

THE GUARDIAN

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."
FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1955

The Ontario Election

The victory of the Frost Government in yesterday's Ontario election was one of those things which everybody was predicting—even in quarters where its overthrow would have been welcomed. At the time of writing, reports indicated the Government's return with an undiminished majority. This would give it a wide margin of support in the next Legislature, which will have ninety-eight seats in all. At dissolution the Conservative held 78 of the 90 seats provided for at that time.

The election seems to have run pretty much the same course as did the Liberal victory in this Province. The Government stood on its record of past performances and on a program designed to give more aid to education, welfare and public works. The Liberals stressed particularly the need of implementing a more equitable system of grants to municipalities, and there were appeals to the public to join hands in ousting the "Queen's Park clique."

No doubt the basic factor in Ontario, as in this Province, was the general measure of prosperity and the general level of good government, maintained by an administration long enough in office to have acquired a professional political technique, with no scandals to its discredit and with a highly efficient party organization which was not allowed to fall into disrepair during off-election years. Opposition parties start off with a disadvantage under such conditions. They must work twice as hard and twice as efficiently as the government in power, not merely during election campaigns but all the year round, and especially during legislative sessions, if they are to convince the electorate that it is indeed "time for a change." It is hard, uphill work, and the tendency for Opposition parties in such circumstances is to lose heart, to drift from one platform to another and, worse yet, to try to imitate what seems to them the successful platform of the party in office. This, as the Globe and Mail noted in an editorial which we quoted recently, is the biggest error of all. "Opposition parties in all Provinces, and in Ottawa itself," remarked our Toronto contemporary sagely, "will best serve themselves and the electorate by presenting (however hopeless it may appear) real alternatives. The time must come—it always has—when the people want a change. And in any event, Governments in office, especially Governments long entrenched, should be constantly under criticism from Oppositions which know what they are about."

Something Radically Wrong

The speech made in Toronto by Air Vice-Marshal Plant declaring that the army should be abolished has cost him his job as air member for technical services, and appears to have sparked a general shuffle in the Defence Department at Ottawa. Latest development is the retirement of Lieutenant General Simonds as Chief of the General Staff, who some time ago said publicly that Canada should have compulsory service in peacetime. It is recalled, too, that Air Marshal Slemmon, Chief of the Air Staff, who recommended the action taken against Vice-Marshal Plant, was himself the subject of queries in Parliament a few weeks ago, regarding a statement that unification of the Canadian and U. S. air defenses of North America was inevitable.

There is no question but that these top-ranking officers were speaking out of turn when they attempted to discuss government policies. But the very fact that they have done so may point to something seriously wrong with our national defense setup. These men are supposed to be experts in their line, and it is evident that they are not at all satisfied with the present situation. In Air Vice-Marshal Plant's case, as well as in the statement previously attributed to Lieutenant General Simonds, the issue is one of manpower. As the Globe and Mail points out, it is undoubtedly true that Canada has not enough to support a fully effective army and air force without compulsory service. Nobody can say how large those forces could be, because no exact, or even approximate, accounting has ever been made of Canada's manpower situation. All we know is that under the present system, the three services are finding it hard to meet absurdly modest objectives—modest, that is, in the light of Canada's commitments. The Army and Air Force each are seeking 50,000 men, the Navy 20,000.

Of course, the answer to the Air

Force's enlistment problem is not to be found in dissolving the Army, or vice versa. But, asks our Toronto contemporary, is this proposal any worse than the proposal (lately floating about Ottawa) that Canada's twelve air squadrons be pulled out of Western Europe and sent to defend the North? Is it any more disturbing than the proposal, offered as an alternative to this, that the United States Air Force be invited to man our Northern defense line? Given a proper knowledge of our manpower resources, we could make proper use of them. Knowing what we were really able to do in the way of defense, we could be doing it. The essential thing is to find out where we stand, in view of our resources on the one hand, and our defense commitments on the other. The whole issue seems due for a very thorough inquiry by Parliament.

