The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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PAGE 6 TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1962

Feeling His Oats

Fresh from two successive engagements with hecklers at political meetings in Ontario, Federal Works Minister Walker claims the Liberals are "hiring and even briefing" partisans in the indelicate art of administering the political raspberry. He says they're being hired by the Liberals at $25 a performance, briefed on "the obvious questions," and assigned to Conservative campaign rallies.

Think of that, now! But Mr. Walker isn't unduly perturbed, or even indignant. In fact, it was with unconcealed admiration that he confessed that with these "semi-pro hecklers" the Liberals had "something going for themselves." He didn't believe they would deny recruiting and training these artists in the razz—and he didn't expect to hear any Liberals complaining when the Conservatives, in turn, fielded their hecklers. "I hope we can do it too," he told an Ottawa Journal reporter; "and if we do, you can bet your bottom buck we'll do it better."

Mr. Walker confessed that if he should get his own way in the party's campaign councils, the Conservatives too would be enlisting and drilling hecklers of their own. "It's fun; I love it," he enthused. "Keeps you on your tip toes when you know that somebody out in front is waiting to jab you with a needle. Trick then is to break it off and jab 'em back with their own point."

It may sound shocking to sensitive ears, but we confess that for the first time we're beginning to warm to this old political warhorse at whom we have taken many potshots of our own in recent months. In his uncompromising partisanship, we regard him as a relic of the past. But the past wasn't all bad. Lively political meetings, now that the oldtime joint meetings have died out, are getting scarcer than hen's teeth. Radio and television have helped to kill them; and the hecklers, we had feared, were headed for the same fate that overtook the dodo. If they have to be "hired and even briefed", at least that's better than meetings packed with party canaries all chirping the same tune.

Mr. Walker likes his meetings tough. He welcomes the raspberries along with the bouquets, and we have no doubt that he can give just as good in return as he gets. "It's fun," he says; and fun is something we've been getting less and less of at these so-called campaign meetings. And if the Works Minister comes down this way we hope he'll get a chance to show himself in lusty action against all the hirelings the Grits can muster against him!

The Laotian Lesson

In a strongly worded editorial, the Christian Science Monitor warns policy makers in the United States that they must come to grips with the lesson of Laos. They cannot, it says, expect Asians to fight effectively if the governments for which they are fighting are unpopular. The United States is now supporting four unpopular governments in Southeast Asia, all threatened by an advancing Communist tide. They are Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

"In each case," says The Monitor, "the United States has made the mistake of giving full support to an ingrown dictatorship, fearful of its people and striving to hold political opposition down by increasingly rigid police and civil controls. The United States does not merely support these governments with diplomacy; it finances and equips these governments with the weapons and power to suppress all opposition. And then the military assistance teams of the United States wonder why the people of such countries, when a crisis comes, make poor soldiers."

The Monitor is usually a firm supporter of Washington foreign policy, and its comments on this issue are worth heeding. The military problem of Southeast Asia, of course, is the challenge of Communism. But the political problem of what to do about unpopular regimes is no less obstinate, and it must be dealt with eventually.

In the case of Laos, American military advisers told a visiting American correspondent several weeks ago that they thought their training of the native forces had progressed to the point where they could take on the Communists. Then the Pathet Lao struck, and sent these forces reeling back across northwestern Laos and over into Thailand. There the facade seems firm but under pressure it would probably crack, and what lies inside it not different. In Vietnam the United States faces a similar situation.

In the present emergency, however, Washington strategy must be dictated by the needs of the hour. That is the reason why American troops are being moved into neighboring Thailand at the Thai government's request. President Kennedy has informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations what action the United States is taking and why. His action is reminiscent of President Eisenhower's dispatch of U.S. troops to Lebanon in the summer of 1958. U.S. marines went there in response to the Lebanese government's request for protection in the aftermath of the Iraqi revolution. They did not get involved in any fighting, and eventually were withdrawn.

In this case, there is the difference that the United States has a treaty commitment under SEATO with Thailand, while it had no specific commitments to Lebanon. Canada is not a SEATO member, but it is already committed in Laos through the Laotian Truce Commission.

