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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

SATURDAY, NOV. 27, 1954

Alternative Vote

The policy declaration and resolutions of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce are very much what might be expected of that organization of hard working, responsible and community-minded businessmen.

The declaration of policy on voting procedures, however, includes a doubtful proposition. The Chamber notes a growing tendency to place in Parliament candidates that have been elected by a minority of those voting, and if the tendency continues the result may well be that the wishes of the majority of voters will go unrecognized.

"The Chamber believes that the method best suited to bring about the most acceptable candidates is the Single Alternative Vote. This method of voting," so runs the declaration, "provides for the indication of preference on the ballot paper (first, second, third, etc.) and for the distribution of votes among other candidates until one candidate has an absolute majority of the votes cast."

The trouble with this system, in addition to its awkwardness, is that it does not select the candidate for whom a majority would vote. What it does is reject those candidates to whom there is substantial objection and permit the election of those who have the fewest enemies.

Tensions In The Far East

European Governments which profess to be fearful lest 'trigger-happy' Americans touch off a small shooting war that will lead to a major conflagration, should be comforted by decisions recently taken in Washington with respect to Quemoy, Tachen and other Nationalist-held islands just off the Chinese coast.

At a recent meeting of US Joint Chiefs of Staff, three out of four members, it is reported, favored giving Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists permission to hit back at the Chinese mainland if the offshore islands near the coast were attacked.

Washington, it will be recalled, is committed to the defence of Nationalist-held Formosa by the US Navy. The decision to restrain Chiang Kai-shek's forces in the event that the strategically unimportant coastal islands are attacked by the Chinese Reds will undoubtedly do much to ease tensions in the Far East.

Commonwealth Conference

The Commonwealth conference in London next January will be the first time the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth countries have got together since the crisis of the Indo-China war, since the Manila pact was devised, and since Mr. Nehru made his important visit to China.

There will be plenty of other matters to keep the Commonwealth Conference busy. The intervening months since the 1953 conference have seen not only the crisis in the Far East but, also, the British agreement to evacuate Suez, and the new European defence system, involving both German rearmament and the British long-term commitment to Europe.

the conference a crowded agenda.

One of the most important issues it will have to face is how far the Commonwealth countries are to trust the note of cordiality which is being struck by the Soviet leaders. So far the British reaction has been one of cautious optimism.

The Potato Industry

A new potato body, if not heavenly body, is apparently about to rise in Prince Edward Island, its appearance heralded by one of the largest delegations ever to wait upon the Government.

Such an organization would presumably be a member of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture, much as the various organizations of breeders are members. It would be expected to assume responsibility for voicing the opinion of potato growers and for looking after their interests generally as well as the particular chore mentioned in the brief, the nomination of producer members to the Potato Marketing Board.

Until now the Federation of Agriculture has acted as a potato producers' organization, mainly because of the dominant importance of the potato industry to the Island farmer. A specialized organization of potato producers would reduce the work of the Federation, and consequently its importance, although it would continue to include the potato industry in its overall field of interest.

Theoretically the proposed set-up is unobjectionable. There is, however, a practical objection to over-organization. Farmers are limited in the time which they can devote to various associations and the organizations all require to be staffed with competent officers. Perhaps the answer would be to change the character of the Federation, so that it would be purely an association of farmers' organizations and not of individual farmers.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 1st Sunday in Advent.

The fact that lobsters accounted for \$1,938,281 out of a total landed value of our fisheries of \$2,597,693 in the first ten months of 1954 points up the frequent warnings that the luxury seafood occupies too important a place in Prince Edward Island fisheries.

Charles Austin Beard, American historian, was born this date 1874. He had a distinguished university career both in America and England and was professor of politics at Columbia University. In 1922 he went to Japan where he acted in various advisory capacities, particularly after the earthquake of 1923. His histories of the American people, both political and general, received wide circulation.

