has it the texture, the dry fluffiness and flavor that you find in the Irish Cobbler, the Green Mountain and the Katahdan.

But the stores are flooded with Island Sabagos. And you can have them. It is probably a very prolific producer. Most poorly flavored species of foodstuffs are. A notable example up this way is the "Premier" strawberry. Because of its high productive traits, it replaced most of the much better quality berries like the Senator Dunlap and the incomparable "Dorset." The "Premier" is huge. It looks wonderful. But it hasn't any flavor.

Last summer, however, more new hybrid varieties of straw berries made their appearance on the local scene than ever before. Most of them brought from five to ten cents more per quart than did the Premier, but they sold out rapidly. By mid-afternoon usually only Premiers were left.

If the Island values its reputation as a producer of high-quality and fine-flavored potatoes, it had better start doing something about the Sabago.

I used to travel P.E.I. and became very fond of the Island and its people. I liked its potatoes, too. There were no Sabagos in those days, mostly Irish Cobblers for the early season and Green Mountains for the winter keepers. And they are still tops, with the Katahdan entitled to a place among them. I was very fond of the "Island Blue," a lovely-flavored potato, but too delicate for shipment to any distant point, or so I was told. I believe it was called the "McIntyre." I would love to have some of them right now.

But Sabagos! Not for us. I am, Sir, etc. BERT B. JACOBS Hamilton, Ont.

The Poet's Corner

THE MOON DEFENDED

On Winter nights in tangling filagree Of leafless branches, loath to set her free, The moon rises gently upward and At last the fingers that would hold her fast. Then, smiling downward from her face, Decks the adorning boughs in jeweled lace. Whoever calls her haughty and Does so unjustly. On the cottage roof And on the battlemented castle walls, Impartially, her quiet radiance falls. But when at last she gazes on the sea, Her heart discards impartiality— The glory of her love like an embrace Kindling a glory on the ocean's face. Kindling to wild pursuit the impassioned tide, Eternal quest, eternally denied.

—Inez Barclay F. in the New York Times.

Making Sand Grow Crops

Taya Zinkin in the Manchester Guardian

For £17 millions Pakistan is buying a geographical revolution. At the foot of the rugged Salt Range of the Western Punjab, where geology bares her secrets, where aquamarine and ochre mix, where erosion does her best in worship of Inca gods, lies the Thal desert. Take Aziz Ahmed, the Thal has been the playground of sand dunes, the halt of camel caravans from Afghanistan, and the wild heaven of desert grass and wild castor seeds.

After independence the Government of Pakistan decided to put into effect old plans to reclaim the Thal. They needed new land for refugees, so the old dream of empire-builders came back to life.

Indeed, in the West Punjab the fertile canal colonies of Pakistan are slowly going bad, and waterlogging, far more than the diversion of water into India, is making what was once the granary of undivided India a potential deficit area; every 30,000 new acres of land are waterlogged in the West Punjab.

Already thousands of tube wells are required if Montgomery and Lyallpur, those agricultural heavens on earth, are not to turn into purgatories.

It is, indeed, fortunate that Pakistan will be getting assistance in her tube-well expansion program, and it is to be hoped that in the Thal, at least, lessons from the Punjab will not be forgotten, and that drainage will be kept even more present in the minds of the authority than irrigation itself.

Mr. King's Diary

By Patrick Nicholson, Ottawa Correspondent. The late Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, like many teen-agers and many more January good-resolutionsists, kept a diary. The difference is that Mr. King's diary was continued for about 40 years, and discussed frankly the affairs and the public personages of the Canadian nation. The diary was mostly dictated to confidential stenographers and then typed by them. The entries describing the events of some busy days, and Mr. King's inmost thoughts on those events, took more than an hour to describe. This shows how detailed the diary was. Its unbridled frankness was such a topic of interest here, that when Mr. King died, everyone wondered what would be done with his sensational diary. Half official Ottawa was afraid that it would be burned; the other half was afraid

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundezen, M.D.

HOW YOU REST AT NIGHT MAY CAUSE A BACKACHE

Most of you are well aware that you can develop a severe backache by straining too hard in trying to lift or carry something. But did you know that you can also get a backache because of the way you sleep?

