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Politicians & Farmers

It is amusing to read some of the arguments which American politicians are using these days in their desperate efforts to win the farm vote in November. In Grand Bend, Kansas, the other day Governor Harriman of New York, a candidate for the Democratic nomination, referred to the Eisenhower policy as a "cruel process of liquidation of farmers". Which, of course, is the height of nonsense. The administration's farm policy may or may not be in the best interests of the farmers; but neither the President nor Secretary of Agriculture Benson has shown any inclination to do away with them.

At about the same time in Des Moines, Iowa, former Republican Governor Dan Thornton of Colorado, told a convention that "the 1956 elections will determine whether American agriculture is to remain free or be driven down the road of socialism and state control." He added that "Republican policy is one of partnership while the Democrats would make farmers wards of the state." This, too, was nonsense. It is a safe bet that the farmers of the United States — and of Canada, too — have very little interest in theories which one political party or another might deem to be politically attractive. What they want is a better steady price for their main products and a system of marketing likely to lead to a more stable agricultural economy. The party that seems the more likely to help bring that desirable situation about will deserve the farmers' support.

As a class, farmers are not given to much theorizing; they have more pressing things to occupy their attention. Nor are they frightened by threats of "socialism" or "control". They are quite capable of standing up for and protecting their freedom. In case an unwise politician might be tempted to threaten it.

Ordeal For Judges

Canadian high court judges no doubt consider themselves fortunate when they read about the experiences of their learned colleagues south of the border, at least in their transition from the practice of law to judicial status. When the Federal Government decides that a certain man ought to be appointed to a vacancy on the bench, nothing remains but the man's consent, which usually is forthcoming, to make the appointment official. Not so in the United States. There, a prospective judge of a federal court must wait until the Senate examines his credentials, his political predilections, and often his personal life. This may take a month, six months, or a year. It all depends on the whims of honourable senators.

Consider, for example, the case of Solicitor General Simon E. Sobeloff whom President Eisenhower appointed a judge of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals more than a year ago. Mr. Sobeloff's legal qualifications were above criticism; no one disputed them. He was held in high regard by the Bar Association; not a word of reproach was spoken concerning his personal life. As Solicitor General, however, it had fallen to his lot to argue before the Supreme Court the Government's position on ways and means of implementing the school desegregation ruling of that tribunal. To Senators from states in the Fourth Circuit—Maryland, West Virginia, North and South Carolina—that meant that he was in sympathy with the Negroes, which he probably was, although his arguing of the Government's case would not necessarily indicate as much; he was simply carrying out one of the duties of his office. Anyway, the Senators blustered against the nomination for over a year, meanwhile subjecting Mr. Sobeloff to every cross examination they could think of to prove their assumption that he would be partial in judgement and generally opposed to "States' rights", their favourite shibboleth.

The nomination has finally been confirmed, and Mr. Sobeloff

has entered on his new duties after swearing to "judge righteously between every man and his brother". The ordeal to which he was subjected is over; but there must have been times during the waiting period when he wondered whether the high appointment was worth all the fuss and bother that resulted. So much more comfortable is a Canadian lawyer's elevation; and much more dignified.

Labour And Titles

Preparatory to the British Labour Party's October Conference, resolutions are coming in to headquarters from the local constituencies for study and possible presentation to the conference. They cover a multitude of subjects which range over the entire field of domestic and foreign affairs; but perhaps the most interesting one to an outsider is that which calls for an end to acceptance of hereditary titles by party members. This resolution has been going back and forth for so long that it has taken on a very venerable status—in theory, that is; in practice it is something like Josh Billings' "manifest destiny", "of no great consequence only for ornament".

The grassroots chiding notwithstanding, Labour Party statesmen, each in his turn, have accepted peerages of various degrees of lustre, and in doing so have not compromised their mildly socialistic convictions one iota. Indeed, it might be argued that this identification of the Labour Party with an honoured tradition of British history has helped to keep British Socialism on an even keel, secure against the waves of radicalism which have well nigh wrecked some of its European sister organizations. And if Mr. Aneurin Bevan were to be offered an earldom tomorrow — the honour will probably come his way some time — there is little doubt that he would accept it, as several of his erstwhile colleagues have done, "as a tribute to British Labour", which indeed it was in Mr. Attlee's case, and as far as we know in the case of the others.

