

reassessment and the remainder undecided. Camp forces are said to be strong among delegates from British Columbia and Alberta, with Saskatchewan solidly in the Diefenbaker column. Manitoba is regarded as more divided, and a basic urban-rural division is likely to show up in Ontario. This would give the selection of Quebec delegates added importance since there is felt to be considerable division in the Atlantic provinces.

Toronto lawyer Arthur Maloney will be opposing Mr. Camp for election to his own job at this gathering, and here again the prognostications are conflicting. What is pretty certain is that it will take the spotlight from the doings on Parliament Hill next week. And we don't imagine that Mr. Hellyer—or Mr. Pearson either for that matter—will have any complaint on this score.

Reform Badly Needed

Prime Minister Harold Wilson has announced that he will curtail political patronage in Britain's honors system. Except for peerages, honors will henceforth be bestowed only for public services, regardless of party affiliation. Commenting on this break with tradition, the Globe and Mail remarks that while Mr. Wilson has been criticized for making only a partial reform, no Canadian Prime Minister has ever gone even this far. Canada is one of the few remaining established democracies with a completely political honors system. In our case, it is "elevation" to the Senate that provides the payoff for a host of party bagmen and party organizers, as well as Cabinet ministers and other MPs who have become a nuisance or an embarrassment to their party leader.

The Toronto paper concedes that in their days of power, both Mr. St. Laurent and Mr. Diefenbaker strayed on occasion from the strict rule that Prime Ministers employ the power of the Senate appointment as an instrument of political patronage, rather than as a means of strengthening the upper chamber with men of real ability. But rarely Prime Minister Pearson.

With few exceptions—the most notable being Dr. Norman MacKenzie, former president of the universities of British Columbia and New Brunswick—his appointments have been party war-horses or others of long-standing loyalty to the Liberal cause. They have included Senator Keith Davey, whose service to the nation consisted largely of almost losing the last election for the Liberals in his capacity as their national organizer, and Senator Hazen Argue, whose contribution to Canada included his defection to the Liberals from the New Democrats.

In a half-hearted way, Mr. Pearson tinkered with Senate reform last year, when he introduced compulsory retirement for all future senators at 75. But while this will mean a slightly faster turnover, and somewhat younger climber, it is clearly Mr. Pearson's intention to keep the old pork-barrel tradition in Senate appointments working for all it is worth.

This is a long-standing complaint, of course; but unfortunately it is rarely heard in Parliament itself, or at annual party meetings. It is a public grievance which is all too conveniently ignored by those with political aspirations. It shouldn't be that way, but it is. Which is all the more reason why, in the public press, it should be hammered at repeatedly.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"This province," complains Ontario's Premier Robarts, "gains nothing from the \$194,000,000 increase that Ottawa will pay next year in equalization grants to the poorer provinces." That's the worst of being a rich guy, they just won't let you fall in line for the handouts at the soup kitchen!

The city of Bristol, England, has just launched a consumer service which will handle complaints and act as a board of arbitration between supplier and buyer. Other British cities have established bureaus which provide shoppers with advice while they are out on buying forays. But they're not the first in the field. The British model is said to be a shoppers' service flourishing in Vienna. Set up in the midst of the shopping district, it offers the shopper a peaceful refuge from high-powered salesmanship. Like the consumer magazines, it reports results of tests showing the performance of the different products. Its skilled staff also answers questions verbally and helps people with their complaints.



