

While The Bells Toll

Last November, Sir Winston Churchill's birthday cake had inscribed on it the words he used on the flyleaf of his history of World War Two: "In war—resolution, in defeat—defiance, in victory—magnanimity, in peace—goodwill." They are the words, perhaps, by which he would like most to be remembered.

That was Sir Winston's last public appearance, and despite his age and feeble condition he investigated the occasion with the drama and surprise of which he was always so fond. As described by a New York Times correspondent, crowds waited outside his house in the rain, remaining despite word that Sir Winston would not appear.

He wore a velvet siren suit, the model he invented in the War. His eyes seemed somewhat dreamy, but he moved quickly and was responsive to the crowd's noises. At one point he brusquely rejected a supporting hand. After turning to leave, he suddenly reappeared at the window, as if rejecting form and authority, as he had so often done in his political life.

Those who cherish him as a symbol of courage and of life, of the irrepressible human spirit, will find this incident meaningful. He stands there yet in the mind's eye, in grand old age, his course almost run, but still valiant and cheerful.

He had already, in July, made his final appearance in the House of Commons, the place he loved above all others. Two days later the Commons honored him with a special motion of gratitude—something last done for the Duke of Wellington a century ago. Therein it expressed its "unbounded admiration and gratitude for his services to Parliament, to the nation and, to the world," remembering above all "his inspiration of the British people when they stood alone, and his leadership until victory was won."

This was the verdict of his contemporaries. Now, as was said of Lincoln at his death, he belongs to the ages. We have no fear that his stature will diminish thereby. Let our fear be for ourselves, that we fail to profit as we should by his magnificent example.

Pension Plan Problem

Premier Roberts' announcement that Ontario will participate in the Canada Pension Plan has been welcomed across the country. The decision, he said, was based in part on the preservation of national unity and in part on amendments made in the plan to satisfy Ontario objections. But he has indicated his concern about the lack of provision for the needs of persons now retired and those who will retire during the next 10 or 15 years after having been unable to contribute because of sickness or unemployment.

The life insurance companies, which have much knowledge of pension plans, are also critical of the scheme on these grounds and argue that additions to the old age security program, which pays pensions from general tax revenue, would be more satisfactory and more economical.

The Canada Welfare Council approves the pension plan so far as it goes but points to those in need of help who will not benefit and suggests that benefit payments from general tax revenues should be made to them.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which also recognizes good features in the plan, notes that it does not provide "for those Canadians who are now aged, orphans, widows and disabled."

This cross-section of informed opinion is too important to be ignored, and it is evident that full consideration should be given to the inadequacies complained of. As the Winnipeg Free Press remarks, this will not be achieved by a hasty scramble in an over-worked parliamentary committee, or by a few days of perfunctory debate in the House of Commons. Assuredly, it will not be achieved if the pension legislation is regarded as a popular status symbol for the government, or as a vote-winning overture to an election.

"The test of the experiment," adds our Winnipeg Liberal contemporary, "should not be its speed, nor its immediate political attractions but its long-run results. It would be the worst kind of folly to fix a deadline on the pension debate when Parliament reopens. For if the committee's inquiry has proved anything it is that the legislation, as presently written, can be improved. And if full consideration, with useful amendment, requires several months the time will be well spent."

But the difficulty here is that the plan already has the tentative blessing of the federal and provincial governments, excluding Quebec which has opted out. Any major amendments would mean starting federal and provincial negotiations all over again. In short, the politicians have painted themselves into a corner here from which it will be difficult to find a way out.

No Snap Election

Whatever the facts involved in the dismissal of Hon. Yvon Dupuis from the Pearson Cabinet, it leaves an aroma of scandal which, coming on top of the evidence being taken in the Dorion inquiry, makes it pretty certain that the Liberals will not be calling any snap election this spring, or even this year, in an attempt to convert their current minority to a majority in the House of Commons.

The divided state in which the Conservatives find themselves on the leadership question would provide a tempting opportunity for the Government to take the plunge, if only its own house was in better order. But the electors wouldn't stand for it until the Dorion commission hearings have been completed and the findings publicized. To ask them for a blind vote of confidence in the present circumstances would be an incredible piece of arrogance.

