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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 6 TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1962

Sill In Suspense

Prime Minister Diefenbaker's 35-minute meeting last Friday with Opposition Leader Pearson was taken as evidence that the election date was very close at hand. Mr. Diefenbaker, however, observed that he has had several private meetings with Mr. Pearson in the past. Their last previous meeting was on the 17th or 18th of last week, without the publicity attending Friday's talk, and they discussed international affairs. On this occasion they admitted to having talked of many things—the election included—but what was decided, or what Prime Ministerial decision was conveyed to the Liberal chief, remained off the record.

However, backbench MPs of all parties now believe an election is imminent and Mr. Diefenbaker has roused his political audiences to full campaign pitch, stopping short of saying when the contest will be held. But the Government does have a large part of its election pledge legislation still before the Commons, much of it in the early stages of passage. This includes retiring senators at age 75 and paying pensions to present senators who will be retired, setting up an independent commission to undertake redistribution of Commons constituencies on the basis of last year's census, bills to protect Canadian products from U.S. competition, and the whole of the new budget.

One of the key questions to be decided by the Government is whether it wants this legislation passed before the election, or allowed to stand over for reintroduction at the next session, assuming it will be re-elected with sufficient majority to put it through Parliament. Meantime, Parliament is on edge, tempers are frayed, and even the question of when the Easter recess is to start has taken on political overtones. The sooner the suspense is ended the better.

Lapsed Reform

"You are old, Father William," the young man said. "And your hair has become very white; And yet you incessantly stand on your head—Do you do it, as you were wont to do, when you were a lad?"

Should the Senate reform bill pass and become effective after the election, members of that august body will find themselves out in the cold at 75. There will, of course, be compensation in the way of comfortable pensions, but their careers as parliamentarians will be over. The question will then arise, what about the Commons? By what law of nature are MPs at 75 better fitted, physically and mentally, to discharge their duties than Senators of the same age? By all accounts, MPs work much harder than their Upper House counterparts, which would seem to imply that they should be retired earlier. But Prime Minister Diefenbaker has no reform measure in store for them.

At present there are four sitting members in the Commons over 75. On the Liberal side there are 79-year-old J. George Ratelle (Lafontaine), the oldest member in the House, and 75-year-old Joseph Adolphe Richard (Saint-Maurice-Lafleche). Richard, a member since 1949, is retiring from politics at the end of the current parliament, so he doesn't count in this comparison.

On the Government side, however, there is 78-year-old J.M. Macdonnell (Toronto-Greenwood), still one of the ablest men in the House, and 76-year-old Robert McGregor (York East) with 35 years in Par-

liament. Both these gentlemen are planning to run again. And ten other members, seven of them Conservative, will reach their 75th birthday in the next parliamentary session, should they be re-elected—as most of them intend to be.

"You are old," said the youth, "As I mentioned before. And have grown most uncomely fat; Yet you turned a back-somersault in the play, What is the reason of that?"

In the Senate itself Mr. Diefenbaker, by his reform measure, will lose his own House leader, Senator Walter Aestline, who was 75 last September. Departing with him will be a number of senators who will have a lot of life in them, notably 84-year-old Senator Arthur Roubek, Liberal chairman of the Senate divorce committee and one of the most controversial figures in the Upper Chamber.

In all, 29 senators—26 of them Liberal—will be turned out to pasture. That is, if the Senate doesn't vote Mr. Diefenbaker's bill, and tell him to go jump in the lake. Or move an amendment, making their age-limit applicable to Commons membership as well. There's life in the old boys yet, and we're waiting to see just how they will handle themselves.

At this crisis in their affairs, the immortal lines of Lewis Carroll's "Father William" come pleasantly to mind, with its climax which we have saved for the end:

"You are old," said the youth, "One would hardly suppose That your eye was as steady as ever; Yet you balanced an eel on the end of your nose—How did you do so so awfully clever?" "I have answered three questions, and that is enough," Said his father; "Don't give yourself airs! Do not think I can listen to all that sort of stuff! Be off, or I'll kick you down-stairs!"

A Life Of Service

As a partner in the flourishing firm of Moore and McLeod, Ltd., the late Mr. W.A. Stewart carried heavy business responsibilities during most of his long life, yet he found time for a wide range of other activities of value to the community and Province. As a former member of the City Council, of the Provincial Legislature in which he represented the Fifth District of Queens for several years, of the Protestant Orphanage trustee board of which he was a long-time chairman, of the St. James Kirk Session, the Charlottetown Rotary Club of which he was a charter member, the Masonic Order, Oddfellows and other organizations, he set a fine example of disinterested service.

This sense of public duty was something Mr. Stewart rarely talked about, but it was a guiding principle in his career and stemmed from a deep religious conviction that service to others was the only true hallmark of success in life. The high esteem in which he was held was a tribute to his zeal in this respect, and also to the courtesy, kindness and integrity which marked his conduct at all times.