TOP LEVEL MEETING OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Record Wheat Crop Harvested On Prairies

1966 has been a bumper crop year on our prairies. 29 million acres have yielded an all time record crop of 850 million bushels of wheat—two-thirds of that land yielding two-thirds of that harvest in Saskatchewan alone. Our predominantly urban population of today little knows what those figures mean to our farmers. I spoke to Ernie Pascoe, who is not only the conscientious Conservative MP for Moose Jaw, but also a wheat farmer, and I asked him to describe in his own words what 1966 means to the average man who has just harvested this record crop on his Saskatchewan farm. That average man may farm a section and a quarter (800 acres). He would have sowed about 400 acres to wheat, leaving most of the rest fallow, but perhaps growing a little oats or other coarse grain. The yield has run about 26 bushels to the acre. This is a great improvement the usual 20-22 bushels in the last two or three years, which have been good years; it contrasts vividly with perhaps 15-18 bushels to the acre over the previous 10 years. CANNOT SELL ALL NOW Mr. Saskatchewan cannot deliver all his wheat at once—the elevators and the railroads could not handle it. He has probably been permitted to deliver a quota of only two bushels for each specified acre on his farm, say 1,600 bushels. He receives \$2.50 per bushel for his wheat on delivery at his neighborhood elevator, less 12 cents for shipment to the lakehead, because wheat prices are quoted as delivered at Fort William. He may not be able to make any more deliveries before winter closes the prairie roads, but will deliver the balance—less 1 1/2 bushels per acre which he will keep for seed—before the end of the crop year on July 31 next. Next fall he will receive a final payment for his wheat, which may amount to another 42 cents per bushel. Thus Mr. Saskatchewan will get a cash yield of about \$50 per acre harvested. His rule of thumb is that it takes 10 to 12 bushels per acre to cover his cash costs: taxes, living, labour and gasoline. In the 10 lean years just past, this left the farmer little margin for his effort; even this bumper year hardly yields a bonanza. Another way of looking at the farm economy is to value his land. The tax collector now rates it as worth about \$125 per acre. This makes it clear that the world price of wheat—\$2.11 per bushel for top quality wheat, Number One Northern, delivered at the lakehead—is insufficient. This comparison raises the spectre that wheat farming may cease to be a worthwhile way of life. WHAT IS THE ANSWER? This makes it clear that the world price of wheat—\$2.11 per bushel for top quality wheat, Number One Northern, delivered at the lakehead—is insufficient. I asked former Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton—"the farmer's friend"—if he considers it possible to sell our wheat at a higher price on world markets. "We could charge an extra 30

Fancy Not Fact

In diplomatic circles, a good often is referred to as an unfounded rumor. That is what the good that involved a visit of the Pope to Expo '67 next year is being called. When the announcement was made last week that the Pope had accepted an invitation to visit the gigantic Canadian world's fair, no one was too surprised. After all, Montreal is one of the world's great religious cities, and Expo is the first of its kind world's fair since His Holiness began making trips outside Italy. Shortly after the announcement was made, however, doubts were expressed and denials were forthcoming. Finally, after Expo kept hinting that the Pope would turn up, Ottawa and the Vatican stepped in and issued stern irrevocable denials. About time too. The average man on the street is quite incapable of understand-

Burning Up \$70 Million

This fall, perhaps because there has been a larger acreage than usual sown to wheat (29.7 million acres), there appears to be more burning than ever before. So much, in fact, that a grain company official is claiming that Prairie farmers have burned up at least \$70 million worth of plant food this fall. It may be that in our present affluent farm society \$70 million is not worth bothering about. Nevertheless it is \$70 million that will have to be spent on chemical fertilizers to replace the organic matter lost in the burning. This may be fine for the fertilizer industry but it does seem an unnecessary waste.

Impatient With Age

Youth is always impatient with age and this was apparent at a recent Toronto and District Liberal Association youth conference at York University. Students criticized both major parties for what they called their outdated leadership, referring to Prime Minister Pearson and Opposition Leader John Diefenbaker as decrepit and in their dotage. This, of course, is unfair and young people will do well to heed the remarks of J. Hugh Faulkner, 33-year-old member of Parliament for Peterborough who sharply criticized them for their impatience, an impatience, he added, that came out of a superficial worship of the late President John F. Kennedy. There is a good deal of truth

