

The Guardian

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 "The strongest memory is weaker than
 the weakest ink."
 THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1956

Mr. Harris & Potatoes

Finance Minister Harris has been having a lot to say about potatoes, but it is questionable whether Canadian producers will profit by his dissertations on the important subject. For some reason known only to himself he saw fit to observe that "Canadian potato growers have enjoyed a long period of prosperity which they hadn't seen under the last Conservative Government." Even assuming that the "long period of prosperity" is an economic fact and not merely a figment of a politically-controlled imagination—more than one farmer will dispute it—any bearing it may have on the farmers' grievance respecting potato tariffs, or on Liberal policies for that matter, is so vague that it might be considered entirely extraneous to the subject.

Again, the Finance Minister sees "pretty good stability" in the Canadian potato business except for an excess in production which occurs every three or four years. The view held by farmers who actually are engaged in production doesn't tally with that at all. Put very briefly, it is that potatoes are high in price when there are few available and very low when any sizeable quantity is on hand. It is of little comfort to growers to know potatoes are four or five dollars a bag when they don't have any to sell and anywhere from fifty cents to a dollar when their cellars are full.

In any case, Mr. Harris' cheerfulness doesn't do anything to satisfy the farmers' grievance against the obviously unfair law which permits American potatoes to come into this country duty-free while Canadian exports to points across the border are taxed to the extent of 37½ cents a hundredweight. It may be impossible, as Mr. Harris says, for the Canadian Government to persuade the United States Government to reduce the heavy duty; but surely it ought to be possible for the Canadian Government to show as much consideration for Canadian potato growers as the United States Government shows for American producers.

The supposition, which is put forward whenever the matter is mentioned, that a duty on American potatoes entering this country would result in impairment and perhaps elimination of the American market for Canadian seed is probably less weighty than it is made out to be. The fact is that Canadian seed potatoes are in demand south of the border simply because they are of superior quality; and it is hardly likely that they would be kept out simply as an act of retribution for Canadian farmers for standing up for their rights. In fact, no Canadian Government official has ever stated that this would actually happen, probably because no one has ever taken the trouble to find out. Certainly, potato growers are entitled to a frank and authoritative statement on the subject. So far, they haven't been given it.

CCF Leadership

Perhaps the best bit of news to come out of the C.C.F. national convention is that Mr. Coldwell is to continue as leader. Some months ago it was feared that the state of his health would necessitate his retirement. The decision means that his health is now considered satisfactory, a matter for general satisfaction. It means, too, that the Canadian political structure is not to lose the strength and wisdom which Mr. Coldwell has contributed to it over a period of more than 20 years, also a matter for general satisfaction.

In season and out of season, in good times and bad respecting C.C.F. fortunes, Mr. Coldwell has shown himself to be a Canadian patriot of the highest calibre. His socialism

has been no radical venture bent on disrupting national unity but a calm and well directed program in the finest democratic tradition. His personality and talents for leadership have done much to keep his organization on a steady even path of public service. His gifts as a parliamentarian place him in the front row of Canadian statesmen past and present. It is all very well to say that political parties should be judged by the philosophies they hold and propagate. But that is only part of the story. Just as important, perhaps more so, is the type of leadership that is brought to bear on these academic beliefs from time to time. In this respect Mr. Coldwell can hold his own with the best of them.

Doubtless, there are some things about the political policy of the C.C.F. which many Canadians, probably the majority of them, do not relish particularly; but as long as Mr. Coldwell is around he will see to it that these controversial dogmas do not get out of hand. It is to be hoped that his good sense of moderation is being studied closely by those who in the future may be called upon to wear his mantle. It is to be hoped, too, that the transfer of that mantle to other shoulders will not become necessary for many years to come.

Natal Day Observance

Yesterday our civic natal day was observed for the first time, August 8, 1855, being the date on which Charlottetown became an incorporated city. In view of the fact that the anniversary falls so close to Old Home Week, however, would it not be desirable to hold the observance in future on, say, the Monday of that week, thus making the holiday one of real advantage to our citizens. There is no reason why the significance of the anniversary should be lost by this innovation. It would indeed become more fixed in the public mind by associating it with the opening of the biggest event of our holiday season.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A man down in Tennessee has been living in a small cave on the side of a cliff since 1939. He says he likes it and maintains that any sensible person would follow his example. He may have something there.

