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Passing Of A Tradition

There's more bad news from London. This time it has nothing to do with inflation, the Greek Cypriots, or the Suez Canal. It concerns an institution which is nearly as old as British freedom—the Hyde Park soapbox.

For centuries, any person—wise man or fool—who felt that he had a grievance to express in public or a theory to propound, regardless of its nature in either case, knew where he could find an audience and plenty of strong-lunged hecklers to give zest to the harangue. Once in Hyde Park, provided all the soapboxes were not already taken, he could say anything that came into his head, happy in the assurance that somebody would listen and applaud. There is probably not a crazy idea in the fields of politics, religion, and sociology that has not been given an airing, and a hearing, in that haven of freedom.

Well, the park and soapboxes are still there; but, according to reports, the crowds are getting thinner and thinner and less enthusiastic all the time. Whereas in the past political and social crackpots were the chief speakers on any given day, eccentric religious revivalists are now in the ascendancy, and somehow they don't seem to hold the attention of the listeners as well as the violent proclaimers of political and social utopias used to do in former days. To Canadians, who prefer to imbibe their soapbox oratory in small and respectable doses once every four years or so at election time, this decline in Hyde Park rhetoric will seem a trivial matter. But thoughtful Englishmen—few of whom ever participated in the rhetorical exercises themselves—know better. They see in it the passing of one more tradition, and they don't like it. Said one commentator: "We are losing pride in our national originality."

Big Time In Chicago

Within a few hours the 1956 Democratic National Convention will be under way. This first day will be occupied mainly with preliminary formalities beginning with a religious invocation (no big American convention ever omits this) and robust singing of The Star-Spangled Banner and ending with a good-night address by the matriarch of all good Democrats, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. In between there will be other addresses, presentations of memorials, appointing of committees and, of course, a lot of convivial handshaking and backslapping. Tuesday and Wednesday will follow a somewhat similar pattern, except that the prayers will be a bit shorter than the opening one and the speeches a bit longer and more vehement. Meanwhile, behind-the-scenes intrigue will gather momentum, and by the time the big day arrives—Thursday—every known tricky device for swaying the minds of delegates will have been put to the test. By that time, too, every conceivable means of bringing principles into adjustment with opportunism will have been examined minutely.

The most spectacular event will be the roll-call of states sometime on Thursday afternoon. There is nothing quite like this anywhere else in the world. Perhaps it can best be described as a combination of an evangelical rally and a cheap third-rate burlesque. It will comprise just about everything in the field of human emotions from tears to high jinks. But, in some mysterious manner, it will result some time before daybreak next morning in an expression of the sovereign will, in so far as assembled delegates are able to reveal it, aided by more prayers and the strength that comes from an extra-solemn rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner—which, incidentally, only relatively few Americans can recite verbatim, al-

though he would be considered a traitor who did not make motions with his lips while it was being sung. At this moment Mr. Adlai Stevenson appears to have the right of way to the Presidential nomination. But, of course, there is no certainty about it. Strange things happen at political conventions; and this one could possibly result in the nomination of someone whose name was mentioned for the first time in the convention's smoke-filled rooms. It will be time enough to say "I told you so" when the victor is escorted amid singing and whistling of his supporters to the dais of honour. As for the Vice-Presidential candidate, the selection will depend largely, though not altogether, on the preference of the Presidential nominee. Should Mr. Stevenson be given the palm, either Senator Humphrey of Minnesota or Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts would seem to be the likely choice for second place; but that, too, is subject to many ifs and ands and buts.

The fortunate thing—not only for the United States but, to a lesser degree, for the world—is that these American national conventions, wild and irresponsible though they seem to be in some respects, usually end in the nomination of good and honourable men capable of rising in a distinguished manner to the demands and responsibilities of national leadership. There have been exceptions, of course. But these have been very few; and there is every reason to believe that the convention beginning today in Chicago will follow the historic trend.

A Hopeful Sign

South Africa's policy of apartheid may be due for revision, not from pressure of world opinion as much as from a slackening of its internal support. All along, the authorities have maintained that the rigid separation of the races is in the best interests of the vast Negro majority. They call it a policy of "guardianship"; the Negroes themselves and their many friends in other countries call it by another and much less pleasant name—slavery—which in effect is what it is.

