

Up To The Conservatives

Just before the flag committee submitted its report to the House of Commons, the chief electoral officer sent out written instructions to returning officers across the country to revise their voters' list by December 15, "at which time there would be a distribution of election material." When this matter was called to Parliament's attention by Opposition Leader Diefenbaker, State Secretary Lamontagne said the electoral officer had been acting on his own—there had been no consultation before issuing the instructions. Mr. Diefenbaker's comment on this answer was: "He must have been a mind reader."

In any case, there is talk now that the Government is preparing for an early spring election. That it anticipated Conservative opposition to the flag committee report goes almost without saying. The fact that the Conservatives are split over the issue, with Mr. Diefenbaker rejecting the single maple leaf design and his Quebec lieutenant, Mr. Balcer, calling for its adoption without delay, may also have been anticipated. True, to the Liberals, could present the most favorable chance they are likely to have of smiting the Tories hip and thigh at the polls.

It is recalled, now, that during the past fortnight Prime Minister Pearson and twelve members of his cabinet have been fanning out across the land, making speeches. Justice Minister Favreux, Trade Minister Sharp, Postmaster-General Nicholson, Northern Affairs Minister Laing, External Affairs Minister Martin, Industries Minister Drury, Agriculture Minister Hays, Health Minister LaMarsh, Finance Minister Gordon, State Secretary Lamontagne, Resources Minister Benoit, and Labor Minister MacEachen—all have been unusually active in this manner.

The sudden exodus of cabinet ministers for public appearances is part of the traditional process of getting ready for a showdown at the polls. It is generally felt, however, that the Government will in any case carry on until the pre-Christmas end of this marathon session, now in progress since February. Then it would recess over the Christmas-New Year holidays. Then it would be called back into an early session shortly after the new year, with dissolution timed for as soon as February or March at the latest, with the election following in April or May.

That's how some Ottawa commentators are figuring the score, and it doesn't look at all unlikely. Unless the Conservatives are able to consolidate their ranks before it is too late, it seems almost a certainty.

The Popcorn Poll

The popular game of forecasting election results has taken a new twist in the United States. It's a corny one, as the Associated Press admits in giving publicity to it; but it seems to have been uncannily accurate in the past and now its results are being gravely weighed by commentators in the current presidential campaign.

Pollster Jim Blevins, who claims to be the world's latest popcorn vendor, started it all in 1948 by decrying his popcorn bag, with the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant, his idea being to decide who would win the election by counting the number of bags sold. The count showed that Harry S. Truman would win, while other

more scientific—polls were predicting a victory for Thomas E. Dewey. To the wonder of everybody except the popcorn eating public, Truman won.

The vendor hit it on the nose again in 1952 with Dwight Eisenhower. When Eisenhower ventured for a second term four years later, the popcorn poll not only called the victory, it forecast all 48 states correctly. Richard Nixon jumped to an early lead to three-percent popular vote in 1960, but that quickly shifted to John F. Kennedy after the first of the television debates. Kennedy held the popcorn poll lead right on through his victory.

In the present campaign, Johnson's margin has been increasing and Goldwater's decreasing as the popcorn count progresses. That is pretty much in line with other forecasts, but it's reassuring to have this added confirmation. As the AP report says, the theatre moppers and the fireside poppers haven't miss yet. Surely they won't let us down on this occasion!

Hallowe'en Reminders

Hallowe'en is a grand old anniversary, and only a sour-puss would want to spoil the fun youngsters are looking forward to on this occasion. But those of a larger growth are being warned that Hallowe'en pranks that involve annoyance to neighbors or passerbys, property damage or any other acts of vandalism, are likely to get them into serious trouble with the authorities. Both the RCMP and the City police have sounded this warning, and they mean business.

As for the children, many of them will be calling for treats for others as well as for themselves—those others being youngsters they or we have never set eyes upon, living in far corners of the world under conditions that make us uncomfortable even to think about. It's not candy or oranges that those children need, but the bare necessities of life. The Hallowe'en collections our children make on their behalf are to provide, in some measure, for these requirements.