The Hon. Dr. Bonnell is to be commended for reminding the public that while tuberculosis has been brought under a good measure of control it is still a big menace to public health. As he so well put it, "when an enemy seems to be weakening it is the time to increase every effort and use every weapon available."

The opinion expressed by United States Secretary of Defence Wilson that the Suez Canal dispute is a "small matter" is not likely to do much towards bringing about a fair and workable solution. It looks very much as if Britain and France will be left to their own devices, should serious trouble develop—that is, if Mr. Wilson has much influence in American policy.

The French are justified in being a bit uneasy about Egypt's promise to pay "compensation" to Suez Canal shareholders; especially if, as is believed, President Nasser is getting most of his advice from the Russians. In 1918 when the Communists took over control of the country from the Czars, French citizens had more than \$3 billion tied up in Russian railways. The money is still there and not yielding the French investors a penny in dividends.

Mr. Adlai Stevenson is top contender for the presidential nomination at next week's Democratic party convention. This did not prevent him speaking out boldly on a controversial subject and disarming his southern supporters. He has called for "unequivocal approval" in the party's platform of the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools. Mr. Stevenson is believed to have had the nomination assured, and needed only to keep silent on this question. He has shown his true stature by refusing to do so. He may lose votes in the south, but he will be a lot happier with his conscience.



COME AGAIN

Helicopters In Cyprus

By William Courtenay, O.B.E.

NICOSIA, CYPRUS — Three more Bristol "Sycamore" 5 seater helicopters have arrived here for the Royal Air Force, bringing to nine the total of these hoverplanes now available for working with the British Army and other Security Forces against the terrorists in Cyprus. This makes the flight the largest in any RAF unit at home or in Malaya or other parts of the world and draws attention to the faith now placed in the helicopter for duties at reconnaissance; communication; for casualty evacuation; and for enabling security forces on the ground to close quickly round terrorist hideouts; seal all escape avenues; and even direct the slow moving foot soldier in forest or mountains to the kill.

At Nicosia this morning, July 2 I was given the opportunity of flying with Master Pilot H. White, AFC, who has amassed over 5,000 hours on many types of aircraft from jets to four engine flying boats. He was flying his 84th hour in the helicopter and in company with another "Sycamore" we flew for an hour over the forbidding Troodos Range to the Monastery of Kykko set high in the remote mountains—a fine lookout which had aided Cypriot hand-to-hand movements of our vehicles along tortuous hairpin bends so that they could easily prepare ambushes.

THRILLING EXPERIENCE
 Today there is a narrow ledge of ground a stone's throw from the Monastery 3,800 ft. high, yet not within its grounds, where we could alight and thus be "monarch of all we surveyed." The ease with which the helicopter is able to sit down in the most cramped of quarters and with almost impossible approaches never fails to thrill me though I have been flying in helicopters and autogiros in many parts of the world since 1920.

On Saturday Air Vice Marshal, C.D.C. Boyce the Air Officer Commanding RAF (Levant) flew me in his Percival "Prentice" over much of the same territory so that one was able to observe the forbidding blacked-out hills where the three minutes fire caught so many British soldiers early last month. The mountains of the Troodos Ranges, forest clothed, resemble more the dark satanic hills of Korea than the jungle lands of Malaya and the natural caves and hideouts of bandits are not easy to locate or attack.

But the flight of 4 helicopters here under command of Flight Lieutenant P.E. Fahy, DFC who has over 200 hours experience in Cyprus on hoverplanes, have lately completed their first year's operations. They have proved that the helicopter has such a vital and valuable role to play in Cyprus that the normal flight of six was raised to nine after a recent request for more helicopters.

ALIGHTING SITES
 Many of the months have been spent seeking alighting sites all over Cyprus and in view of the fact that they must operate at altitudes in the mountains of from 3,000 ft. to 6,000 ft., each site had to be evaluated for maximum loads in given conditions of altitude and temperatures at different seasons of the year.