U.S. Potato Problem

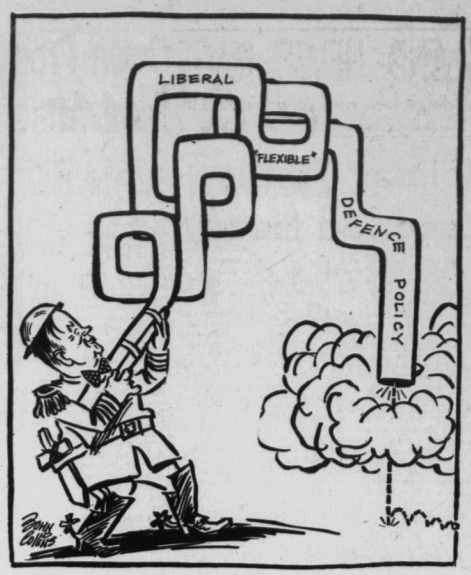
Potato problems are causing trouble in the United States as well as in Canada, and there is divided opinion as to how the matter should be handled. The issue has cut across party lines, as indicated by the reaction to a proposal by Senator Muskie (Dem., Maine) to establish an acreage allotment system for the nation's potato growers.

In Maine, where some good potatoes and some not so good are produced, the market is glutted and this policy is favored. But according to Senator Church (Dem. Idaho), farmers in his state have done a great deal to build up the reputation of their high grade russet potatoes and don't want the supply artifically curtailed. Wisconsin's commercial potato growers have opposed such limitation, too.

Commenting on this situation, the Milwaukee Journal says that producers of uniformly high grade potatoes are only a small minority of all growers, and that in any referendum on allotments they could easily find themselves outvoted, even while their own markets were holding up well and there was no surplus of choice potatoes. One result would be that some consumers who wanted to buy top grade potatoes would have to accept lower grades instead. Under this solution both the farmers who tried to do things for themselves and the consumers would likely be penalized.

EDITORIAL NOTE

After increasing since 1958, divorces granted in Canada declined in 1961 to 6,486 from 6,980 the previous year, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. The national divorce rate stood at 35.6 per 100,000 population, the lowest rate since 1944. Since 1950 the rate has fluctuated between 35.6 and 41.5 as compared with the all-time peak of 65.4 in 1947.



PRESENTING ARMS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Commercial Techniques In Campaigning

"The whistle-stop has been replaced by television in Canadian electioneering," says one of the public relations advisers to the Liberal Party.

"The aeroplane enables us to move the party leader rapidly, to meet a tightly-meshed campaign schedule," adds another public relations practitioner, hired by the Conservative Party.

Those two brief comments infer the three aspects of the present election campaign which thinking Canadians must surely deplore. Leaving aside issues policies and personalities, I question whether any election since Confederation has been worse for Canada, bearing in mind the novel methods of the backroom-boys by whom this nation-wide battle is being planned.

I refer to "The Hidden Persuaders" and their commercial technique of salesmanship; to the hucksters, hired from the advertising world, whose purpose in life is to mould public opinion in the interests of their commercial employer even to persuade the public to buy goods they don't need by creating a phony glamour and false demand for them.

REMOTE AIR TRAVEL

So we come to the three undesirable developments in electioneering which are mentioned above.

First, the chief campaigners are being transported unrecognised 12,000 feet above the heads of the voters, in a pointless marathon.

Second, with every Canadian sitting for an average of three hours a day in front of the TV, politicians have been persuaded to approach us increasingly via that fickle new medium. An election being neither a western nor a musical, the only apt paid spot for it in the TV schedule is among the advertisements. So we have the humbling and basic situation that prominent national statesmen speak to us in 90 second commercial spots, sandwiched perhaps between a singing commercial about stomach gas and an animated cartoon plugging toilet tissue.

Finally we come to the real national tragedy. The comments quoted at the head of this column were mouthed not by the old - fashioned voluntary party worker, —sincere, dedicated and intellectually honest —but by the hired hucksters— men whose bread and butter depends upon their success in selling ant-acids or name drugs, whether or not they believe in the usefulness of the goods they are plugging or even in the sincerity of their plug, thus too, for a fee, they sell politicians to the voters.