The government has been sustained in this strange interpretation of "guardianship" by the support of the Dutch Reformed Church, the strongest denomination in the Union, numerically, and in a sense the spiritual arm of the state; although Roman Catholic and other religious leaders have repudiated it consistently and resolutely. Recently, however, and for the first time, a prominent Dutch Reformed theologian came out vigorously against apartheid and all its works. In a speech at Slettenbosch University, a church-sponsored institution, Dr. B. B. Keet stated that only a "fast-asleep" man would agree with the government that racial separation benefits the oppressed Negro majority. He called the government's attitude "a manifestation of repugnance for non-whites".

If this means, as it probably does, that the Dutch Reformed Church has at last decided to apply a little Christian theology to the country's racial problems, there is some hope that South Africa may yet turn over a new leaf and make amends for the harm it has done to many thousands of its Negro citizens and for the grievous damage it has done to its own good name in world opinion.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The oil-rich sheikdom of Kuwait in the Near East gives all its government ministers large fortunes—so they can be "above temptation" in handling finances. This policy would seem to put an even higher premium on corrupt practices in obtaining office.

The director of the Harvard Observatory says he is sure that interplanetary travel will be possible by 1966. We won't start packing for a little while, though. Goodness only knows what the well-dressed outer-space traveller will be wearing ten years from now.

Michigan state police are being equipped with a new device for traffic enforcement. It is a patrol car carrying a polaroid camera which develops a picture almost instantly after it takes it. The finished print can be shown a violator while the officer writes out the ticket.



EVERYBODY'S GOING

A Terrible Dilemma

By William Ryan
Associated Press Analyst

A 28-year-old soldier named Nasser by seizing the Suez Canal Company has manoeuvred the West into a terrible dilemma. One way or the other—barring a miracle of negotiation—the West stands to lose. If it uses force, an eruption in the Middle East might deal a tremendous economic blow to Europe. If Nasser successfully stands his ground, his already great prestige among the Arabs would soar even higher. The West would be defied and defeated.

Nasser's powerful Saut al Arab (Voice of Arabs) has implied that the Middle East's oil—key to any struggle for mastery—would find a flame searing the Arab world and promising economic havoc for Europe. Perhaps even the seeds of a third world war lie beneath the harsh desert soil of a vast area of 100,000,000 Arabic-speaking people. They inhabit a dozen nations stretching from the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf, but Nasser's Voice of Arabs constantly refers to them as a single nation, led and inspired by Egypt.

POTENTIAL THREAT
The Voice warned that if the West attempted to use force, "the workers of Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain and Aden stand side by side with the Arabs against the imperialists" and "Arab oil workers everywhere are prepared to inflict harm on whoever attacks Egypt."

The threat is a potent one. A shot fired by a Briton or a Frenchman could start a jihad—a holy war—in which Arabs with suicidal emotion might sweep over foreigners in charge of the oil production of the Middle East. No longer checked by their own quarrels and intrigue, no longer reined by wary Arab rulers, Moslems might burst into Israel—an island

of 2,000,000 in a hostile sea of 40,000,000 people—and crush it by sheer force of numbers. Would the West then face a prospect of active military intervention? A British-French-American declaration of 1950 guarantees both Arab states and Israel against aggression. Beyond that, the oil stakes are so high that Britain and France might feel impelled to armed action on the very doorstep of the Soviet Union. They might consider it the only way to save Europe from economic chaos and communism.

These seemed to be the considerations behind the second thoughts in London and Paris—considerations which could produce a paralysis of Western action. Britain, while sending warships to the Middle East, vowed to seek a peaceful solution.

CONCERN OF ALL
Doubts rose in France about the wisdom of the "energetic riposte" demanded by France's premier when the crisis burst suddenly. Egypt's Nasser, though he had much to gain, had much to lose, and he marked time. He was on his way to great power or oblivion, depending upon the way the cards were played in this game of international power politics. He could not back down.