This is what the United Nations Children's Fund enables them to do. All contributions to the fund are on a voluntary basis. There is no per capita assessment of each country. Therefore, the money administered by international UNICEF comes from governments, individual donations, the collections of children, and the sale of greeting cards. Why bring the children into it? Why not increase the government contribution and let it go at that? Because our children's participation in this humane movement is very important to them. They are proud of being able to help.

Let's not discourage them in their efforts tonight!

Apple Day

Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs in the city and throughout the province observe Apple Day today. Scouts cannot beg for money. They must give something of value in exchange. Money derived from the sale of apples goes to the scout membership itself, helping defray jamboree expenses, camp maintenance and improvement.

Apple Day had its origin here and the public down through the years has generously supported the project. It should be so on this occasion.

At the appropriately clad young salesmen make their rounds, the odd 10 or 25 cent piece contributed, for apples, will be warmly received and appreciated.

Behind the scenes in any such venture or organization are volunteer workers and the public can best put its stamp of approval on their efforts and that of the youth movement by making Apple Day a success.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Oidtimers will regret the fate of the "Charles A. Dunning," which is reported to have broken adrift between Prince Edward Island and the Cape Breton shore while being towed from Pictou to Sydney to be scrapped. This boat served its purpose for many years on the Wood Islands-Caribou route, and its name is a reminder that it was the Hon. Charles A. Dunning who obtained this ferry service for us while he was a representative for Queens. He needed a seat as finance minister in the Mackenzie King government. We gave it to him, and he showed his appreciation in this very practical way.



THE LONG VOYAGE HOME

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

P.M. Discusses Co-operative Federalism

We have had a "Roads to Resources" program and other federal-provincial road programs such as the Trans-Canada Highway. We now have a "Road to National Unity" program called "co-operative federalism," and Prime Minister Pearson chose the "Canadian Good Roads Association" 50th anniversary meeting as an apt platform from which to explain the "co-operative federalism."

With taxation and the frustration that goes with watching someone else spend the money, approval that surrounds the "righteous benefactor." This is also I do not mean. We in Ottawa intend to protect the federal interest in these matters. We also wish to develop the closest and most co-operative arrangements possible with the provinces in the general, the national, advantage."

How long then could an independent Laurentia—a entity surrounded by the 48 states, survive? It would be only a matter of time before Laurentia too was absorbed as the 55th state, absorbed into the melting pot which has no official second language, no Napoleonic Code of civil laws. In a search for complete independence, Quebec would suffer a complete standardization with the rest of North America.

For this objective, he added, the Federal Government must have both the resources and the strength to discharge its constitutional responsibilities, without going beyond them. Fragmentation and diversity must not be joined in governmental policies if we are to progress, or even survive.

There are strains between the English-speaking and French-speaking elements in our nation," Mr. Pearson admitted. "There are stresses in Quebec, but this is an unhappy fact and we will dilate them."

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QUEBEC AND UNITY

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No Prize For Mr. Sartre

Why, it is being asked, did Mr. Jean-Paul Sartre refuse the Nobel Prize for Literature and the \$50,000 which goes with it? Mr. Sartre's own belated answer that he wants to remain free to bring the cultures of East and West together is only part of the reason. Sartre's earlier statement that he hates awards on principle, whether a sack of potatoes or a Nobel Prize.

All his life Mr. Sartre has been doing that, so flamboyantly that he usually winds up going against the prevailing orthodoxy. He takes his philosophy out of the world, and through its example existentialism becomes part of daily life.

Mr. Sartre is the Pope of Existentialism. Existentialism is nothing if not a philosophy that insists that men are no more than dull and senseless things until they choose deliberately what they will and will not do. To the Existentialist, the essence of life is realized—indeed man only exists as man—when he makes the freest use of the freedom of choice.

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Quebec Police Report

The extreme difficulties of the police in Quebec during the Queen's visit, and the exaggeration of what took place, are both sound points in the report made by Hon. Claude Wagner, the Acting Attorney General. But it would seem that the report would have settled the questions raised more completely had its tone been a little less emphatic.

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Many Reasons Of Infertility

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Infertility has many origins and every year we discover a new one. The most sensible plan in making the diagnosis is to have a specialist in this field. The husband usually is studied first because male tests are easier to do. In addition, he is likely to be responsible in one-third to one-half the cases.