The summoning of Parliament to meet on a Friday, practically the beginning of a weekend for Parliamentarians, suggests a certain sense of urgency on the part of the Government which is increased by the announcement that the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne will be heard the same day. It is to be hoped that other measures calculated to speed up the session will be taken also.

The death in his native city Saint John of W. H. Turnbull, 84, who invented the variable pitch propeller for aircraft recalls the important contribution the Maritime Provinces made to flying. Mr. Turnbull started his career as flight engineer in 1902, before the famous Kitty Hawk flight and in a few years had enunciated the basic principles of aircraft design—lift, drag and centre of pressure. Nova Scotia, it will be recalled, saw the first flight of a heavier-than-air craft in the British Empire.

The tie in the Nova Scotia byelection in Hants East has been broken by the returning officer's vote in favor of the Liberal candidate, and the losing Conservative candidate has demanded a recount. This is customary procedure where the voting is so close. It has nothing, of course, to do with the validity of the returning officer's ballot, which by law can only be cast in the event of a deadlock. This rule, debarring such officials from voting at the polls, is of long standing and is applicable to every provincial and federal election.



PUBLIC FORUM

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

SCOTCH HAGGIS

Sir.—As a native Scot who has been privileged to live in your beautiful Garden Province now almost eleven years, I thought that there might be a few of your readers (Scots or otherwise) who might be interested in solving the "great Haggis mystery" which almost always is discussed as St. Andrew's Day appropriate.

A favourite (alicy) seems to be that the "great Chieftain of the Puddin' Race" contains old boots, or is a four-legged "beastie" shot with plumes in the hills of Scotland. I enclose the following recipe which I brought from Scotland with me in an old cook-book yellow with age.

"Scotch Haggis": 1 sheep's pluck; 1 onion; 1-2 lb. suet; pepper and salt; 1-2 lb. oatmeal; 1 sheep's stomach. Wash the pluck well and put in a pot to boil, allowing the windpipe to hang out to drain out impurities. Boil gently for about two hours. After cleaning the stomach bag well, bring to the boil in cold water, in order to shrink the bag. Leave in salted cold water until needed. Mince the best part of lungs and heart, discarding the gristly pieces. Grate the best parts of the liver, and put all in large basin. Roast in well the oatmeal and add to the contents of the basin.

I am, Sir, etc., MRS. ALFRED MACKAY Emerald, R.R.

APPLE JUICE

Sir.—Each week some person writes to your excellent paper on the wickedness of drink. Though I am sure the letters are read, comment is never forthcoming and there the subject rests.

Now a one-sided argument is a poor affair so perhaps a search of the other side of the question is warranted. In any case, perhaps you will not object to something mildly controversial during this uneasy lull following the truce in the potato war.

Most persons would agree that excessive drinking is an evil and wish to abolish excessive drinking. There is no complete agreement with them. It is in the most operandi that perhaps we differ. If I understand these letters their conclusion is that the Island would be a better place if drink was completely forbidden. I understand this is also the view of the Bootleggers' Union, though it would be interesting if they would give their views on the subject. It has been told to me that the Island has tried Prohibition and that it was not a success. Now it has been modified by the introduction of a rationing scheme, yet it is reported that people still get drunk and that there are too many alcoholics in proportion to the population. Certainly the present arrangement does one thing, that is it makes the person who wants to buy a bottle of beer feel he is doing something very bad in going to the vendors. Perhaps that's an exaggeration and that really is forbidden or restricted alcohol. Incidentally, why isn't it possible to buy two or three bottles of beer instead of only a case of 12 and why does one have to file up an order form headed Temperance Commission?

Old Charlottetown

PERTSHIRE PIONEERS

The forebears of the Dewar family in this Province were John Dewar and his wife Christina (Forbes) Dewar, of Braes of Foss, Perthshire, Scotland, about whom the following reference appears in "Prince Edward Island, Past and Present" (1906):

"John Dewar came to Prince Edward Island in the early years of the nineteenth century and first located at Bundenell, where he remained two years, during which time he continually prospected for a future home. He finally made choice of one hundred and twenty acres located near the eastern boundary of Lot 51, the place being afterward known as New Perth. The land at that time was extensively covered with timber, both hard and soft wood, but was very fertile and when cleared, produced good crops.