A City Of Desolation

The impending 700th anniversary of the foundation of Koenigsberg will be a sad day for its former inhabitants. 690 years of a progressive rise of that capital of East Prussia were followed by ten years of Soviet administration, the Soviet Union having annexed Koenigsberg together with the north of East Prussia in 1945. These ten years have witnessed a decline without precedent. With the exception of about two dozen Germans, the 372,000 German inhabitants of that city have been expelled, deported to Russia, or slain since 1945. The city which was badly damaged during the war and repeatedly looted under Russian occupation, offers a picture of desolation. Koenigsberg with its harbour, its navy base of Pillau and the air base of Samland is regarded by Moscow as the centre of the East Prussian military redoubt. The city and its surroundings are administered by the military on strictly military lines. Even the new Russian inhabitants, mostly soldiers in reserve, were specially selected.

While the functionaries live in the harbour quarter, tens of thousands of newly settled inhabitants live in wooden shacks. The vast soldiers' barracks are strangely matched by the civilian "homes" in the remaining cellars of the inner city.

Practically every trace of the former German character of Koenigsberg has been extinguished, with the exception of the monuments to Immanuel Kant and Schiller. The Cathedral, however, the famous Castle, the Opera House, the Theatre and the University are in ruins. Sadly enough, the churches have been rehabilitated as warehouses and storehouses. Thus the constructive effort of seven centuries has been wiped out, and the city survives only in the memory of its former German inhabitants who are dispersed all over Europe.

U. K. Election

According to the London Times, the election in the United Kingdom posed issues which neither the Conservatives nor the Socialists were willing to face.

"The campaign," says The Times, "has been disheartening to anyone who cares deeply about the working of democratic institutions. That it has been dull is of little importance; that it has been escapist and evasive is serious."

"From the launching of the two main manifestos, each unsatisfactory in its own way, onwards there has been a steady refusal to face the really difficult issues or to state harsh, uncomfortable facts. The electorate, if it is treated as adult at all, is regarded as a rather unadmirable kind of adult. It is flattered, and lulled, and wooed, and—particularly by the Labour Party—bid for."

"Neither side is willing to be forthright about inflation, the balance of payments, the responsibilities of trade unionism, the deep-seated social issue of wage differentials. Certain subjects and institutions are now hedged off from open discussion as if they were sacrosanct. So long as we tolerate such a state of affairs, we should cease glib talk of being an informed democracy."

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is a tribute to Mr. Attlee's leadership of the Labor party in Britain that his announcement to quit to make room for a younger man, following the party's defeat in the general election, has provoked unanimous expressions of dissent from his followers in Parliament. Accordingly, the 72-year old leader has decided to put off his retirement, until a more acceptable choice can be made.

Apparently, the scientists are still a long way from being able to predict with accuracy the effect of atomic bombs in any given situation. It has been revealed that when the first bomb fell on Hiroshima in 1945, 48 men who were in a concrete building were killed instantly. Four women, however, who were in a frame building at about the same distance from the explosion, escaped unhurt. The reason for the seemingly illogical discrepancy is unknown.



New Twist

OTTAWA REPORT

Saskatchewan's Jubilee Choir

By Patrick Nicholson

Forty-three young singing Saskatchewaners were Very Important Personages visiting Ottawa last week for whom the usual rule of Parliament was broken. It is a convention that Members of Parliament should take no notice at all of visitors, however distinguished, who come to sit in the galleries to watch the House of Commons at work.

When an exception was made at Ottawa celebrated—three months early—the Fiftieth Birthday of the youngest province in the Canadian brotherhood: Saskatchewan.

The occasion was the visit of the Golden Jubilee Choir, it is hardly necessary to describe what must be Canada's most widely heard and best known choir of the year. For their audience in the past week must include millions of delighted listeners filling a wide swathe between Regina and Ottawa and beyond, on both sides of the international boundary.