Today there are 24 marked sites and another 24 which are usable so that all parts of Cyprus can be quickly covered. A 25 minute flight from the capital at Nicosia brings the helicopter to the heart of the forbidding mountain ranges in the Southwest where the Terrorists have their hideouts and where the disastrous forest fire took toll of many soldiers in June.

There are always two helicopters standing by; one with a winch and 65 ft. of rope ladder which can drop doctors into ravines or drop supplies and embark personnel where the helicopter must hover, and one with a double stretcher for evacuation of serious stretcher cases.

FAST IN EMERGENCIES
 When the fire occurred on Sunday, June 17th, at lunch-time the RAF Helicopter Flight received

first notification at 1.20 p.m. From the time they received full information as to exactly where they must go, to time of take-off was but three minutes—as quick as a fire engine turnout. Some 8 men pital at the new airfield under the "Whirlwind" helicopters were recently flown here in the huge Blackburn "Beverly" Transport Freighter. The "Whirlwind" is being tested after recent assembly, by an experienced pilot who has flown this type in the Malayan campaign. It may have a still further useful role to play in Cyprus in the Terrorist operations just as it proved so decisive in Malaya and Korea. Experience here is certainly proving that in mountainous country rapid movement of troops towards terrorists who are fugitives from justice can be effected by helicopter where reconnaissance is swift and accurate. Co-operation between Army and RAF has been perfected as "Operation Alphonse" last month proved. It will grow as the hoverplane is used more and more for communication and reconnaissance and then for other duties here.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Aug. 9, 1931)
 Mr. S.J. Hungerford, Montreal, Vice President of the Canadian National Railways, and party, including Mr. W.U. Appleton, Montreal, general manager of the Atlantic Region, arrived in the City Saturday afternoon on a short inspection tour of local railways facilities.

The yacht, Shogun, Capt. Jacobson, which arrived in port Friday, sailed yesterday for Nova Scotia points.

TEN YEARS AGO
 (Aug. 9, 1946)
 Last night Charlottetown Dance fans thronged to the opening dance at the new Legion auditorium where they danced to the music of the Legionaires Orchestra, and pronounced the floor and air conditioned hall the finest in the land.

The scarcity of laundry soap and soap flakes which is causing considerable anxiety among the housewives in the Province may not be entirely remedied for a year or more, according to local retail merchants.

Prince Edward Island will be visited this fall by the new Chief Scout of the British Empire, Baron Rowallan of Rowallan, Avonhills, Scotland, who is making a tour of Canada, according to word received by Mr. W.A. Currie, Summerside, Assistant Provincial Commissioner.

FIRST TELEVISION
 The Finnish Broadcasting Company is to start televising programs on an experimental basis this fall.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

MISUNDERSTANDING

Sir, In the quotations by all P.E. Island papers of remarks made by the President of the Caledonian Club, Mr. J.O.C. Campbell, Q.C., the blame for the misunderstanding between the Caledonian Club and the Exhibition Race Association was inadvertently placed on the P.E. Island Racing and Sport Commission. The date (Aug. 4th) had been allocated to the Summerside Race Association. The Summerside Association suspended operations temporarily. The defaulted date was applied for by the Exhibition Race Association, and permission was given to run a night race on Aug. 4th, on the assumption of a proper understanding between the parties concerned. The Commission saw no occasion to meddle in the business transactions of the principals in the case.

Trusting the above explanation will rectify the natural misunderstanding by Islanders at home and abroad.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JAMES PENDERGAST
 Racing and Sport Commission Secretary.

The Poets Corner

THE LOST KEYS

This bunch of keys picked up from roadside, dual,
 All sixteen unrelated sizes strung on a rusted ring, this curving fringe of rust,
 Suggests an old great house and of being hung
 On one provided peg. The mystery Of how they came to this selected end,
 Or chance abandonment, intriguingly
 Directs the thoughts around a puzzling bend.
 What firm securing hands of yesterday
 Closed doors and trunks and ladies' jewel-cases
 With these important implements have they
 Who kept the locks reached final trustful places?
 These keys which serve no purpose now, we find
 Turning inquisitive tumblers in the mind.
 —Mae Serand.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M.D.