"The deed of this property, for which he paid sixty pounds sterling, is dated March 15, 1827, and is made between St. James Montgomery, Bart. of Stoborast, County Peebles, Scotland, Atchibald Montgomery, of the County of Peebles, and Robert Montgomery, of the city of Edinburgh, by their agent, John Stewart, and John Dewar, of Township 51.

"As Mr. Dewar was settled on the property several years previous to the execution of the deed, his occupation must have been confirmed by agreement. Mr. Dewar was a stern, unbending Celt, who never swerved from the path of duty, being shrewd, upright, industrious, sober and God-fearing, and his labours were abundantly blessed. The pioneer's cabin soon gave way to commodious farm buildings and instead of the stately mansions of the forest, smiling grain fields greeted the eye. He was able to lay by and lend money, not as such a rate of usury as ten and twenty per cent, but borrowers received it without a cent of interest."

Reference is made also to the pioneer efforts of Mrs. Dewar, who bore the first child in the settlement, and who also had to suffer the first visit of the grim reaper that cut down her only boy, a little fellow of four summers, who had accompanied her from Scotland.

The young man's mind that it is something which must be tried. If there were, say, a dozen places in town where you correspondents and I could discuss this over a glass of beer, then in ten years time it would be found that chronic alcoholism was greatly reduced in this Province. Finally, please no more Scripture on the subject for there are so many quotations which can be used on either side of the argument.

I am, Sir, etc., PHILIP RICKARD Summerside.

MODERN SCHOOLS

Sir.—The fourth member of our bridge club was very late last week. The reason? Her husband was away and she had to take the children's lessons. Couldn't the children do their own lessons? Don't be foolish, they'd be all night at them; why just tonight it had taken her all of twenty minutes to do one problem in Algebra. Did she then explain it and how she got it? Goodness, no, she hardly knew herself how she got it and besides she had to look up some dates in History. She neglected to say what John did while she was doing the problem, nor why he could not have looked up the history dates himself. Nor did it occur to her to ask John why he could not do the problem. There must have been a reason. There was: he had been absent from class when that phase of the work was gone over. But John will get a "C" for homework tomorrow and the teacher will have no occasion to go back and repeat that lesson; this problem had been given for the express purpose of finding out if the class understood that particular lesson. When exam time comes and John fails, mother will be so perturbed and she will be at a loss to understand what could have happened. Certainly she had

The Poet's Corner

AEGEAN IDYLL

The thunder sweeps through northern plains And westward from the Asian hill, From Caria and from Samothrace It wanders restless and still.

And grows less still upon the edge Of the blue southward stirring tide, Gathering perfume from the peak Of the white Lesbian mountainside.

And turns to rain past Tenedos And flashes westward into Rhodes, Stealing green torrents from the deep Aegean cliff-footed abodes.

And like a jewel threads the night Through Gossams, like a spear-broved host To Africa beyond the sea Until the hills of Crete are lost.

Until the Carthaginian light And the last winds from Greece are gone, And in the cover of the night The thunder wanders swiftly on.

—Frederick Prokosch.

done her part. Oh well, what can you expect of the teachers of today? They are not like the teachers she had. No, the teachers of yesterday had time to teach; they planned the day's work and carried it out, they were not interrupted by "specialists" taking over their classes. They had time to question an individual child and if he had secured help with his homework they had time to send him to the board; and when he reached the part that he did not understand they had time to go over it with him. But then the teachers of this bygone era did not have to take time out to give pills to the children. Their job was teaching. Truly the old order changeth. Is it for the best?