Must the siren-song of the dollar and the effectiveness of the huckster hereafter determine who shall govern Canada?

SELECTIONEERING—1962

The political campaign of 1962 is near becoming a commercialized hard-sell. It is very questionable whether this is good for Canada and Canadians.

The techniques are the same as those employed in selling an automobile, women's fashions or cigarettes. The essential process in either campaign is the public opinion poll, to find out what the consumer prefers. Seatbelts or nuclear defence, filter cigarettes or health services, wrinkle-pelcher toes to shoes or higher Old Age pensions?

Then other polls are held to find out what the public thinks is good or bad about political leaders, just as the hucksters seek our opinions about last year's model product. Skirts too tight, or Mr. X lisps, consumes too much gas or too much liquor, inconvenient package or disinterest in ethnics?

Thus the 1962 party policies and the 1962 party leaders are apt to be devised, made over into artificial images, and projected across the nation. Gone is much sincerity and intellectual honesty. And the fickle electronic magic of television may even create an entirely false picture—such as almost certainly cost Richard Nixon the U.S. presidency in 1960.

Our grandfathers had a saying about not buying a pig in a poke; we recently had a law about not buying a pork product in misleading packaging. Should we not get back to the days of political rallies, whistle- stops and seeing our would-be leaders face-to-live-face?

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(May 22, 1937)

A weekend visitor to Charlottetown will be Rev. C.H. Huestis, D.D. General Secretary of The Lord's Day Alliance of Canada. The Lord's Day act has given one day a week rest to many thousands of workmen in Canada. The Alliance is the only body standing against an open Sunday, it prevents the use of the day for mercenary gain.

At a recent meeting of the new directorage of the YMCA at Summerside, plans were discussed for the erection of a new "Y" building, but no definite plans were made. The officers appointed were R.S.P. Jardine as president; Dr. J.A. MacMurdo vice-president, and H.T. Holman, secretary-treasurer.

TEN YEARS AGO
(May 22, 1952)

The student Presbyterian Church Choir of Montreal which performed at Zion Church Tuesday evening, was entertained by various church organizations during their brief stay in the city. They visited Parkdale School, where they made a recording which will be broadcast on the Church of the Air programme from the Yukon, on the third Sunday in July.

The Federal Department of Public Works has lined up a heavy programme for the present season, according to information now available. The three major activities will centre around Charlottetown, Summerside and Souris, where the Railway wharves are to undergo improvements.

Not The Most Broadening

Peterboro Examiner

Gherman Titov went 17 times around the world and did not see God. This will surprise very few; we know people who could go 17 times around the world and not see anything but the end of their noses; and yet others who could go around once and see the seven devils of Heil in an afternoon. Gherman Titov, in other words is a man with a very ordinary imagination. We wonder too, why he has spent so much time and trouble to come to North America simply to be rude; it it much simpler to be rude at home and gives less offence. We hope that when he returns someone will point out to him that though a space capsule may be the latest form of travel it is by no means the most instructive.

But he is young and has had his head filled with the glories of technology. If he puts his trust in a few thousand pounds of static thrust and a hollow, metal ball with windows it is only because he has had no opportunity to consider deeply why he is doing so. He said, when he viewed the American counterpart to his own vehicle, that he would not go aloft in it. Nor would several million Americans; but again, nothing is proved.

We suppose that being lionized is greatly satisfying to the ego and gives a celebrity all kinds of courage. But we wish that being a spaceman did not automatically mean that spacemen were authorities on God, politics, and American technology.

European Numbers Game

By Alan Harvey
Canadian Press Staff Writer

There's a new twist in the European numbers game. By some dazzling sleight of hand, the little six is becoming the big three.

This is a sharp descent from the original arithmetic, which called for the six nations of "little Europe" to join with the seven nations of the European free trade area. But six and seven added up to unlucky 13, and that settled that.

Now, while Britain tries singlehandedly to stretch the European six to seven, there seems to be a move within Europe to divide the six by half.