Rupture of Disks

A rupture of the intervertebral disks can be caused while you are asleep or awake. These disks are pieces of cartilage between the bones of the spine. Sometimes patients report that they first notice pains in their backs upon arising after a normal night's sleep. Examination of these patients probably will show that an intervertebral disk has been displaced. Such a dislocation might be caused by the way you sleep. If you constantly sleep on one side with your back curved considerably, one of these disks might be forced out of its normal position. Then you've got a backache.

However, you are more likely to rupture a disk by performing some physical exertion, such as lifting a heavy load. A blow to your back can also cause a dislocation. When this happens suddenly, you will have a sensation that "something gave away" in your back, and pain follows almost immediately, sometimes passing downward into one of your legs. The pain is both severe and continuous, and is made worse by coughing, straining or bending. Usually, the pain is relieved by lying down, so the best thing to do is to get into bed. You'll need a lot of rest.

The mattress must be firm, and the best way to accomplish this is to place several bed boards directly under it. This will help prevent it from sagging under your weight, and tend to keep your back in a more rigid position. Stretch your affected leg occasionally. If the pain is severe, your doctor can give you drugs to relieve the discomfort.

Enough rest might do the trick, with no further treatment required. But if there is any indication of pressure on the spinal cord, surgical treatment might be needed.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

T. K.: The muscles in my arms constantly ache. Is there any way to relieve this condition?

Answer: Aching in the muscles of the arms may be due to excessive exercise, to some circulatory disturbance, arthritis, or to some disorder affecting the nerves. Careful study by your physician is needed to find the cause before treatment could be suggested.

Belief that the completed canal will provide a dependable passage for the schools of fish that once moved in vast number through the Strait of Canso, is based on the demonstrated fact that thousands of fish were observed in the tidal gap before the causeway touched Point Balache. Thus it's logical to suppose that the tidal torrent flowing through the canal with gates left open, will enable fish to continue the immemorial custom of using the strait as a

that it would not. Under the terms of Mr. King's will, his literary executors were to read his diary, and to use such parts of it as they thought suitable in writing the official story of his life. Much of it was then to be destroyed; in any event it was not to be made public in its unexpurgated form. But there have been rumors around Ottawa that some volumes of the diary had somehow escaped from safekeeping. The unlicensed King text could be obtained, it is suggested. Several months have passed since the first whispers were heard. It's possible that the public may soon be able to read what Mr. King thought of his Cabinet colleagues, how the spirits advised him, and all about the very private life at or near the top.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

The city of Lewis wants a bridge or tunnel to replace the present ferries linking Lewis and the city of Quebec on the opposite side of the river. And lose that magnificent view of the Ancient City from the ferry deck — rising in picturesque tiers from dockside to the battlements of the Citadel! —Ottawa Journal.

Many accidents have occurred through drivers of passenger cars as well as drivers of big vehicles falling asleep at the wheel during hours of darkness. They may have been driving for long hours and become tired, but there is a particular danger about night driving because of the loneliness of the road and the rhythmic hum of the engine, which has a soporific or numbing effect on the brain. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

It's strange that so many people are ignorant of game laws, especially in the fall of the year. Lately in Ontario scores of wild birds have been imposed for such violations as having venison out of season, jack-lighting deer, carrying high-powered rifles without a license, carrying loaded firearms in automobiles, etc. —Farmer's Advocate.

The late Dame May Whitty, grand old lady of the English stage, was shopping in a department store. The salesgirl, trying to show that she was not impressed, was indifferent to the point of rudeness. The actress was finally goaded into saying, "I suppose you feel you are as good as I am, don't you?" "Certainly," barked the girl. "Then," replied Dame May Whitty, "why can't you be civil to your equals?" —Calgary Albertan.

The names of the Russian leaders are on nearly everybody's lips just now, and are being used on them incorrectly, an expert tells me. Last Tuesday night on a BBC program Khrushchev was pronounced in three different ways. To be correct, I am told, the "u" should be pronounced roughly like the "oo" in crook; the "sh" and the "ch" should be sounded like the "sh" and "ch" in chief — and the "ev" as "of". Both syllables should be emphasized, but the main emphasis is on the second: Krooshchhoff. In Zhukov, the "zh" must be given its proper "dj" or French "j" quality; the "u" should be said "oo" as in book, and the accent is definitely on the "oo", pronounced as "oo" —djookoff. Malenkov is usually pronounced incorrectly with the accent on the "enk"; it should be pronounced Malenkoff. Bulganin should sound like "Bullgan-in", with the emphasis (rather alarmingly) on the gun. —London Observer.

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