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Political Zephyrs Blowing

It looks like a vintage year for provincial general elections. The Conservatives led off successfully in Manitoba on May 14; Ontario is to follow on June 11 and the Social Creditors in Alberta on June 18.

There is now a report (from Liberal sources) that Premier Fleming may retire shortly after the next general election in New Brunswick, and that this event is not far off.

To the ancients, Rumor was a goddess, painted full of tongues which babbled incessantly and witlessly of matters true and false, fair and foul.

Cabinet Committees. Evidently there was some confusion at Ottawa with regard to the appointment and functioning of cabinet committees, for a question on the order paper has elicited the following information on the subject:

In the past, interdepartmental committees were set up from time to time by order in council but the present practice is for them to be established by the Cabinet, by the Treasury Board or by the minister or ministers most directly concerned.

Partners Again

The nuclear age brought at least one serious misunderstanding between the two partners in free-world defense. That arose from adoption by the United States of the MacMahon Act which prevented sharing of atomic secrets with Britain.

A British satellite, perhaps 1,000 pounds in weight, will have maximum capacity for space research, but no military purposes. To hoist it the British are considering using an American rocket, thus taking advantage of the offer the United States has made to the Committee for Space Research, an international body.

Hope is expressed in an American exchange that this endeavor will encourage other ventures in international cooperation in outer space where international competition has already had too many sinister overtones.

Standard Traffic Signs

A change that will be welcomed by motorists is to come into effect through the Joint Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. At a recent national meeting of this body, a uniform system of traffic signs got final approval.

The system was worked out cooperatively by traffic engineers from all ten provinces and from 11 major Canadian cities. It has, therefore, the prior approval of the government departments responsible for putting it into operation.

In the past there has been a great deal of confusion over traffic systems that differed widely not only from one province to another but from one city to another within the province.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The most easily understood statement of the month so far: "Naturally we would like all countries of the world to be Communist,"—Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

"The world has far more art than any lifetime can cope with but infinitely less honesty and intelligence than it urgently needs."—F.L. Lucas in "The Art of Living" (MacMillan)

The Roman Catholic hierarchy in France is considering revising the Church Catechism in an attempt to reduce highway accidents. The new question and answer will be "Can an automobilist commit a grave sin? Yes, when he kills himself or somebody else through imprudence, speed excess or disobedience of the highway code."

The Federal Government's plans for increasing the loans available to war veteran farmers, part-time farmers and commercial fishermen, to enlarge their holdings and equipment, should meet with the full approval of Parliament.

Some Western military leaders seem to think that if war should break out over the Berlin issue it could be limited to the conventional type. Sir Winston Churchill, whose views are certainly entitled to respect, does not agree with this view.



KITE FLYING ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Bargaining Bait At Geneva

State Secretary Christian Herter of the United States is using the prospect of a summit meeting as choice bargaining bait in Geneva. It's thought that this is the lure for which Russia's Premier Khrushchev hungers.

Such thinking was apparently in the background of Tuesday's report from Geneva, which told how Herter explained to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in a blunt way that President Eisenhower will back away from a summit conference unless the foreign ministers' talks go in good faith.

Later, the word was given out in Washington—by Herter himself, it is widely believed—that Eisenhower would say no to the summit under certain specific conditions. The second version of the U.S. view was tougher than the first.

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.

MRS. ROOSEVELT'S VISIT

Sir,—Judging from a recent issue of The Guardian there is a possibility that Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will visit our shores. Such a visit from this beloved woman known through the world for her good works down the years, would be greatly appreciated by our people who have followed her accomplishments in many fields of endeavor.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE

Sir,—In the Guardian of May 14th, there appeared an article which stated that the Provincial Government now plans Free Hospital Benefits (The statements are credited to Premier Matheson one wonders why not the Minister of Health, Dr. Bonnell?) It states that anyone paying \$6.00 for single \$12 for families before December 31, 1959, would be entitled to an additional free period of Hospital coverage for the months of Jan., Feb. and March, 1960, and that all persons paying three months premium and registering before August 31, 1959, would be insured against the cost of hospital service provided under the plan from Oct. 1st, 1959 to Jan. 30, 1960.

We all believe the Hospital Insurance plan a very good thing and we sincerely hope it will receive the support that will make it a success. Something which is going to be such a benefit to the people of the Province should be paid for from the very beginning at the rate set down. And why make such an important matter as Hospital Insurance a political football? There is to be an election this year. And this will be a very good vote catcher. Let the electors be wise. This Hospital Insurance Act must be carried out by any Government elected. It is to be regretted that such an important matter is put on the same level as some of our 'soap concepts.' Thank you Mr. Editor for space.

War Against The Muskeg

Stretching across the north of Canada is a mass of spongy, treacherous, ill smelling territory that has probably done more to hold back northern Canadian development than anything else.

From the air, much of this land looks beautiful. The sun may reflect upward in blinding flashes from thousands of small lakes and pools, between which twist delicately colored strips of land—blue, red, brown, purple.