I am, Sir, etc., BEWILDERED MOTHER Charlottetown

LEGION ACTIVITIES

Sir.—It occurred to me that it might be of interest to some citizens to read about some of the activities carried on by our Legion Branch here in Charlottetown. Veterans of World War I, World War II and also those who served in the Korean conflict might be especially interested, and may if they learn more of our activities see fit to join us and so swell our ranks not only on parade on Remembrance Day, but also lend their material aid and moral support throughout the year, thus making for a bigger and better Legion to espouse the just rights of every veteran whether he sees fit to join the active membership of the Canadian Legion or not. We try to help the veteran in any way possible. We have an employment committee who will endeavour to help any veteran to obtain a position, if and when he is solicited. We have a charitable committee who try to do their best, in so far as the funds on hand will allow, to tide a veteran over a period of distress or need. We have a sick committee who are very active and who make weekly visits to sick veterans in the hospitals of our city, bring them treats and endeavours to cheer them in their sickness or disability—and we have an entertainment committee who try to entertain the veterans in the Legion Home by making the home available periodically for Veteran dances, smokers, sing-songs and other entertainment at which they may meet

(Continued from page 5)

The Passing Scene

By Observer SIR WINSTON AND THE DISSIDENTS

Some political observers, who deal in prophecy as well as in analytical appraisal of events, evidently believe that Sir Winston Churchill will retire from public life, or at all events from the Prime Minister's office, just as soon as his 80th anniversary festivities are out of the way. They are even predicting the course of his immediate future.

A few of the more traditionally among them are sure he will go into Yorkshire and raise pigs, this having been customary for many Englishmen prominent in Church or State. Others, sensing what they consider to be Sir Winston's flair for "the boast of heraldry, the pomp of power", are equally sure that he will be offered and accept a dukedom forthwith. Curious enough, most of the more confident prophecies concerning the great man's supposedly impending retirement have been intimated in the American press. The British newspapers, with one or two exceptions, are much more cautious, probably because they are a bit more accustomed to Sir Winston's habit of doing what he expected. In this connection I saw an interesting English cartoon a little while back. It showed Sir Anthony Eden, wearing a long beard, in a wheel chair being pushed by an old nurse called "The Conservative Party." Running and hopping she paces ahead, and swinging his hat in the air, was Sir Winston. He was saying: "I remember Anthony well. He was well along when I was a young fellow just starting out in politics."

One guess is as good as another; and there are some guessers who say that the Prime Minister intends to go on, his health permitting, until he is 84. This would put him in even with Mr. Gladstone who was Prime Minister when he was that age. If this should come to pass, Sir Winston, physically at any rate, will really have outdone his illustrious predecessor; for the responsibilities and strains of the Prime Minister's office are many times more onerous and heavy than they were in Mr. Gladstone's time. In fact, Mr. Gladstone's regime coincided with perhaps the happiest and most comfortable period in England's history; whereas Sir Winston's career, especially in latter days, is for the most part the story of England's greatest struggle for survival.

It has been his lot "to take arms against a sea of troubles" by comparison, Mr. Gladstone might be said to have lived "in the smooth current of domestic joy." If life is to be measured "in deeds, not in years; in feelings, not in figures on a dial," it is fair to conclude that Sir Winston already has reached, if he has not surpassed, the record of the "Grand Old Man" of the Victorian era.

The two men had many things in common. In his day Mr. Gladstone was considered the greatest political debater in England, and perhaps in the world. Sir Winston, of course, has held that distinction for many years and still holds it. Both men were almost idolized by their admirers and profoundly distrusted by their detractors. In this connection, it is interesting to note that, while Mr. Gladstone's principal critics were what would be called today "Right Wing" conservatives, Sir Winston's are the "Left-Wing" extremists. Actually, Sir Winston's social views might very well be called radical as compared with Mr. Gladstone's.

It is just another indication of the change in social thinking that has taken place in the interim; or, perhaps more accurately, the

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