The community mourns his loss, but his memory will remain a treasure-poseession to a wide circle at home and abroad.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Here's a chance in a new kind of competition, just announced by the chairman of the Hat Corporation of America. "If you can figure out a way to get Khrushchev to stop wearing hats and Kennedy to start wearing them," he says, "the Hat Corporation will supply you with hats for life."

"Expansionist" plans in government building seem to be the order of the day. Premier Roberts has just announced that the Ontario government plans to build a huge complex of office buildings close to Queen's Park, at an estimated cost of \$50,000,000. He says it is to house 8,000 Ontario civil servants, scattered in other locations around Toronto.

In the improbable event of a victory for the New Democratic Party in the federal election, we may at last have a minister of agriculture from the eastern provinces. This innovation was suggested, at any rate, by Mr. Arnold Peters, Timiskaming, in a little-noticed speech on the supplementary farm estimates in the Commons recently. Such an appointment would, indeed, mark a sharp break with Liberal a-d Conservative practice. Since 1911 ministers of agriculture have invariably been drawn from the western provinces.



DOING THE ECONOMIC TWIST

BRITISH COMMENTARY

The Berlin Crises And Nuclear Threats

Not Yet A Black Tulip

Fame and fortune await the spirited husband for bulbs of newly developed varieties grown into wild speculation. At the height of tulipomania, rare bulbs were selling for as much as \$10,000 apiece. A single bulb was traded for a load of grain, four fat oxen, a dozen sheep, five pigs, two barrels of butter, 1,000 pounds of cheese, four barrels of beer, two households of wine, a bedstead with two chests of clothes, and a silver cup.

BELEIVED POSSIBLE

Some tulip fanciers believe that a lost tulip black tulip may one day pop open in somebody's yard.

Working With Schools

Fears that Canadians are indifferent to "growing threats of Socialism and Communism," or that a Communist bogey has found its way into the hands of our school children, are no excuse for using educational propaganda to disseminate political propaganda. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has no business introducing the controversial ideas of its Operation Freedom into public schools.

Dental Tablet May Clean Teeth In Future Days

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen THE FUTURE family may be able to clean their teeth with a tablet to dissolve in water. Mother will cut an apple when the meal is over and pass quarters of it to dad and the kids. Mother will cut an apple when the meal is over and pass quarters of it to dad and the kids. Mother will cut an apple when the meal is over and pass quarters of it to dad and the kids.

Melting The Wash Water

The Committee on Eskimo Affairs, which has ended its 13th meeting here, brings together representatives of the Eskimo people, the RCMP, the RCMP and the Hudson's Bay Company and officials of the Departments of Northern Affairs and Health and Welfare. It serves as a pool of experience to advise the Government on Eskimo housing and provides a liaison among those concerned with Eskimo affairs.

OUR YESTERDAYS

THEY (April 17, 1987) The cast of the Little Theatre play "Nocturne" leaves for Ottawa to compete for the Canadian Championship against representative casts from ten other regions. As is now well known, "Nocturne" was written by Harry Foster, teacher of West Kent School, Charlottetown, and was highly commended by the judges when the play was presented in Saint John.

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10 YEARS AGO (April 17, 1952) A Youth Day programme arranged through co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Education and Agriculture will be a new feature of the Provincial Exhibition this year.

WALKING AROUND H.C. writes: What is an ambulatory self-addressed envelope (acceptor's request)?

HEART FAILURE H.M.C. writes: Can a person who has been told she has heart failure ever lead a normal life again?

REPLY Yes, provided she eliminates mountain climbing, swimming long distances, and competitive sports from normal living. There are many good remedies for dropsy and for reviving the old pump when it falls down on the job.

REPLY Ambulatory refers to being up and about. Assume you refer to the treatment of a peptic ulcer when the patient is not confined to bed or a hospital.

BEARS PROUD NAMES THOUSANDS of varieties of tulips have been named since a new type can still command handsome prices. Growers specializing in new varieties guard them carefully until they are ready for the market.

Advertisement for Easter chocolates featuring 'Smiles for Easter' and 'Quality Chocolates Gift Wrapped'. Includes prices for various sizes and a 'Prestige Deluxe' price of \$1.50.

Smiles for Easter

QUALITY CHOCOLATES GIFT WRAPPED

Smiles for Easter... Pure Milk Chocolate Novelties

Advertisement for Smiles for Easter chocolates, featuring the text 'Pure eating enjoyment for the children... Easter Novelties of wholesome goodness and finest quality... specially good because they are made with pure chocolate using fresh milk from our own creamery. You can buy Smiles for Easter Novelties with complete CONFIDENCE.'