Muskeg—for that is the land below—covers 500,000 square miles of Canada, an area bigger than France, East and West Germany and Greece, all lumped together.

It has cost Canada countless millions of dollars. The petroleum industry alone has lost an estimated \$100 million as a direct result of muskeg. Seemingly barren and dead, it is an almost impenetrable barrier to the north.

BLACK AND SMELLY

Muskeg, a mixture of water and living and dead vegetation, is largely black, smelly, peaty muck which breeds insects and bogs down everything from horses and dogs to earth moving tractors.

At a recent conference called by the National Research Council's associate committee on soil and snow mechanics, a muskeg expert made these predictions: Within 15 years, cities will be springing up all over the far north largely because of our defeat of muskeg.

West Indies Pirate Lair

The National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution, in cooperation with the Government of Jamaica, will sponsor an expedition this summer to explore the submerged ruins of Port Royal, Jamaica, Dr. Melville Bell Grosvenor, president of the Society has announced.

Once the home base of buccaneer Henry Morgan and, his men, Port Royal was reputed to be the "wickedest city in the world" when an earthquake toppled it into the sea on June 7, 1692.

Edwin A. Link, deep-sea explorer and inventor of the Link Trainer, will lead the expedition. Headquarters will be aboard Mr. Link's new 91-foot oceanographic research ship, Sea Diver II, recently launched in Quincy, Mass. It is the first ship designed and built especially for underwater exploration.

Family Can Aid Stroke Victim

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D. RECOVERY from a stroke is the rule, not the exception. Winston Churchill and the famed scientist, Louis Pasteur, are prime examples. Pasteur did some of his best work during the 27 years after he had suffered a severe stroke.

Very often, however, this recovery is a long process and it usually passes quite a burden on the rest of the family. Rather than give advice for stroke victims to follow, today I would like to pass on a few tips to their families.

WILL TO RECOVER. Any person who has suffered a stroke, no matter how severe, must have the will to recover and the desire to be independent, or improvement will be extremely slow.

It is up to you, his family, to encourage him, to show confidence in his improvement and to let him do things himself as much as possible.

Be prepared for some changes in his personality. Maybe he will be more irritable, more easily frustrated. He might not be able to keep his attention focused on any one thing for very long.

Perhaps he will laugh or cry without any apparent reason. It might seem that he doesn't particularly care about regaining his speech, if he has lost it. Speech training, incidentally, should be begun as soon as possible.

Be careful not to frustrate the patient with tasks that are too difficult. Don't expect too much from him.

It may take him a long time to shave, brush his teeth or even comb his hair. But if he can do it, let him, no matter how long it takes.

Be sure to praise him for each successful effort. And don't you become discouraged if he falls frequently. He'll make it eventually with your help.

It is a great boost to his morale if he feels useful. So don't put him on the sidelines and expect him to occupy himself with radio or television.

Make him a part of the family activities, help him keep in contact with the world as he knew it before his attack. Help him pursue old hobbies or develop new ones.

In short, help the patient help himself. QUESTION AND ANSWER Mrs. R.: I am a shut-in because of a fear that something dreadful will happen to me if I leave the house. I have high blood pressure and a heart condition.

Can you suggest something to help me overcome this fear? Answer: See your physician who can recommend a psychiatrist so that the cause of your fear can be determined.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 20, 1934) Mr. T.D.A. Purves, Halifax, is in the province at the present time investigating for the Dominion Government various proposed projects for unemployment relief.

Several schemes, including highway building projects are being looked into, but the whole matter is still in the state of investigation. Up to the present P.E.I. has been continuing this year the unfinished unemployment projects begun last fall.

The officers of the P.E.I. Light Horse tendered a complimentary dinner to their newly appointed Honorary Colonel, His Honour Lieut. Governor DeBlois at the Canadian National Hotel Saturday night. Lt. Col. F.I. Andrew, officer commanding, welcomed their new colonel and proposed a toast in his honour.

TEN YEARS AGO

(May 20, 1949) It is reported unofficially that and other nations, who in exchange return us bars and cakes of gold, wedges and pipes of silver, pistols, pieces of eight and several other coins of both metals.

Port Royal's reputation for wickedness was well earned, Dr. John Oliver La Gorce, now Vice Chairman of the National Geographic Society, once reported. "History and legend call Port Royal the pirates' Babylon and the wickedest city of its day," he wrote. "Here in many a curious and seabitten craft were brought the treasures of the seawolves of yesterday. Here swaggered the sea rovers laden with bloodstained plunder, who harried the tropical seas with the skull to the breeze."

TO SEEK ARTIFACTS

It will be the mission of the National Geographic-Smithsonian Institution-Link Underwater Archeological Expedition to recover as many artifacts as possible. National Geographic-Smithsonian Curator of Naval History who is taking part in the expedition, believes that the discovery and precise dating of important 17th-century relics will be of compelling interest to archeologists, historians, and antiquarians.