Exertion And Heart

The heart beats faster and the muscle contracts with greater force when the old pump is called upon to redouble its efforts. If exertion is continued, the arteries and ventricles dilate to receive more blood so that it can be distributed where it is needed most. But there is a limit to the quantity of blood the old ticker can pump. In extreme circumstances, its stroke output can be quadrupled and its rate increased to approximately 200 beats a minute. This reserve power is made possible through adjustments in the nervous system and the hormones from the adrenal glands. But the more the organ dilates, the thinner the wall becomes and the weaker the muscular contractions. When the limit of adaptation is reached, the individual may develop chest pain, shortness of breath, and extreme fatigue. These signs indicate depleted reserve and unless it is replenished by rest, collapse is inevitable. In this respect, a man's heart is like his pocketbook; it goes bankrupt when all goes out and nothing comes in. A man won't go broke so fast if he spends less or gets a salary increase. The same occurs to the cardiac reserve when the person takes his time walking up the stairs instead of running up against his tolerance through training and healthful living. Stress and strain of this nature rarely hurt a normal heart. Ordinary work seldom affects the organ, but if an individual develops coronary thrombosis, the job usually is blamed. It is strange that sleep never is made the culprit even though more than half the attacks take place after the victim goes to bed. The real cause is hardening of the coronary arteries due to arteriosclerosis. In the circumstances, work may aggravate existing heart disease. The same can be said when valves have been damaged by rheumatic fever, or the muscle is overburdened by high blood pressure. These hearts are handicapped and, like an automobile running on one cylinder, never will be able to travel 50 miles an hour for any length of time. LUNG FUNGAL DISEASE Mrs. S. writes: Please explain to me the disease histoplasmosis. My two grandchildren have it. REPLY This is a common fungous disease of the lungs that usually goes unnoticed unless special tests are done or an overwhelming infection occurs. The invasion leaves a telltale spot in the lungs which, in the past, often was mistaken for tuberculosis. BONE SARCOMA I. W. writes: What are the symptoms of cancer of the bone? REPLY The individual may not know the disease exists until the weakened bone breaks. Others seek the advice of a physician because of pain and swelling. REASON FOR SLEEP H. M. writes: Is sleep a form of escape? REPLY Yes. The neurotic uses sleeping pills and sedatives to escape reality. The majority of us sleep to recharge our batteries. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Poorly-fitted shoes ruin the feet. PUBLIC FORUM This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of local interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian reserves the right to edit correspondence regarding letters submitted.

Threat To World Peace

Calls for attacks on Israel are a traditional rallying cry for Arabs who happen to be bothered about something else. This has become a habit and has not aroused any particular apprehension until recently. Now the current weak government in Syria, anxious to paper over its own difficulties, is seeking to round up supporters for a holy war. Its latest move is to recruit civilians for a volunteer defense army against Israel. For some time the terrorist organization called Azzifa, consisting largely of displaced Palestinians, has been raiding its old homeland in which is now Israel, from Syrian bases. Until recently the Syrian government denied responsibility for such acts of violence. But only a week ago the Syrian foreign minister openly approved these raids. This was a shock to other Arab leaders, who prefer to talk about Arab unity rather than to come to grips with Israel. Also there is tremendous jealousy among the Arab leaders. Syrians profess to believe that this can only be overcome by fighting Israel. They also count on Russian support, which has been forthcoming in the past, though not enough to satisfy the Syrians. To Canadians, who form part of the mixed forces helping the United Nations to keep peace in the troubled area, the disturbance is of special interest. And if outside powers become involved—as is obviously the hope of the present Syrian government—a formidable struggle might be touched off. But nobody seems anxious to pull Syrian chestnuts out of a fire. As the Economist puts it: "When Samson pulled down the pillars of the temple, he killed his enemies as well as himself. But many Arabs fear that no one will get badly hurt this time except the Syrians."