The hard - core remainder would be France, West Germany and Italy. The Paris newspaper le Figaro notes this week that President de Gaulle in his Tuesday press conference frequently referred to the unity of the three major continental powers, pointedly leaving out Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

De Gaulle is irritated, particularly with Belgium and Holland, because they oppose his political design for a loose confederal Europe whose national souvereignties would remain intact.

It is noteworthy, in considering the big three idea, that de Gaulle has recently visited Chancellor Adenauer of West Germany and Premier Fanfani of Italy.

In such a Triumvirate, France and West Germany would tend to be dominant but Italy, economically thriving and politically more stable than in the past, is assuming increasing importance.

De Gaulle's "trifocal" view of European affairs was emphasized in his Tuesday conference when he pondered upon the genius of West Germany's Goethe, France's Chateaubrind and Italy's Dante, without so much as a mention for Shakespeare.

But the notion looks unrealistic. A tripartite Europe seems to run against the pattern of the time. In the age of the big battalions, the Western world's big money may ride on no. 20, which is the tally of nations enrolled in the Organization for European Co-operation and development, embracing North America as well as Europe.

Drugged Driver Is Road Menace

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Many drugs and medicines influence the ability of a person to drive properly. The effects of alcohol, arcotics, and th antihistamines are widely known. The hopped up, sleepy, or half-blind driver is a mence on the highway.

Other products have the opposite effect and could enhance the ability and skill of some drivers. Highly nervous and emotionally agitated individuals could be calmed with mild sedatives or tranquilizers, provided the medication does not make them drowsy or giddy. This is an important consideration because there is no place on the highway for a sleepy, inattentive driver.

A somewhat similiar situation exists mong persons with heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, or epilepsy. These diseases affect driving but not when brought under control with drugs such as digitalis, vasodilators, insulin, or Dilantin.

But the medication must be used according to directions to produce the desired results. Too much insulin, for exmple could lead to a serious reaction while driving. Epilepsy and driving do not mix unless the medication controls the attacks 100 per cent of the time.

Some truck drivers use amphetamines such as Benzedrine or Dexedrine to keep them awake on long hauls. It is a dangerous practice because there is no substitute for sleep. These drugs produce temporary alertness and efficiency but affect judgment and often ar followed by irritability, agitation, fatigue, and a decreased inability to concentrate. Some users also develop illusions or hallucinations.

Narcotics depress the nervous system and may distrub concentration, vision, and judgment. Various other chemicals are hidden in standard remedies that could affect driving. It is a good policy to ask the physician whether there is any thing in the prescription that will interfere with safe driving.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self - addressed envelope accompanies request.)

OILY AND DRY

C.H. writes: My hair and complexion are very oily but the skin of my legs is so dry it flakes. Is there any way of channeling oil from one part of the body to another?

REPLY

Yes. Run your hands through the scalp and then massage your legs with the oil that adheres to your fingers. It is easier to apply cold cream or oil to the dry skin. Wash the face several times a day and shampoo more frequently if you want to correct the oily condition of your face and scalp.

APPETITE AND HEALTH

C.C. writes: Does a good appetite indicate good health?

REPLY

Yes, as a rule, But a good appetite can be deceiving. A person with cancer or heart disease, for example, may feel like eating well but is not necessarily healthy.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There are two kinds of fishermen. Those who fish for sport and those who catch something. —Niagara Falls Review.

We are told the world population is increasing at the rate of 100,000 persons a day. This means that every morning there are enough new people to make a good-sized city.— Farmer's Advocate.

The man who finds himself with nothing to worry about shouldn't worry. His wife will think of something.—St. Catharines Standard.

There is nothing more admirable than the man who is big enough to admit his mistakes, unless it gets monotonous. — Calgary Herald.

We've often wondered why kids don't ask the questions parents can answer.—Galt Reporter.

"Budget" is an old English word that originally meant a bag containing papers and accounts, and the trouble is that modern governments' accounts have turned the bag into a balloon.—Ottawa Journal.