The future of the Suez Canal is a matter of deep concern for all countries. Even the Soviet Union has a big stake in the outcome of the crisis. It could mean a general weakening of the West—but would it entail the threat of the Soviet leaders obviously fear?

With all its worldwide implications, all its widespread ramifications, all its potentialities, the Suez crisis is the most difficult and dangerous since Korea.

A Competition of Giants

Bruce Hutchison in the Winnipeg Free Press

The layman who reads Sir Winston Churchill's History of the English-speaking Peoples may not hear anything like the surge and thunder of the Odyssey or fall silent, under Chapman's magic, upon a peak in Darien. He may not even read profound history. But he will read a stupendous tale, told by a master. He will put down the impatient for the remaining three, impatient for the remaining three. Inevitably the layman will compare Churchill's book to the classic work of Macaulay (whom Churchill deplors as the lieler of his ancestor, Marlborough). The comparison is not quite fair, since Macaulay undertook to discuss only the Restoration period while Churchill paints with gaudy and characteristic strokes upon a canvas covering more than two thousand years. Nevertheless, the professional historian of the nineteenth century and the amateur of the twentieth will stand together in a competition of giants so far as the ordinary reader is concerned.

In the humble opinion of this ordinary reader, having read both works almost simultaneously, Churchill is no match for Macaulay in substance, in intuition or even in style.

MASTERY TOUCH
Before he attempts to discuss his chosen period, the Restoration, Macaulay invites the reader's indulgence as he jots down a brief preface to cover the preceding six centuries or so. This introduction, as everyone knows, turns out to be perhaps the most penetrating analysis of British history ever written in such a space. Its depth of understanding, its inward sense of events, its steady march, above all, its quality of liveliness and use of illuminating anecdote completely dwarf Churchill's towering structure.

One slight sample must serve to illustrate the difference between the two men, one of whom spent his life writing history while the other made it and then wrote it as a kind of afterthought.

Macaulay, in an unorthodox judgment, regards King John as one of the most valuable of English Kings, not mainly because he signed the Great Charter, but because he lost Britain's possessions in Europe; for it they had been retained, Britain would have become an outpost and satellite of a European empire and could never have created its own peculiar island civilization. This judgment may appear obvious, almost platitudinous in retrospect. It was something like a stroke of lightning when Macaulay announced it.

BRILLIANT BUT THIN
Churchill, on the other hand, gives John the orthodox treatment and, as you would expect, seems to regret that the blundering monarch presided over the liquidation of the first embryonic British Empire.

Concerning this decisive figure, and all the others for that matter, Churchill has nothing new to offer; nothing but his genius as a story teller. The literature reader will find little in Churchill's story that he didn't know before, though the familiar facts are given a new and shining hue. The outer shine is brilliant but very thin. Churchill marches his ghostly battalions in brilliant pageantry. He does not penetrate events. If the comparison between the two historians is unfair in one sense, each having a different purpose, in another it is entirely apt. That is to say, both belong to the old-fashioned school of history which has been lately submerged by the modern school. They think of history primarily as the erratic adventures of human beings, whose next folly can never be foreseen, whose future cannot be calculated, whereas the modern school, headed by Professor Toynbee, has reduced history to tabular and ordered cycles, the life spans of entire civilizations governed by ineluctable laws of birth, growth and decay.

REAL STUFF OF HISTORY
Read Macaulay on the Restoration and you will find not only the



SKETCH
In the shadow of the barn Beside the brook A painter in a stained blue smock Reflects before his easel. He tips a brush with amber And careful as a farmer Paints the apple tree In black earth and gold sun He steps back, squirms, returns And spreads the green boughs On a loud. The blossoms bud and open. A few fall to the grass. So swift The growing of that May-time tree!

The painter does not know That on the canvas of my eyes Tree and cloud Barn and brook Include him too. —Beren Van Slyke.

The Age Old Story
Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MAXIMS
Life comes before literature, as the material always comes before the work. The hills are full of marble before the world blooms with statues.

politics of the court, the intrigues of the boudoir, the marches and of the public stage, but also, in the background, the life of the nameless British people, the entire stuff of society. The mob emerges repeatedly from the stews of London or assemblies on the village green to reveal the ordinary Briton as the only enduring monarch on his island.