Causes vary from obstruction of the passageway through the sperm cells and emotional factors that influence the number and quality of the sperm. Social stress, physical and emotional stress, congenital defects, and endocrine abnormalities are a possibility.

The most common cause in women is closure of the fallopian tubes, resulting usually from infection or endometriosis. Endocrine disorders are next in line, the fault lying in the thyroid, ovaries, or pituitary gland. Abnormal secretions of the cervix due to increased acidity, infection, or alteration in the parts also are considered. Tumors (fibroids) and retroversion of the uterus are among the least frequent origins of infertility, although they were blamed most often a generation ago.

Many special studies, such as the tubal patency tests, are necessary to rule out possible causes. A record of the basal temperature, or alteration in the regularity of the menstrual cycle, when the examinations fail to disclose the reason for lack of conception, the physician usually offers suggestions on how to increase the chance of becoming pregnant. These include proper timing, nutrition, adequate exercise, and relaxation.

Researchers are working on a new angle—studying the anti-spermatocidal antibodies in women. In other words, is the woman allergic to her husband's sperm? Scientists are trying to overcome these antibodies when pregnancy is desired and also to use these substances in developing a contraceptive vaccine.

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TENSION AND GLAUCOMA

A. D. R. writes: (1) If a husband runs around with other women, can he be the cause of glaucoma in his wife? (2) Could this disease cause glaucoma? (3) Could crying myself to sleep every night cause glaucoma?

REPLY (1) Yes. (2) No. (3) Yes, it could create enough tension to aggravate a pre-existing glaucoma, but this is an unlikely case. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Poor vision and poor hearing often lead to tension.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Shocked by the language used by two workmen repairing telephone wires near her house, an old spinster reported the matter to the company. The foreman in making his report on the incident, wrote: "Me and Bill was on the job. I was up the pole and let some hot lead fall which went down his neck. He turned to me and said, 'You really must be more careful, Harry,' and I said, 'I need a Bill. I will see that it don't happen again.'" — Galt Report.

Absent-minded The young father was wheeling a baby carriage around the block on a very hot afternoon. "My dear!" came a voice from an upper window of his house. "Now let me alone!" he called back. "We're all right. An hour later the same voice pleaded, "Charles dear!" "Well, what do you want?" he replied. "Anything wrong in the house?" "No, Charles dear, but you have been wheeling Nancy's doll all the afternoon. Isn't it time for the baby to have a turn?" — Montreal Star.

Channel Tunnel Plans

By Joseph MacSwiney Canadian Press Staff Writer

Prime Minister Harold Wilson's new hands-under-the-chancellor gesture to President Charles de Gaulle may take some of the tension out of relations between the two countries.

Channel Tunnel Plans

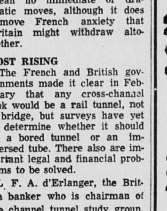
By Joseph MacSwiney Canadian Press Staff Writer

British officials have appeared less enthusiastic about the tunnel than the French. The Conservative government was criticized by Wilson during the recent election campaign for its approach to the project.

The British labor government pledged Thursday to really work with France on plans for a channel tunnel, a project that has been mooted off and on for 150 years.

Traditional British objections to the scheme arose from defence considerations and these persisted until 1955 when former premier Harold Macmillan, then defence minister, said "strategic considerations" really were not involved.

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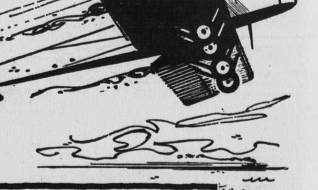
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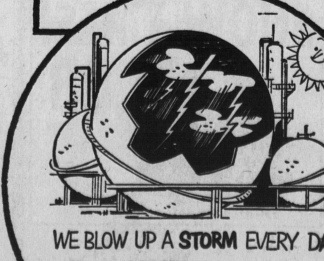
THE FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC AIR MAIL WAS CARRIED FROM NEWFOUNDLAND TO BRITAIN ON ALCOCK AND BROWN'S HISTORIC FLIGHT FROM ST. JOHN'S IN 1919

This memorable first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic took 16 hours and 12 minutes to cover 1,960 miles from St. John's to Clifden, Ireland.



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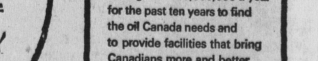
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