

Oratory was in spate at the recent Conservative annual meetings in Ottawa. Eloquent speakers were a dime a dozen, and after wading through reports of their outpourings we are convinced that if talking can win the next federal election, the resurgence in party fortunes that Mr. Diefenbaker so confidently predicted is assured.

But it is the same with every political convention when it gets under way. There is no reason why we should pick on this Tory one particularly, except that it's just over, that it rated big headlines because of the national interest in the leadership question, and because we ploughed through the detailed reports with more diligence and patience than we usually do.

Exhausted by this marathon effort, we find it hard to get our reactions into focus and deal with the subject with our customary brilliance and perspicacity. Our readers will be disappointed; but our recaptured powers aren't what they used to be. We keep hearing tirades against the hellions of Grivityville in our dreams, and using words out of all relation to their meaning when we awake.

But we have a column to fill, and we've determined to say something about the convention reports that impressed us particularly. Well, it was this: The women at their meeting put it all over the men in speaking plainly and to the point. First prize for this achievement we would award to the national president, Mrs. Dorothy Harrison-Smith, who in introducing the party leader made a masterly speech in her opening sentence, "I came to praise Diefenbaker," she said, "not to bury him." What more needed to be said?

On one thing more, certainly, and it was well said by Mrs. Casselman, M.P. for Grenville-Dundas, in her address at the same gathering. "I want no part," she declared, "of playing the agricultural prairies against industrial Toronto, nor French-speaking Roman Catholic municipalities of Quebec against English-speaking Protestant municipalities of Ontario. This is not good enough. This is retrograde backward thinking. The stuff of which civil wars are made. What is so dangerous and frightening is that this technique might work for one election. It is easier to arouse people's feelings than their thinking. Herein lies our 1964 challenge, our inheritance from the best Members of the Conservative Party."

Words of wisdom, we thought, to which every Canadian should wholeheartedly subscribe. Doubtless we could glean many more from the harvest of rhetoric spread before us; but let these suffice for today.

Question And Answer

University students have a way of asking questions in a direct, straightforward manner. Politicians—again speaking in generalities—have a way of replying to questions in as roundabout a manner as possible. When representatives of these two groups get together, there are usually some entertaining examples of this tussle to be picked up by a careful listener. Such was the case last week when the Hon. Paul Martin took time off from his political chores to visit Carleton University, and submit himself to the customary queries after addressing the students on foreign affairs.

Here, as reported in the Ottawa

Journal, was one of the questions asked him: "What is Canada doing to meet a suggestion that countries give one per cent of their gross national product to foreign aid?"

And here, according to The Journal, was Mr. Martin's reply: "The forthcoming United Nations trade and development conference in Geneva represents the most fundamental way of dealing with the problem of bridging the gap between the have and have not countries. . . I don't see the conference in its first meeting will achieve success, as difficult problems are involved. . . The only long-lasting solution is by touching the economies of the developing countries."

Having studied this oracular statement and pondered what it conceives to be its meaning, our U.S.A. contemporary concludes that in plain English it would run something like this:

"It is true that of NATO countries Canada is the lowest donor except Denmark; it is true we give only .19 of our gross national product whereas France gives 1.70, the U.S.A. gives .73, the United Kingdom .66, Germany .83 and Belgium .86. But it is also true that votes are not won by sending money out of a country and so our intentions, though honorable, are strictly verbal. But I wouldn't want you to be ashamed of your country; we use the telephone more than any other country and our general state of health and welfare is about the best in the world."

We have no doubt that Mr. Martin, however, would argue that this was a woefully arid version of what he had said, or had intended to say, or had intended to leave the impression that he had said, in his speech.

State-Abused Monopoly

Whatever changes, if any, may be proposed in liquor regulations when our Legislature meets next week, it's a safe bet that the recent price increases will remain. They always do. Even in provinces with the most advanced liquor laws on their statutes, customers are gypped in the same manner, and they have no redress.

Even in Ontario, we note from the Orillia Daily Packet and Times, there has hardly been a murmur of dissent over the Roberts government announcement that an additional tax would shortly be placed on spirits sold in the province. Already government profits run to some 500 per cent of the original cost price. If any private businessman were to charge such an enormous mark-up, and maintain such a close monopoly, he would soon be the target for investigation.