Read Churchill and you will find little more than the main characters, mostly the soldiers, until an ignorant foreigner might conclude that British history consisted of war, revolution, assassination and adultery. For example every skirmish and minor raid of the Wars of the Roses is lovingly recorded, every royal personage, however obscure and worthless, is introduced with a peal of trumpets but the reader will look in vain for the mass of common men who, ignoring that insensate struggle for personal power, were quietly erecting a new society out of the Middle Ages.

The perfect history, one supposes, would provide a just balance between living persons and abstract social movements, a compromise, as it were, between the Toynbees. Until that history is written Macaulay, after more than a hundred years, still seems to stand up as the best, and also the most readable blend of incalculable human beings and calculable forces. And it will require another Macaulay to do justice to the history of our times that Churchill did not write but so largely made.

FIRE ON ISRAELI VILLAGE
JERUSALEM (Reuters)—An Israeli military spokesman said Egyptian positions along the northern sector of the Gaza strip border Thursday night and Friday opened fire on the Israeli settlement of Erez, about a mile from the border. The spokesman said Israeli settlers returned the fire. There were no Israeli casualties.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

ROUT THESE INSECTS WITH "BOMB" ATTACK
With mosquitoes, it's the female of the species you have to worry about.

She's the one with the sharp tongue. But not only does she do all the biting, she is, of course the one who lays the eggs—hundreds of them.

You can help prevent the birth of many of these pesky little insects by getting rid of any stagnant water which might be around your home.

BREEDING PLACE
Even a plugged downspout, which holds water from 5 to 10 days—might be the breeding place for thousands of mosquitoes.

Actually, diseases carried by mosquitoes are now fairly rare in the U.S. But their bites are still annoying and their loud humming frequently keeps many of us awake these summer nights.

ELIMINATING THEM
The best way to eliminate them from your home is by use of aerosol bombs, a 5 per cent DDT spray or some other recommended insecticide.

General bombs usually contain a solution of DDT and pyrethrum in liquid gas. Releasing the solution for about 6 seconds in an average room will kill the mosquitoes present—and houseflies, too. The gaseous solution evaporates at once, leaving minute particles of insecticide suspended in mid-air.

It's best to keep the room closed for about 15 minutes after you release the spray. This will keep the solution concentrated in that particular spot and prevent any bugs from escaping.

LARGE DOSES
DDT, remember, is toxic in large doses both to humans and pets. So be careful when you use it. Avoid exposing yourself, family or pets to it unnecessarily.

As for insect-repellents, there are many good ones—"6-12" for example, which will give you hours of protection. Another which you can buy at your neighborhood drug store is a solution of two parts indalone, two parts ethyl hexanediol and six parts dimethyl phthalate.

One last word of caution about these repellents—don't get them into your eyes.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
S.G.: Can fractures occur without injury?

Answer: At certain times, fractures occur due to bone disease in which the bone is eaten away, so that in the normal process of walking and moving, the bone may break or fracture.

OUR YESTERDAYS
From The Guardian Files
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Aug. 13, 1931)
The ancient custom of blessing the boats of the Acadian fishermen, previous to the commencement of the fishing season, took place on Sunday at Fifteen Point, the service being conducted by Rev. J.T. Gallant, parish priest.

The Trans-Canada Air Pageant will be held in the City August 26 and 27th, according to word received by Dr. J.S. Jenkins. The building of an airport on Upton Farm was resumed yesterday and will be rushed to completion in time for the use of the 50 planes that take part in the demonstration.

(Aug. 13, 1946)
Col. J.L. Ralston, D.S.O., Minister of National Defence, arrived in the City last night and is staying at the Charlottetown Hotel.

Brig. D.H. Storm, President of the Storm Construction Company, and now general manager of the Housing Enterprise of Canada, was in the City over the weekend conferring with His Worship Mayor MacDonald and members of the city Council relative to the proposed erection of 52 apartments in the City.

Wing Commander G.S. Jacobson, D.F.C., commanding officer at the R.C.A.F. Air Navigation School at Summerside has been posted to Air Force Headquarters at Ottawa, for duty in the Navigation branch there.