Since leaving Regina, they have visited Chicago, Toronto and Ottawa, and now are home again, all in a span of nine days. They gave ten scheduled and several unscheduled concerts. They sang at a gathering of 26,000 Rotarians in Chicago, who like Saskatchewan are also celebrating their golden jubilee this year.

ENTERTAIN POLITICIANS

Here, the thirty-three girls and ten boys from Regina High School added the role of concert hall to the many parts played by Parliament's staid Railway Committee Room. They sang there to an audience of Senators and Members of Parliament and their wives, and were seen in the Federal and Provincial Prime Ministers' meeting there; the Liberal Party holds its parliamentary caucus there; House Speaker Rene Beaudin gives his famous Parliamentary Mardi Gras receptions there; parliamentary committees meet there; productions by the National Film Board are screened for MPs there. But I have never before heard the huge room echo to music any sweeter than the Parliamentary Barber Shop Quartet unharmoniously sparked by Vancouver's Jack MacDougall.

From the solemnly-rendered "Saskatchewan's Hymn," through some moving Negro Spirituals and a gay "Irving Berlin Medley," they took us to a spirited "Square Dance" and appropriately closed with "A Song for Saskatchewan."

This final choice was enthusiastically received by the Parliamentary audience, and if possible even more heartily, welcomed when the Golden Jubilee Choir gave another concert in the evening, to an audience which contained hundreds of Ottawans and more than a thousand Saskatchewaners by birth or by residence. Both the words and the music of this "Song" were composed by Russell Hopkins, who apart from his presidency of the Ottawa branch of the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association, has long been well-known here as Deputy Clerk of the House of Commons and now as Secretary to the Board of Transport Commissioners.

MPs AS GREETERS

The Alumni Association sponsored the choir's visit to Ottawa, and while here they were welcomed by the three Ottawa members of the Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Committee: A. M. Nicholson, MP (representing M. J. Coldwell, MP), John Diefenbaker, M. P. and W. Tucker, MP.

with Ross Thatcher two years ago; but he got here this year with the Golden Jubilee choir, as a promoter of Saskatchewan's birthday, and most helpful he was, to his choir, his cause and his contacts here. He finally shepherded his Singing Saskatchewaners late at night but still singing, by bus to the station and off by train to home.

These were the visitors for whom an exception was made, and MPs from all parties paid tribute to them and their province from the floor of the House of Commons.

The Age Old Story

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

How much of Egypt And the dust of Cheops, Of Aborigines' breath Or the bones of my ancestors Springs with this flower, Breathing a yellow autumn back From the last garden. Before it stager To a powder of cold?

What dissemination of particles From first ships, Recession of mountains Or shedding from turned stones Spills gold over my hand In a perfection of petal And bronze leaf?

How all the years of the world And many and blown places Achieve this integer of innocence And cut stem.

How, over this flower, light breaks And heart pounds against bone. —Gladys Laflamme in "Patterns."

Restoring St. Paul's

By Norman Cribbens
London, England, Bureau
The Thomson Newspapers

LONDON — Of the 2,000 odd visitors who come to historic St. Paul's Cathedral every week, Canadians and Americans show the most enthusiasm.

Black-gowned vergers whose job it is to answer the thousands of questions fired at them say that American visitors reveal surprising knowledge of the Cathedral's history and show the most willingness to ascend the 400 stone steps climbing spirally through three revolutions from the Cathedral floor to the triforium gallery.

Tired tourists often balk at the sight of these steps — but so do the North American variety. "They're game for anything," one verger told me. "They'd climb to the gold cross on top of the Cathedral if you let them!" Just now tourists are attracted by the clack of carpenters' hammers as work begins on the restoration of fabric damaged 15 years ago during the Blitz — and Viscount Kilmuir has broadcast an appeal for funds to help with this work.