HAY FEVER SEASON MEANS POLLEN COUNT
 Many of you probably know the pollen count every day during the pollen season. You read it in your daily newspaper and you hear it over your radio stations.

Yet, what actually is a pollen count? What does it mean to you? It means, you probably know, if you're one of the 4,000,000 Americans who annually wheeze and sneeze through the summer with asthma or hay fever.

ROUTINE COUNTS
 More than 600 cities in North America carry out routine pollen counts for the benefit of their citizens. In certain sections of the South and Southwest this routine count is made every day of the pollen count is a record of ragweed pollen only. While pollen from timothy, white clover, and others also may set some hay fever victims sneezing and sniffling, ragweed accounts for the vast majority of cases.

RECOVERED FROM AIR
 The routine sampling reported in our papers can usually be carried out by the ideal method of counting all pollen grains as they are recovered directly from specific volumes of air.

Such a procedure would be far too inconvenient and expensive in most instances, especially if the method used by most allergists is pretty accurate.

The pollen count is carried out as follows:
 An oil-coated glass slide mounted horizontally in a protective container is exposed outdoors for 24 hours. Generally, it's placed atop a high building somewhere in the center of the city.

Using a microscope, the number of pollen grains on one square centimeter is counted. With this count as a basis, the allergist can estimate the average number of pollen grains in a cubic yard of air. That's the count which your paper publishes.

Since this is a 24-hour count, it's obvious that it does not mean that the pollen in the air was exactly the same during each hour of the day. There may be great variations.

FREE OF POLLEN
 Greatest concentrations usually occur in the forenoon, about 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Usually the air is pretty free of pollen after midnight.

Hay fever symptoms also are likely to increase on warm, dry days when strong and fairly constant winds sweep me pollen through the air. Cool, damp weather, on the other hand, hinders the circulation of airborne pollen.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
 Mrs. L.G.: My husband has been getting up at night every hour or so for the past six months to urinate. He has no other difficulty or pain. What would you advise?

Answer: From your description it would seem that he is suffering from prostate difficulty. The prostate gland may be enlarged and thus does not permit the bladder to empty completely. This causes the frequency of urination. He should consult his physician at once.

The Age Old Story

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

TORNADO HITS HOSPITAL
 MARY, S.D. (AP)—A tornado tore off the roof of the community hospital here Monday night, destroyed 40 buildings and caused damage estimated at \$500,000. There were no dead or seriously injured all patients were evacuated safely.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The meek also get more fun out of life because they do not have to attend so many committee meetings.—Brandon Sun

A garden is something a lot of people like to turn over—but only in their minds.—Hamilton Spectator

Dog food now comes in several flavors such as beef, fish and liver. Quite a few dogs, however, are reported waiting for a brand which captures the indescribable fragrance of old bedroom slippers.—Edmonton Journal

An important-looking large brown manila envelope came in this morning's mail, from the Unemployment Insurance Commission's Ottawa headquarters. The envelope, measuring 15 inches by 9½ contained one light-weight sheet, smaller than ordinary typewriter paper. On it was a mimeographed press release, how to fold a sheet of paper and Any unemployed persons know how to fold a sheet of paper and stick it in an ordinary envelope Apply to the Unemployment Insurance Commission, Ottawa.—Peterborough Examiner

The flying saucers are back on this time it's a flying cigar giving off silver rays. The report comes from Argentina where "a government employee and police" claim to have seen a "gigantic cigar-shaped object moving through the air at tremendous speed." The cigar, they estimated was a thousand feet long. This could be the beginning of what are called the dog days of summer when the most astonishing things happen and somehow get into the newspapers.—Ottawa Journal

It may come as a surprise to most men that there is no such thing as a strictly female point of view. It is not a mere male who made this observation, however. A woman, speaking in a convention group, revealed that the greater percentage of women have no opinion at all and those that do react much the same as men in approval or disapproval. Obviously this information must come from an unmarried woman.—Brockville Recorder

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