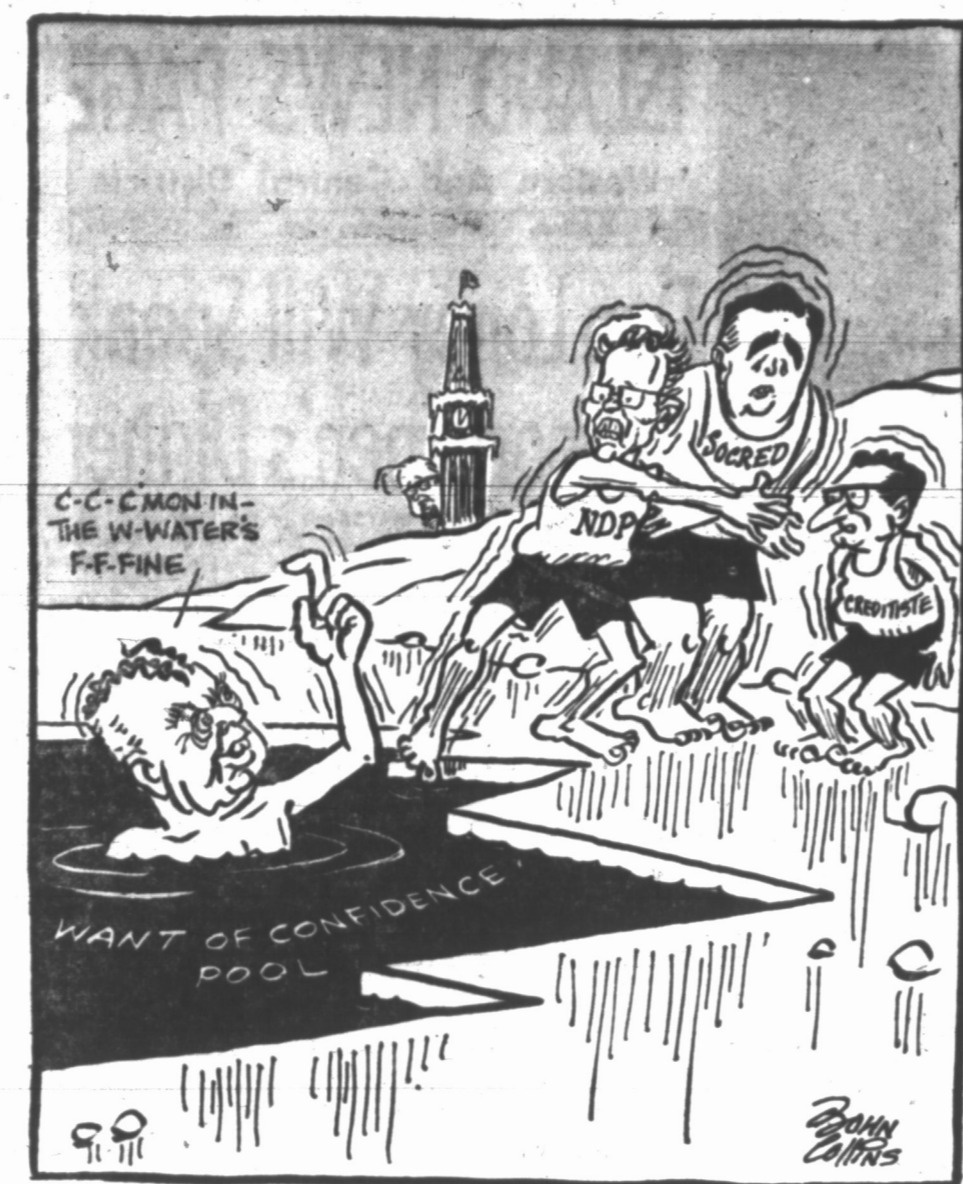
Actually, Mr. Pearson is said to be against calling a snap election in any case. According to one Ottawa commentator, he has instructed the Cabinet that it will be next year, at the very earliest, before he intends going to the country. Only defeat of the Government on the floor of the House would bring an election on.

He hopes, it is said, to see the next election fought after redistribution of parliamentary constituencies has become a working political fact—and it will take at least 18 months to redraft the boundaries of all the 265 constituencies, eliminating some of the old and perhaps creating some new ridings.

The Conservatives can be thankful that the prospects for a snap election are so slim. Otherwise, where do they think they would stand—picking this of all times to have a Donybrook among themselves!