Theoretically, of course, the accepting of titles is not in harmony with the Trade Union movement of which the Labour Party is the political representative. But, fortunately for Britain, the processes of the Labour Party are not governed by dialectics as much as by practical considerations which never stray very far from the nation's traditional centre.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The United States Senate has approved legislation to return to its original owners all German and Japanese property seized by the United States in the Second World War. Total amount of money involved is in the vicinity of \$500 million.

Reports from the bargaining tables say that the United States' steel strike is nearing a settlement. It will, of course, be in the nature of a compromise between the opposing views. Some day serious negotiations will begin before a strike becomes imminent and not after it has brought severe economic dislocations.

The Duke of Norfolk, the earl marshal of England, may be an excellent president of the British Dairy Farmers Association, from the standpoint of executive ability. But on the principle that example is better than precept it would be helpful if he would drink a glass of milk occasionally. According to a news report, he never touches it and doesn't care who knows it.

Canada is not the only country considering licensing and other regulatory laws for small boats. United States' Congressional hearings are now being conducted with a view to introducing necessary legislation. The chairman of the Committee in charge of the hearings has stated the problem this way: "A remedy must be found for the situation that exists today whereby any person at all can go and buy a motor driven boat, put it into the water and drive off without having to give any evidence that he or she has elementary knowledge of safe boat operation." Support for the proposed legislation is coming to the committee from organized groups of boatmen all over the country. The United States Coast Guard also has given its approval.



BIG SQUEEZE

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of contributors.

THE HEALING POWER OF PRAYER

Sir,—The Canadian Mental Health Association has recently presented figures concerning its particular branch of Social Welfare that are not very encouraging. According to C.M.H.A. one out of every 12 Canadian children born this year will some time later in life be placed in a mental hospital for treatment. The average patient will be there for eleven years and not more than half those admitted will be cured.

In Canada last year there was an average daily population of 65,000 patients in mental hospitals under the supervision and treatment of a staff of 439 psychiatrists, 924 psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers, and 2,615 nurses. The C.M.H.A. claim that under prevailing conditions the personnel of this staff will have to be at least doubled in number. This is a challenge in the meeting of which the medical profession will play a not unimportant part.

There is something prophetic of the nobility of the medical profession in its origin. The first physician of whom there is any record in history was I-Em-Hetep, which means "Bringer of Peace". He lived in ancient Egypt and is known as the father of psychotherapy. He went about doing his work as a god. Ever since "doing good" has been one of the dearest traditions of the medical profession. Some historians tell us that I-Em-Hetep was a very good guide and help in doing good. The Greek philosophers too were not without examples of sincere prayer. There is a legend that Pythagoras put in long periods of prayer on Mount Carmel, and that Epictetus the stoic used often to repeat to himself the words: "Think of God more often than you breathe." It is said that before any important movement of the Allied Armies in World War I, the supreme commander, Marshal Foch, used to pass an hour in silent prayer before an altar of God in some quiet chapel.

I am sometimes asked, "Do you ever think of Dr. Penfield, who ever think of prayer—the doing of what he considers good?" This famous neurologist has performed some remarkable brain experiments, perhaps the most remarkable being the recall of long-forgotten experiences and the subconscious mind of the individual since the first awakening of his senses. Yet Dr. Penfield, like many a predecessor, is credited with the statement that his work has served to strengthen his faith in the higher spiritual powers of man.

Among the most uplifting programs on the radio are the Salvation Army's "This is My Story," and the U.S. Carmelite Fathers' "Alcoholic Anonymous." By kindness, patience, help, the fallen are given faith to rise again, to hope, to love; from their dead selves to ascend to higher things.

The helping hand and prayer work miracles even in cases where other recognized methods of therapy have failed to effect a cure. The relationship between psychotherapy and prayer may be compared to that between high rings of a ladder, the higher rung representing the healing power of prayer. We might liken the lower rung to Plato's concept of therapy. In the "Charmides" Plato says: "Neither ought you to attempt to cure the body without the soul... you begin by curing the mind." The testimony of Dr. Alexis Carrel, on the other hand, is based on actual observation. Dr. Carrel was a noted physician and surgeon, a Nobel Prize winner, an originator of blood transfusion. At the time of his death a couple of years ago, the fragment of a chicken's heart was still living, having been in a glass for thirty-five years immersed in a plasma prepared by him. When Dr. Carrel's "Man the Unknown" was published in 1935 the universal comment was that

Nasser's Big Gamble

By William L. Ryan, Associated Press News Analyst

Gamal Abdel Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal could plunge the Middle East into a crisis deep as any it has known since the Second World War.