Why, asks our Orillia contemporary, do Canadians tolerate such flagrant abuse of a government monopoly? There is only one valid reason. The enormous tax on wines and spirits reflects a sort of puritanism dating from the frontier era, when "booze" was the enemy of respectable society and a menace to morality. Today the place of wine and spirits in modern society has been but grudgingly accepted, and their sale has been hedged about with every restriction and humiliation which legislation can impose.

Their price has been dictated by a sort of vengeance policy of punishing purchasers by charging them deliberately exorbitant prices. Such a policy has been an enormous boon to provincial governments, amounting to millions (in Ontario's case) to hundreds of millions of dollars a year. And whenever more money is needed, the government simply cracks up the price of its wines and spirits, safe in the knowledge that no respectable citizen will have the effrontery to protest.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Australia's ties with Great Britain remain strong. British Week is to be celebrated there in April. Goods made in Britain will be displayed at a big exhibition.



BULL IN THE CHINA SHOP

SNOW REMOVAL PROBLEMS

Huge Costs Involved In Big Cities

National Geographic Society

Add to streets and roads in a modern metropolis the airport runways, hospital approaches, shopping centres, myriad service stations, and parking lots that must be cleared.

William A. Xanten, the engineer who masterminded snow-fighting in the Nation's Capital for 40 years, likens it to planning for an engaging in battle.

Not only must the men and equipment of various city departments and transit companies work as a team; they must be coordinated with the workers, trucks, plows, and bulldozers of adjacent suburbs and counties.

Control centers suggest military G.I.s. Radio communication is vital. The greatest emergency snow removal in the United States was accomplished in Washington in the eve of President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in January, 1961.

Yet Washington officials were ready for just such a nightmare, and personnel of the Army's 87th Engineer Battalion were standing by. Mr. Xanten mobilized 8,000 men and 500 vehicles. Army vehicles were assigned to

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the general public. It is necessary to edit and condense where appropriate. Letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. It is not possible to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Sir, I have been reading a column in the Ottawa Citizen lately that has appeared in this column concerning the Family Allowance. I feel that this change (in the age) should have taken place a few months ago.

As a student I know how much this means. I wonder where the Liberal Party of the 50's cent during war. We all remember all the fuss the Liberals made about this subject. They even went to the trouble to make a "new" family allowance.

The old age pension increase was delayed for a year. The members' increase was introduced before the pension increase. And there was no pensionment made about the back pay when the increase did come.

So when the next election comes, I hope the Liberal Party did in Ottawa and how quickly they fulfilled their election promises.

I am, Sir, etc. Hazelbrook, P.E.I. A STUDENT

SEKS PEN FRIEND

Sir, After reading many of L. M. Montgomery's books I decided that there would be nothing more than a pen friend on Prince Edward Island preferably in Charlottetown. I now ask you would you find me a pen-friend in your town. I am 15-years-old and like reading and riding horses.

I am, Sir, etc. CATHERINE WILSON 17 School Parade Westmead, N.S.W., Australia.

Pox Usually Not Serious

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dell Chicken pox is usually a not serious and most children recover within two or three weeks. Unlike smallpox, which is unusual, although one or two (rare) cases may remain on the face of susceptible adults who get the measles are likely to be sicker than are young victims. This means it is better to have the disease in childhood.

The infection is most prevalent in the winter and early spring months. It is caused by a virus and occurs in outbreaks every three or four years. This is the period of time required for a new group of susceptibles to come upon the scene. We do not know what happens to the virus during the free periods except that someone with chicken pox must keep it going.

The disease cannot be made worse by the rash appears. The susceptible child develops fever, loss of appetite, headache, and backache 1 to 2 days after exposure. Mother and physician may believe the youngster has a cold unless chicken pox is rife in the home.

The mystery is solved within one to three days when crown of red spots are noted on the trunk and on the face, neck, and extremities. On each lesion, a small blister forms that looks like a teardrop on a red base. They rupture and a crust forms two decades ago, that layered the city first with three inches of snow, then five of snow. This was before rock salt use, and with the streets turned into uneven glacial masses even the bus drivers got car sick.