EDITORIAL NOTE

Britain still has the world's largest merchant fleet in active service, according to the Lloyd's Register of Shipping Statistical Tables. The fleet declined in size by 75,000 tons to 21,490,000 tons in 1964. But it still remained the world's largest because the United States' tonnage of 22,430,000 (703,000 tons less than last year) includes an estimated 10,500,000 tons in the reserve fleet. The British Commonwealth total increased by 364,000 tons to 27,545,000.



POLAR BEAR CLUB

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

"Dump Dief" Campaign Lacks Real Leader

January has become "Dump Dief" month by tradition. Now for the third consecutive year this January rite is in full spate than ever before. Tory MP Gordon Aiken, the 46-year-old Ontario lawyer from Gravenhurst, Ontario, has recently replaced the Quebec leader, Leon Baker, as the headliner of the 1965 drive. He made the widely quoted remark at the University of Waterloo that he and "at least three other English-speaking Conservative MPs favour dumping Dief before the next election."

"Aiken's Trio" is the most overcrowded bandwagon ever to roll up Parliament Hill. Its standing-room-only throng seems to include English-speaking MPs from nine provinces; Newfoundland is all-Liberal.

SPLIT FOUR WAYS

One Conservative outside the Commons suggested to me that there are four groups within the party's MPs. There are the outspoken and convinced critics of the leader, who consider him to be the only obstruction between their party and a sweeping victory in the next election.

There are the equally critical MPs who are tight-lipped because they consider that a party

should be openly loyal to its chosen leader, and would prefer the dumping to be arranged and executed under cover, as has been done previously. Others have lost faith in Dief as leader, but are silenced by their personal loyalty to him. And there is a hard core of those "not to reason why, their's but to do and die with Dief."

Former Defence Minister Doug Harkness is obviously a charter member of the "Aiken Trio". Leon Baker, Paul Martineau and Remi Paul are self-proclaimed members of it. So are Alberta's God Baldwin, New Brunswick's Gordon Fairweather and Ontario's Gordon Aiken.

One might expect to find the balance of the 1963 nearly-resigned ministers in it. I have not discussed this point with any MP, but probably the thinking men, who look at their party down the vista of history, are in this group: such as Heath Macquarrie (P.E.I.), George Muir and Sig Enns (Manitoba), Tom Bell and Hugh John Flemming (N.B.), Mary Howe, Jean Casselman Wadds, Alf Hales and Heber Smith (Ont.), Dave Pugh (B.C.), James Ormiston (Sask.), Frank Fane (Alberta) and many others.

To these names should be added, I assume, most of the former ministers who are no longer in Parliament, such as Don Fleming, Davie Fulton, George Hees, Jim Macdonnell, Ernie Halpeny, Howard Green, Dick Bell, Raymond O'Hurley, Noel Dorion, Pierre Sevigny.

THE DIEFENBAGERS

The strong Dief supporters tend to be concentrated in the more rural districts, especially in Saskatchewan. They are typified by Bert Cadieu of Meadow Lake, who says simply: "Dief is masterful as prime minister and masterful as leader of the opposition." This opinion is not shared by the 1,364,188 voters, more than one-third of the total who voted Conservative in 1958, who withdrew that support in subsequent elections. Polls show that the wastage in Tory support has increased since the 1963 election; but with about two in every five voters "undecided", it is apparent that the Liberal government is not inheriting this swing vote.

No candidates for the succession to the leadership have emerged. But this is not surprising when one recalls that Dief has not only omitted to groom a successor, but now has neither past rivals nor ambitious successors around him. Don Fleming and Davie Fulton stood for the leadership against him in 1956; George Hees was at one time regarded as the Crown Prince Charming; Dick Bell and Pierre Sevigny have dreamed their private dreams of glory—all have departed from Parliament Hill.

No wonder Dr. P.B. Ryland made the pregnant and study-worthy reply when asked if he supports Dief: "There isn't anyone else to support."

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(January 25, 1940) In a lightning move, shattering all precedents, Prime Minister Mackenzie King had Parliament dissolved tonight within four hours after its sixth session had been formally opened.

Lieut.-Col. Louis Truman Lowther, Charlottetown, officer commanding the P.E.I. Light Horse, has been appointed District Assistant Adjutant General of the first Canadian division in England.