STRIKES DEEP CHORD

The appeal strikes a deep chord in British hearts, for ever since London became a city there has been a St. Paul's Cathedral at its centre. Within its old grey walls Queen Elizabeth the First gave thanks for the defeat of the Spanish Armada and here, too, the present Queen Elizabeth gave thanks after her Coronation.

But it is St. Paul's that is worthy of its place as "the parish church of the Empire" and extensive repairs must be carried out and other work put in hand. Evidence of enemy action during the Blitz is seen in a collection of fragments that once belonged to the high altar, fashioned of ebony with gilded bronze enrichments. These are to be seen in the triforium gallery, forming part of what is to become a permanent exhibition.

"Canadians are especially interested in this exhibition," the vergers said, "because we possess little evidence of these older cathedrals — even of the last great church which was known as Old St. Paul's."

The library also houses a priceless collection of manuscripts, most of them belonging to the Reformation period, which were acquired for St. Paul's from col-

The Poet's Corner

INTEGERS

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Hints To Parliament

(Peterborough Examiner)

We read with satisfaction that the House of Commons is thinking of cutting speeches from 40 minutes to 30. The next step is to teach the members of Parliament how long 30 minutes is. We suggest that they should rehearse reading their speeches, verify all their quotations, and look up the pronunciations of hard words. This is not an attempt to be funny or to mock our legislators; we have heard too many of them get themselves entangled in the meshes of their own syntax to wish to do that; they speak for their constituents, and are not elected to clown around with the English language. The day has passed when illiteracy and sin-cerity were accepted as synonymous.

1855

1955

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundezen, M.D.

COUGHING IS VERY OFTEN A SYMPTOM OF DISEASE

Don't ignore a cough, no matter how trifling it may seem. While coughing is not a disease, it may be the symptom of one. Like so many symptoms, coughing usually is an attempt of your body to remedy matters by itself. However, there are many things we doctors can do to help eliminate the trouble.

A Natural Reflex
An obstruction such as a particle of food in your respiratory passage will set you to coughing. This is a natural reflex effort to clear the passage and permit unhampered breathing.

Then, too, coughing may be produced by more serious conditions such as cancer or tuberculosis. Persistent coughing will make some persons hoarse. If the hoarseness persists for six weeks or more, be sure to see your doctor. This is a serious symptom; in some cases, it suggests cancer.

New Methods
Coughing should not always be discouraged. Sometimes doctors ingeniously have been expended on getting patients to cough than on trying to stop coughing.

Just recently Dr. Alvin L. Barach and his co-workers at Presbyterian Hospital perfected a machine which they call an Esophageal Suction Machine. This machine adds vacuum cleaner suction to a patient's own exhalation and produces a much more effective cough than the body could manage unaided.

Another apparatus called the bronchoscope allows the doctor to see the lungs, thus doing the work of coughing for you.

Breathe Deeply

If your coughing can't get rid of whatever is causing you trouble, your doctor might recommend that you breathe a mist of detergent. Maybe he will suggest that you wear a low abdominal belt to improve your posture and force you to breathe more deeply; perhaps he will advise breathing exercises to build up the amount of air that you can take in at one time.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

S. J.: I have the feeling that there is something in my eye all the time and I keep rubbing the eyeball constantly. Could this be a cataract?

Answer: The feeling that there is something in the eye does not occur in cataract. This symptom is usually an indication that an infection of the lining of the membrane over the eyeball and eyelid is present. It is known as conjunctivitis. A careful examination by your physician will indicate the right treatment.

HISTORIC VILLAGE

Charlesbourg, five miles north of Quebec City, was first settled in 1659.

NAMED REFUGEE CHIEF

WASHINGTON (AP)—State Secretary Dulle, Thursday named Pierce J. Grety, general counsel of the civil service commission, to take charge of the bogged down refugee relief program. The state department said Grety will serve under Scott McLeod, the department's security chief, but will have "complete authority and responsibility for the operation of the refugee program."