Engineers have dreamed for years of new ways to meet snow emergencies. Among proposed schemes: chemical additives to pavement, radiant heating, infrared light, electronic devices to divert snowstorms to a nearby area.

At home, snow still means a man, a shovel, and an aching back. It may come as a disappointment to the householder who has lately acquired a power lawn mower to learn he should be in the market for the newest suburban status symbol — a power-propelled juicer or snowplow.

MUSCLES AND EXERCISE

Mrs. P. writes: If an overweight person decides to reduce by diet and exercise, what happens to the muscles? I should think exercise would make them heavier.

SEPTUAGINT SURGERY

L. P. writes: Is it true that the after effects of an operation for deviated septum are worse than the disorder itself?

Do not let us assume that the septum is deviated to such an extent as to block the nasal passageway on one side. Pericardial infarct is worth the fee of \$100.00 per month that follow the operation.

MALIGNANT LYMPH NODES

C.P. writes: What treatment are given for cancer of the lymph glands?

There is a long list of remedies, varying from nitrogen mustard to vinorelbine. X-ray also is helpful in some forms of the disease.

INFLAMED COLON

B. V. writes: Does colitis cause bleeding?

There are several types of colitis and bleeding occurs in some. It is most likely to be present when the wall of the colon is congested or ulcerated.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Never smoke in a smoking area.

NOTES BY THE WAY

No matter how little a person knows about religion, he feels fully qualified to argue about it. —Fort Arthur News Chronicle.

Mother: Who does Janis look so dejected? Father: He wants to go to the corner drug store, but the car won't start. —Guelph Mercury.

The new Zanzibar Government has announced that its legislation, heretofore written in English, will from now on be written in Swahili. Canadians may hope from this that their own legislation, much of which appears to be written in Swahili, will some day be written in English. —Globe and Mail.

From Great Britain comes a warning that bowling to excess can cause a newly identified syndrome—bowler's finger. Dr. B.A. Latham reports in the British Medical Journal that the condition is characterized by a tissue swelling of the proximal interphalangeal joint of the middle finger of one hand only. The patient first noted a "fasciculating" or "trembling" of the hand, which was as much as ten times a week. —Medical World News.

When a sailor in a Navy swimming class refused to dive from a fifteen-foot platform, the instructor asked, "What would you do if you were high on a sinking ship?" "Sir," said the student, "I'd wait for it to sink and then feet more." —Galt Reporter.

Left Wing Competitor

By Alan Harvey Canadian Press Staff Writer

The "Monsieur X"—53-year-old Gaston Deferre, the Socialist mayor of Marseille—is going to have a try at the grandiose task. He succeeded his first big obstacle during the weekend by reaching a compromise with the man who could have torpedoed him, Socialist Party leader Yvon Le Gall.

FREE OF PARTY

During a Socialist congress last week in the town of Clusely, Deferre sought to ensure that Deferre would not be held responsible for the party ties to rally all the leftist forces in the country.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Mr. William Morrison, a native of Charlottetown, and for many years connected with the Hood Rubber Company has been re-elected Mayor of the Municipality of the Grange and at the same time was presented with the Past Master's Jewel at the annual installation of officers.

Sister Helen White, Past Chief of Charlottetown Pythian Temple No. 17 was presented with a silver crystal rosebowl by sister members of the temple at an enjoyable function last night. The presentation was a made in honor of Sister White's forthcoming marriage to Pope Clark of this City.

TEN YEARS AGO

Construction of the new Eaton building on Kent Street is expected to get underway today if weather permits. Large transport trucks have recently brought many of the needed supplies and a field office is expected to be opened tomorrow with building officials of the company already at the site.

Harry Pethick, elderly retired farmer of Cornwall met with a painful injury today when he and a neighbor were working on an outside pump. The handle had been raised up and then fell on Mr. Pethick's hand causing a badly lacerated hand which required five stitches to close.

It remains to be seen whether he can whip the inchate left into anything like a serious threat to De Gaulle, who is almost as "institutional" as the Eiffel Tower. People may not like the look of it, but they want to keep it around as a symbol.