WATCH YOUR TALK!

A noted publisher in Chicago reports there is a simple technique of everyday conversation which can pay you real dividends in both social and business advancement and works like magic to give you added poise, self confidence and greater popularity.

According to this publisher, many people do not realize how much they could influence others simply by what they say and how they say it. Whether in business, at social functions, or even in casual conversations with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can make a good impression every time you talk.

To acquaint the readers of this paper with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in everyday conversation, the publishers have printed full details of their unique self-training method in a 24-page booklet, "Adventures in Conversation," which will be mailed free to anyone who requests it. No obligation. Simply send your request to: Conversation Studies, 835 Diversey Parkway, Dept 928C, Chicago 14, Ill. A postcard will do.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If you insist upon it you can make ends meet. Just drive real close to the car ahead.—Sarnia Canadian-Observer

Man cannot live by bread alone but it is surprising the number who get by on their crust.—Sarnia Canadian Observer

The city of Stratford, Ontario's centre of Shakespearean culture, has voted down a plan to spend \$60,000 on a 20-room addition to its high school and some disagreeable conclusions are being drawn.—Ottawa Journal

One thing that is puzzling to most Canadians is why members of Parliament who feel that parliamentary life is too great a "sacrifice" and a "hardship," don't just resign or announce that they will not seek re-election.—Sherbrooke Record

A U.S. taxpayer claimed a refund of \$200 in 1954. When it was still unpaid in 1955 he filed his new income tax return listing the refund as a bad debt. By return mail from Washington came a letter of apology and \$200. Even bureaucrats can be proved human.—Kingston Whig Standard

It is said that half of every cigarette goes for taxes, and a restaurant dishwasher claims the other half goes into coffee cups.—Toronto Star

The trend towards the four-week holiday is reported to be gaining momentum. This means that instead of trying to crowd three weeks' activity into two weeks, we can try crowding five weeks into four.—Hamilton Spectator

A hatters' union in Australia has ruled that all of its members must wear hats. The ultimatum sets out that hatted hatters will refuse to work with unhatted hatters. Furthermore members of the union will not be permitted to march in Labor Day parades unless they first produce proof they have brought a new hat in the foregoing year.—Sudbury Star

Speculation that Prime Minister St. Laurent will make cabinet changes before the year is out appears to have more substance than reports of an election this year. If he intends to go to the country next year it would be good planning to enter the fray with a reshuffled team that he has had time to settle down.—Brantford Expositor

Search through a wide range of Canadian newspapers does not turn up one that defends Prime Minister St. Laurent's intervention by which the Speaker was persuaded to withdraw his offer of resignation. On the contrary the reaction is solidly one of condemnation for this affront to the authority and dignity of Parliament.—Brantford Expositor

It's easier to make your money first than it is to make it last.—London Free Press

Another book is announced on the American Civil War. There must be more historians of it than there were generals in it.—Brantford Expositor

A Boston store was broken into and looted five times in two weeks. A satisfied customer is the best advertisement.—Chatham News

There is no more bitter foe of special privilege than the fellow who tried to get some and failed.—Orillia Packet and Times

One advantage of new safety features in cars is that they help to keep the buyer alive till the crate is paid for.—Brantford Expositor

Speaking of classified ads, this one in a small paper caused considerable comment: "For sale—Two gave lots, nice location, fireplace fixtures."—Toronto Star

There is little or no humor in the Suez Canal dispute but we can get a quiet laugh out of the action of the British sponsors of the annual mass swim across the English Channel. In a wave of patriotic fervor they have barred Egyptian swimmers from this year's race.—Montreal Star

Studies of parakeet nutrition made at a bird institute in Rochester, N.Y., revealed that the average parakeet eats 100 times his weight every year and that if any human being actually "ate like a bird," he's consume about eight tons of food annually.—Chatham News

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SAMPLE TABLE		
CASH YOU RECEIVE	MONTHLY PAYMENTS	NUMBER OF MONTHS
\$105.75	\$10.00	12
\$80.38	24.00	15
\$10.68	27.00	24
756.56	40.00	24

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