TEN YEARS AGO

(January 25, 1955) The life of William Hamby, 13, was saved, when he plunged through thin ice while walking on the fish hatchery pond at Southport, by Ray MacLean, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred MacLean, 274 Euston Street, due to the latter's quick thinking and Boy Scout training.

Mr. W.R. Cruikshank, who for more than 15 years has been manager of the Royal Bank of Canada in Charlottetown, was tendered a banquet last evening in the Queen Hotel by members of the bank staff on the eve of his retirement which takes place at the end of January.

CLASSROOMS COSTLY

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. (CP) St. Catharines Separate School Board has decided that portable classrooms are too expensive. Rent of \$303 a month for one year or \$186 a month for five years was the figure from the Nova Scotia manufacturers at which the board balked. The department of education makes no grants for classroom rental, although grants for school construction amount to nearly 70 per cent of separate schools' approved costs.

Exercises To Keep Fit

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Keeping fit pays rich dividends in health and longevity. Not only does the body benefit but the mind also; physical fitness stimulates clear thinking. Regular exercise lessens the chances of developing arteriosclerosis and clot formation (thrombosis).

The activity ought to be in excess of ordinary exertion and should be aimed primarily at improving endurance rather than strength. This means repeating the exercises at regular and frequent intervals, such as before breakfast or between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. A minimum is three to four workouts a week rather than only on week ends.

Select a basic type of exercise that can be enjoyed the year round. These programs need variety, so select a few sports, such as tennis, squash, skating, hiking or bicycling to complement the basic exercises. Some men convert a small part of the attic or basement into a miniature gymnasium. They acquire a rowing machine, weights for lifting, or other gadgets. There is no harm in this but buy good equipment and work up to them gradually.

Don't spend too much money on a fad device that you might tire of quickly. Other men play it safe by going to an athletic club or YMCA for a properly supervised re-training program. Walking or hiking is recommended for endurance, ease of scheduling, cheapness, and fun. It is an excellent remedy for the blues and tension and is productive when it jolts the mind into action. Park the car four miles from the office or spend the noon hour walking instead of eating. Swimming and cycling also are excellent. Make it fun and not a life-or-death affair.

A few words of caution. Some exercises are dangerous for the nonathlete who spends most of his time sitting at a desk. Skiing, aquaplaning, mountain climbing and auto or motor boat racing often cause injuries, especially in novices. Also, avoid time-honored exercises such as the deep knee bend, duck-waddle, pullups, and touching the toes. The old back aches and knees may not be able to take it.

GIANT TOE

Mrs. B. writes: My 18-month-old grandson was born with a deformed toe the doctors call giantism. It keeps on growing. Can anything be done to help this child?

REPLY

Overdevelopment of one or more fingers or toes (macro-dactyly) is thought to be due to genetic abnormality in the growth capacity of the part. The two methods of treatment are plastic surgery and amputation.

POP-EYED

Mrs. H.G. writes: One of our neighbors has eyeballs that seem to pop right out of her head when she talks to you. Can you explain this bulging?

REPLY

Bulging eyeballs (exophthalmos) may be hereditary (secondary) or an overactive thyroid. I assume this woman does not have an eye infection.

FAMILY BOILS

B. N. writes: Since my daughter married she has had 36 boils. Her mother-in-law also has boils. Do you think my daughter is infected by her husband's mother?

REPLY

Yes, or vice versa.

Chinese Frigidity

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff Writer

Public opinion polls say evidence Americans are thinking much more about better relations with Communist China is growing.

A group of U.S. West Coast businessmen, affiliated with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, has called for improvements leading toward trade. Their report cites the growing volume of business being harvested by Britain, France, Canada and others. This sort of U.S. public thaw is still small, but significant.

However, the time is past when the United States could easily kiss and make up after the U.S. pondered recognition of Communist China in 1950 and then ran into a Korean War.

SET HIGH PRICE

The informed American belief is China has set her price sky-high with her first nuclear blast, the downfall she welcomed of Nikita Khrushchev in Russia and continued Communist successes in South Viet Nam.

There is even some doubt Communist China, even if it finally did have the necessary votes, would accept a United Nations seat. Its leaders say no unless Nationalist China is banned from every UN branch. U.S.-Communist Chinese contact has been limited to stiff and sterile discussions at Warsaw. These have been on a lack-

ROSES ABSENT

Although the British garden is a tradition, 20 per cent of all gardens in the south of England do not grow roses.

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