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NOTES BY THE WAY

If you want to become prime minister of Ontario you should arrange not to be born in Toronto. No Torontonian has ever become premier, although all premiers have been born in Ontario.—Peterborough Examiner.

The serving of an attractive meal, whether in a restaurant or in home, demands a great deal of thought and care, in addition to cooking and baking skills. Even the best housewife often runs into difficulties as she tries to vary the menu for her family. Lucky is the restaurant management which secures the services of a chef who can keep out of a rut and send the customers away singing the praises of the dishes set before them.—Fort William Times-Journal.

More emphasis on mental health nursing should be given in the training courses of nurses generally. In a recent panel discussion on mental health, the point was made that nurses don't go into psychiatric nursing today because they are usually only prepared for the care of the physically ill. Today there are 8,700 trained and 6,000 untrained persons caring for the 65,000 patients in mental hospitals across Canada. A sad disclosure at the conference was that some 70 per cent of patients in Canadian mental hospitals never have a visitor.—Sydney Post Record.

If and when Canada gets a distinctive flag, it will in all likelihood have a maple leaf on it. If so, will the emblem be in the shape of the leaf of the hard (sugar) maple or the soft maple which is popular as a shade tree? The leaf of the soft maple stands out in beauty of form, and would add to the appearance of the flag. But then there are those who might object to its use since it is apt to grow soft and have become easy push-overs. On the other hand, the hard maple leaf would mean we are hard as nails but sweet at heart.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Fourteen Russian gentlemen were guests at the Canadian International Air Show on Saturday. It was nice to have them with us. It would indicate that diplomacy is still trading words rather than preparing to trade bombs. It would be rather naive of us, however, to assume that the visitors confined all their powers of observation to the exhibits and exhibitions at the Air Show. On the way from the Exhibition Grounds to their hotel, the Russians were caught in one of the most comprehensive traffic jams Toronto has ever achieved. They are not encouraging by the regime they represent to make gratuitous remarks about such affairs, so their reaction is not on record. One hopeful possibility is

that they were impressed by the North American productive capacity apparent in so many immobile automobiles. Somewhat less hopeful is the possibility—nay, the probability—that the visitors were grimly amused by the sight of so many vehicles on so little roadway. They may even have sensed a certain looseness of discipline among the motorists who savagely fought for the right of way. And they will certainly take back to their homeland the conviction that Toronto, in the event of a "national emergency," is not one of the North American cities that can be quickly evacuated.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

Many who were impressed by the recent demonstration of the size and efficiency of the Portuguese fishing fleet have asked why Newfoundland cannot operate its fisheries just as effectively as Portugal. The answer is simple enough. Portugal consumes all the fish her vessels catch and saves a great deal in foreign currency by financing her own operations. That is the main answer. There are others. The organization of a single kind of fishing operation is much easier than the administration of a complex operation such as we have in Newfoundland.—St. John's News.

The ups-and-downs of syn- thetics in the Summer suit field are of no concern to one suit maker here. "We make the finest suits in the world," declares Charles C. Hopkinson, vice-president of Oxford Clothes Company in Chicago. "We never have had syn- thetics and we never will." Oxford's cheapest suit, a wool number, sells for \$188. Its silk suit range from \$225 to \$340. Mr. Hopkinson cheerfully admits silk is more perishable than synthetic blends, but adds: "The men who buy our suits don't climb telephone poles in them."—Wall Street Journal.

Suggestions that the provincial governments should operate motor vehicle testing stations all over B. C. certainly seem to find support from the figures issued in connection with the operation of Vancouver's civic testing station. Vancouver traffic and safety council has discovered that when the Vancouver station was opened in the late '30s one out of every 14 Vancouver traffic accidents was due to mechanical failure. In the ensuing years this incidence has dropped to one in 300. On the other hand the average of B. C. accidents due to mechanical failure is rising. If provincial testing stations will reduce accidents due to mechanical failures in the same way they have been reduced in Vancouver, the government should seriously consider setting up testing stations all over the province.—Vancouver Province.

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