If Egypt's president succeeds he may emerge eventually as the master of the Middle East. If he loses this gamble he could wind up on the rubbish heap of former dictators.

The long range implications of Nasser's move are a lifeline for Britain—and for Western Europe's trade. If developments should bring about a situation in which the canal were closed, this surely would lead to some kind of military action throwing the entire Arab world into a panic.

Egypt can operate the canal as it stands. There is no great trick to that. But the Suez Canal already was becoming outdated and obsolete in some respects, and it will soon be necessary either to widen and deepen it, or to build a parallel canal. Egypt would have difficulty doing either of

these highly expensive things. MUST DOUBLE TOLLS

If Nasser intends to accomplish what he says he will accomplish through the proceeds from the canal, he must double the tolls. This means the cost of transporting a barrel of oil through the canal would rise from the present 12 cents to 24 cents, with an immediate effect upon the world price of oil.

The effect would be felt in all countries. There would be no adequate answer to it. An attempt to ship Middle East oil by other routes would cause a shortage of tankers and would be more expensive in any event.

The nationalization of the canal indicates clearly that Nasser could not expect the Soviet Union to finance his Aswan Dam. Thus, committed to an economic program he could not hope to begin without substantial foreign aid, Nasser appears to have taken a desperate way out.

Overnight, the Nasser move created an atmosphere of crisis. It indicates to the Arab world immediately a further weakening of Britain—and of the West—in general—in the Mediterranean Area. This can mean even more trouble for the French in North Africa and for the Western powers in the Arab countries to the east.

The Egyptian decision is bound to bring new nervousness along the borders of Israel and the Arab countries. Historically, one such move on the part of an ambitious ruler has led to other equally spectacular moves, and the next one could be aimed at Israel itself. Nasser is determined to be the symbol of "Arab liberation."

Israeli leaders have felt all along that Nasser, balking in his economic schemes and eaged on by political ambitions, might need dramatic moves to keep his grip on his own power in Egypt.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (July 28, 1931)

Yesterday morning a crowd of delighted and excited youngsters between the ages of 12 to 16, gathered at the Rocky Point wharf, all were bedecked out in Scout uniforms in preparation for the Provincial Scout camp at Fairview.

As a mark of appreciation of his efforts and the number of years he has been engaged in the transfer service between P.E.I. and the mainland, the Summerside Board of Trade has presented Captain John L. Reid, master of the cat ferry, Charlottetown, with a gold-headed cane.

TEN YEARS AGO

(July 28, 1946) A branch (No. 21) of the Canadian Legion was organized last night at Victoria with an initial membership of fifteen, by Comrade James Walker assisted by Comrades Art McGuigan, N.W. Lowther, and M.P. Titus.

Dr. C.H. Best, co-discoverer of insulin with Sir Frederick Banting and present director of the Banting Institute, will vacation on Prince Edward Island during August it was announced today.

Dr. J.A. MacMillan, Charlottetown, was re-elected president of the Maritime Blue Cross Association at the annual meeting at Sackville on Friday.

The Age Old Story

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

ASK FOR THIRD MAN OTTAWA (CP) — The Civil Service Association of Ottawa has urged Prime Minister St. Laurent to appoint a third civil service commissioner as soon as possible. Earlier this session the prime minister said the government is looking for a qualified woman to fill the vacancy left on the commission upon the retirement of Charles H. Bland last year.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

SOME SERIOUS SYMPTOMS CAN SHOW UP IN EYES Your eyes are the gateway to your brain.

The human eye, you see, actually is a portion of the body's nervous system. Because of this, many serious conditions can be detected by a careful examination of the eyes.

For instance, various changes which might be occurring in your body such as development of high blood pressure, diabetes, atherosclerosis and various diseases of the blood might be diagnosed through ophthalmological examinations.

The ophthalmologist is the only one who can see living blood vessels in the back of your eyes and is able to diagnose any changes he might detect.

Even some strokes may be anticipated and avoided through such an examination. Transient blacking out of vision coupled with certain other neurologic troubles may be a warning of impending blood-clotting problems.

Recent experiments with certain drugs which slow blood-clotting appear to indicate that these strokes may be averted.

Ophthalmological examinations may also uncover tumors of the pituitary gland and even of the brain itself.

The first indication of a brain tumor sometimes is an alteration of the vision of one or both eyes. By studying such alterations it is frequently possible to locate the trouble with great accuracy. And sometimes it is possible to predict the exact type of difficulty.