The Cookbook Flood

It is a striking fact that as more and more precooked, frozen foods are being sold at the supermarkets—yes, even TV dinners—the demand for cook books rises unabated. The fall flood of new kitchen texts promises to be as big as ever, if not bigger. It may be that the availability of frozen entrees and canned foods leaves the home cook more time to experiment with special dishes. This appears from the number of new cookbooks written for the woman who has mastered the basics of cookery. One which has just appeared, for example, is devoted to the art of making sauces. Still there must be many brides and others who seek the help of a solid, basic manual. For the sales of old favorites run high in England, "Mrs. Beeton's English Cookery" is still a standard wedding gift, and what girl isn't happy to get it?

Rock Discourtesies

The Spaniards are being nastier than usual over Gibraltar and the debate in the British House Tuesday night did not satisfy the fire-eaters who would be tougher with the "Dons." In Britain, and so doubt in Madrid also, certain basic facts are kept in mind: -1. The Spanish blockade of Gibraltar means that supplies from the mainland are cut off but British ships can, and certainly will, carry food and other essentials to the 25,000 Gibraltarians. 2. The Spaniards went back the rock they lost to Britain in 1704 and, with Britain's plate very full of trouble, this appears a good time to press ancient claims. But a serious quarrel with Britain would cut off valuable tourist trade and other business Spain needs. The debate in London revealed fears that the United States wants Britain to give up Gibraltar. This was denied by Labor Government spokesmen and it is not easy to see what the Americans could gain from taking sides and incurring hostility in Britain, which is prepared to have the International Court rule on whether it holds the rock legally. Of course colonies have gone out of fashion and Gibraltar's strategic importance has declined. But even if Britain were ready to go she has a duty to the Gibraltarians who want to remain British and have no wish to be under Gen. Franco's rule. The British, like the Spaniards, have their pride and it would ill become them to be bullied off the rock by the discourtesies of normally courteous Spaniards.

Erhard Let Down

WASHINGTON (CP) — The spectre of West Germany wheeling and dealing in step with France's President de Gaulle has arisen here. The fears arise from two calculated United States moves which have caused a chill in the hitherto-warm accord between Washington and Bonn. President Johnson, in moving towards better relations with the Soviet Union and in the hope of reaching agreement on curbing the spread of nuclear weapons, seems prepared to make use of West Germany in the bargaining. Bonn fears that its hopes of reunification with East Germany may be expendable. It is established Soviet policy that Germany be kept divided as a safeguard to the western Soviet frontier. West German aspirations for a bigger nuclear voice, once encouraged by the U.S., also seem likely to become bargaining material. GIVES FISCAL REASONS American relations with West Germany have been cooled, too, by hard bargaining about the West German contribution to the financing of American and British military establishments in West Germany. Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's grave domestic political problems owe something to the U.S. actions. Erhard has been a faithful

FEEL LET DOWN

What follows could be a resurgence of sentiment friendly to the calculated independence of de Gaulle. That would follow West German pique at having, in its view, been let down by the U.S. Republican Senator Thurston Morton of Kentucky put the U.S. fears into words Monday in elaborating on a Republican-financed poll purporting to show that Europe thinks existing American foreign policy has veered away from peace compared with the days of Presidents Kennedy and Eisenhower. Morton said Johnson should reverse a policy of neglect toward Europe and call a NATO summit conference. In the general American view, one de Gaulle is bad enough and de Gaulle with a West German cohort is unthinkable.

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Our Yesterdays

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (November 3, 1941) Sir Archibald Wavell, British Commander-in-Chief in India, arrived in Singapore apparently to check on the adequacy of Malayan defences before concentrating a major part of his military strength in or near the Russian Caucasus, said informed quarters. Britain's growing anxiety about German gains in Russia was reflected in this trip, and also in former War Secretary Hore Belisha's call for "some precise military action, some muscular effort," which would break "the grip now fastened on the throat of Soviet Russia." TEN YEARS AGO (November 3, 1956) The death toll at Springhill stood at 13 dead, seven injured and 113 missing. Fears mounted among the hundreds who waited for news that it would be Nova Scotia's worst mining disaster. Rescue attempts were held up when a rescue crew was forced to seal off a mine section where fire threatened a second deadly explosion. The draggermen then had to wait several hours while fumes cleared.

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