Other members of the expedition will include Marion Clayton Link, author and explorer, who will prepare the official chronicle of the project for publication in the National Geographic Magazine, and Luis Marden, National Geographic writer, explorer-photographer who discovered the remains of H.M.S. Bounty off Pitcairn Island in 1957.

What remains of Port Royal above water today is a small village on the outskirts of Kingston. Near by is Fort Charles, which the British naval hero Horatio Nelson commanded before he was 21 years old.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Highways Minister Gagliardi is perfectly right when he says surveys show that 65 miles an hour is the safest highway speed. He's also right that 35 mph on high-speed highways is the worst speed for causing accidents. These findings, however, must be applied where they belong. They're based on studies of leading U.S. highways. If applied by guess-or showoff pride-to B.C.'s rebuilt highways a 65 mph limit could be murderous.—Vancouver Province

In this organized age, when the nation's youth has at its disposal an infinite variety of planned, supervised sports and recreational programs, it is refreshing to read about the increasing popularity being enjoyed by a youth movement which for the past fifty years or so has placed the accent on self-reliance. The 1958 annual report of the general council of the Boy Scouts Association in Canada provides the proof. During 1958 the Cub and Scout movement increased its membership across Canada to 227,300 from 209,200 an increase from the preceding year of 8.6 per cent.—Regina Leader Post

The Provincial Government through its Industrial Corporation, is acquiring a 200-ton motor vessel equipped with refrigeration for the Newfoundland trade, and that the boat will be in service early in June. Meat, poultry and other perishable products will be handled by the service.

It was learned last evening that Mr. Donald O. Stewart, Summerside, was appointed at a recent meeting of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders Association as their representative at the second meeting of the international conference of fur breeders to be held this year at Oslo, Norway, on July 18th.

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From La Paz, Bolivia, comes word that a newspaper office there has been machine-gunned; thus reminding us that despite some frustrating days we're pretty well off up here after all.—Ottawa Journal

Some of the enumerators for the forthcoming Ontario provincial election have been met this week by chip-on-the-shoulder householders who mistook them for census sleuths seeking information on total income and fertility.—Ottawa Journal.

MAXIMS

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.

When I have fears in Europe, once, on the grand tour of tears I followed you, John Keats, you and your fears the whole hard, futile way from Hamstead Heath to Rome; your room of death, your home in death.

I leaned one full red flower against the stone — that frail white stone on which no name is shown — and, riding back, I saw not Roman streets through trolley windows, but your face, John Keats.

My tears, your fears, were for an unfilled page; but, now that I have lived long past your age, I ask: is it more frightening to die; the page unfilled, the quill not nearly dry.

than to be marching, hale of limb and lung, for years behind the coffin of your song? —Aaron Kramer in the New York Times

The Age Old Story

God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

Conserving Our Open Spaces

Why should we be so pensive and trouble of preserving open spaces and providing parks? Because life depends upon it.

The scampering of a squirrel, the ploughing of a worm, the flight of a bird, the honey-sugaring of a bee—all these play their part in regulating the natural machinery of fertility and growth.

The protection of trees on our watersheds is essential to the collection, storage and distribution of water, without which we could not live.

We admire the wild flower for its beauty, painted by myriad artists, each with his own special skill, but the plant has a usefulness far more substantial than its aesthetic appeal. "When," said C.F. Kettering, Vice-President of General Motors, "a man comes to me and says, 'All of the major problems of science have been solved'—I like to ask him the simple question, 'Why is grass green?'"

The green leaf is the fundamental link between life on earth and the energy of the sun. By means of their green stuff—chlorophyll—plants are able to manufacture their own food from raw materials they gather from the air and soil. Animals lack this ability and could not exist without the food-producing plants.

Everything that has life, from the bird long that wakes us at dawn to the philosophy that stirs our minds as we linger by moon-

light on a beach or a hilltop, is built of the product of green plants.

How close is the affinity between human beings and the trees, grass, shrubs, and flowers we wish to preserve in our open spaces? It is closer than most people realize. We may as Donald Culross Peattie put it in his book Flowering Earth, lay our hand upon the smooth flank of a beech and say: "We be of one blood, brother, thou and I." Because the one significant difference in the two structural formulas is this: the hub of every haemoglobin molecule in man is one atom of iron, while in chlorophyll, the green stuff of the plant leaves, it is one atom of magnesium.

In earth's long history one species after another of animal and plant has disappeared, and one culture after another has passed to oblivion, because of its inability to adjust to environmental change.

Today it is necessary for mankind to regulate his use of resources and to manage earth's remaining capital more creatively if he is to survive.

We can adapt ourselves understandingly if we go into our open spaces, to learn by personal experience in field and forest, on mountains and beside the streams that mankind is dependent upon the living resources of the earth and must do his part to conserve them.

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