Prompt diagnosis, of course, is essential in all the cases I've mentioned if doctors are to be of much help. For this reason, you shouldn't pass off eye difficulties simply as "eyestrain" and let it go at that.

SEE AN EXPERT

If your eyes give you any trouble at all whether or not you wear glasses—see an ophthalmologist.

And if you're over 50, you should have an eye examination at least once every two years. If you have trouble with your vision, get a check-up more frequently.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

R.B.—I have excruciating headaches behind my left eye. What could be the cause of this?

Answer: There are numerous causes for this type of headache such as nervousness, nervous disorder, a blood disorder, a tumor, migraine and other such diseases.

The Poets Corner

THE HUSBANDMAN

God of the vineyard's royal store, Whose fingers press the purple wine, Forget, forget not, I implore, This field of mine.

God of the rolling meadow-land, Lord of the year's unwritten page, Lies in the hollow of Thy hand My heritage.

God of the harvest's golden grain, God of the heights, I pray Thee, speed The former and the latter rain, On this, my seed.

—Frances Beatrice Taylor.

MAXIMS

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A Detroit couple were arrested for holding up traffic while they argued whether the car radio should be on or off. Push-button warfare?—Toronto Star

There is now a machine which cleans blackboard erasers, thus eliminating a cherished form of distinction in schoolrooms, where this used to be a legitimate way of making a lot of dust.—Peterborough Examiner

A judge says that not enough attention is paid to educating pedestrians. They should be taught to not trust any drivers.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Harry Truman says that Churchill is as sharp as a brier. Perhaps that is because he has been called on so often to solve thorny problems.—Kingston Whig-Standard

Those who visit lake beach resorts know that the "show-off" on the highway is now dividing his irresponsibilities between the motor car and the power craft. It is high time his activities were regulated. Last summer 258 persons were drowned in this province almost as many as were killed on the highways. This emphasizes the urgent need for stricter laws.

Among them an insistence that all boats whatever their nature or size be equipped with government-approved life saving devices for every person on board.—Hamilton Spectator

In confirming the asbestos discovery made some age in the neighborhood of Baie Verte, Premier Smallwood has suggested that it may turn out to be the richest source of high grade metallic fibre in Canada. That means the world, because Canada is today the largest producer of asbestos.—St. John's News

Some people tune out radio and television commercials in their minds without touching the set. They can feel a commercial in advance, and when it arrives they are already thinking of talking about something else. They are endowed with a kind of selective deafness and blindness—nature's shock absorber for people who live in a world infested with loud, shrill and fatuous demands for attention.—Sherbrooke Record

NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS Province of Prince Edward Island

The Steamship Inspectors have directed that the M. V. FAIRVIEW make no further crossings after dark.

J. G. MacKAY, Minister of Highways.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. 19 July, 1956.

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BOAR BONUS POLICY 1. The following bonus will be paid on bacon type boars which are in active service at time of inspection. All boars born after Decem 1st, 1947, must be out of a dam qualified in Advanced Registry to be eligible, and dams born after Decem 1st, 1951, must have an A or better Registry score of 85 or better. Class A \$15.00 Class B 12.00 2. All boars must be in breeding condition, sound and serviceable. 3. A Class "A" boar is one which in the opinion of the Inspector is good enough to sire registered breeding stock. 4. A Class "B" boar is one which although useful as a sire of commercial market hogs may carry slightly objectionable features of conformation. 5. Boars must be registered and transferred to the party making application for inspection. 6. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE MUST BE AVAILABLE TO THE INSPECTOR AT TIME OF INSPECTION. 7. Any boar showing evidence of hog lice at time of inspection will not be eligible for a bonus. 8. No boar shall receive inspection under 7 months of age. 9. No boar shall pass inspection unless he is kept in sanitary and reasonably clean quarters. Preference will be given to boars which are on pasture at time of inspection. 10. All reports of Boar Inspection shall be submitted for final approval to a Board composed of three members of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture and approved by the Minister of Agriculture. 11. In cases where boars have been purchased by Farmers' Institutes or other similar organizations which have received a grant to assist in such purchases, no bonus will be paid on such boars in any year in which such grants have been paid. 12. All applications for inspection must be made on the forms supplied by the Provincial Department of Agriculture. 13. Applications will be received up to August 15th but boar owners are asked to apply for inspection immediately. Inspection may be made any time before the end of October.