Moscow At World's Fair

New York Times

An old problem has arisen in a new context as a result of the questions raised by the United States Government about participation of the Soviet Union in the New York World's Fair of 1964-65. In an open society like our country's, the Soviet Union has and uses many more channels for making its views known to American citizens than are available in the relatively closed Soviet society for the United States Government to communicate with Soviet citizens.

Hence the anxiety in Washington that cancellation of the scheduled 1967 Moscow World's Fair may mean that there will be an elaborate Soviet exhibit on display here without any reciprocal opportunity for an American exhibition in that country during the mid-Nineteen Sixties.

RAISED BY RUSSIA

Fortunately it was the Soviet Union that first raised the issue of reciprocity. It insisted that its contract with the New York World's Fair contain a clause providing for cancellation of its agreement to exhibit here of the United States Government did not indicate its intention to participate in the Moscow World's Fair.

This gives rise to the possibility that the problem that has arisen because of the Moscow Fair's cancellation may be soluble by Soviet agreement to permit an American exhibit.

The United States and the Soviet Union alike have much to gain from giving their citizens opportunities of each other's lands. In the era of hydrogen bombs, mutual understanding and mutual knowledge are important means of lessening tension and thus of decreasing the chances of thermo-nuclear catastrophe.

UNFORTUNATE

Against this background it would be unfortunate if the problem now raised were to become still another Cold War squabble worsening relationships. It would be much wiser if the question were used by both nations as an opportunity for negotiating as wide an exchange of exhibitions as possible perhaps even going so far as to reach agreement for a permanent Soviet Russian exposition here and a permanent United States exposition in Moscow.

We would certainly regret Soviet abstention from the New York World's Fair as damaging to the fair and to hope for international understanding.

Hunting With Sleep Guns

National Geographic Society

The hazardous job of trapping wild animals for research may soon be as safe as knocking over ducks in a penny arcade.

Increasingly, naturalists are using a sleep - inducing gun which fires a needle-tipped syringe. The injection of a nicotine solution paralyzes the animal, temporarily and harmlessly.

Though the gun is a modern tool, the idea is not new. For centuries South American Indians have used darts dipped in a special drug to capture live prey. The drug, probably a curare-type compound, has always been prepared in mystery and secrecy.

GEORGIANS BEGAN

Two Georgia wild-life experts, frustrated by attempts to snare deer by nets and tastily baited traps, began experimenting with drug-shooting weapons in 1954.

Testing various paralytic drugs and firearms, the scientists hit upon an effective combination of nicotine, syringe, and gas gun.

The narcotic first stimulates and then paralyzes the nerve cells. The effect on animals might be likened to that of a strong cigar on a nine-year- old boy.

A rifle operated by carbon dioxide fires a metal syringe which empties on contact. Strength of the solution is varied according to the size of the animal.

Originally developed to help game rangers capture and relocate deer in the swamplands of Georgia, the tool was quickly adapted for many tasks.

Zoo's "bring-em-back - alive" hunters found the flying syringe invaluable in collecting specimens.

When the rising waters of Africa's man-made Lake Kariba threatened to drown wild life, tranquilizing darts helped in the capture and removal of big game to high ground.

In Yellowstone National Park, grizzly bears being shot with anesthetics so tiny radios can be attached by a collar to broadcast the bears' whereabouts. The five-year project, jointly sponsored by the National Geographic Society and National Science Foundation, hopes to learn from bears' patterns of movement why the once-common grizzly faces possible extinction.

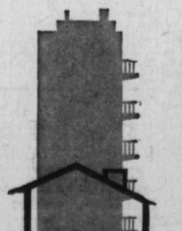
An expedition searching the Himalayas for the mysterious "abominable snowman" took along a drug gun—just in case.

LONG-DISTANCE DOCTORING

Veterinarians with a good eye and steady aim can vaccinate jaguars from afar, shoot penicillin into ailing giraffes, and treat bison for arthritis. The syringe can even penetrate an elephant's hide.

Farmers are able to tranquilize cattle prior to shipping. Stock can be treated for pink eye, foot disease, and pneumonia at distances up to 120 feet.

Dogcatchers in at least one community have abandoned the traditional use of nets in favor of pellet guns.



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