

THE GUARDIAN

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The Presidential Prospects

The casual Canadian observer of the contemporary political scene in the United States might be tempted at first glance to imagine that General Eisenhower and Senator Taft were the only contestants in the forthcoming struggle for the Presidency. While this circumstance may be a fair token of the way the political winds are blowing in the United States, for both Eisenhower and Taft are candidates for the Republican party nomination, it provides a completely unreliable picture of the actual presidential prospects.

There are in fact at the moment no less than seven Republicans with their hats in the presidential ring, and four Democrats. The primaries, as they are called, are in a sense campaigns among political figures in each of the two parties for the privilege of being candidates when the time comes in November to elect a President. Although in no sense a struggle between the respective parties, the primaries nevertheless provide a fairly useful yardstick for measuring party prospects when the actual electoral contest finally takes place.

Eisenhower and Taft appear at the moment to be the favorites of the Republican party, with Taft having a slight edge on the General. Other runners-up in the Republican primaries include the redoubtable Governor Warren of California, who holds third place, Stassen of Minnesota, McKelvin, General MacArthur and General Wedemeyer.

Democratic favorites include that unpredictable southerner, Senator Estes Kefauver, Senator Richard Russell, Mr. W. Averill Harriman, and Senator Robert Kerr of Oklahoma. Democratic party bosses continue to frown upon Senator Kefauver, despite the fact that the party primaries thus far give him a substantial edge on his competitors. His electoral antics, it seems, have not been quite in keeping with the traditional concepts of the way a southern gentleman should conduct himself. His reputation as a crime-buster has displeased the political hacks.

What will happen when the party conventions are held in July is still anybody's guess. At the moment, however, Senator Taft, Republican, and Senator Kefauver, Democrat, hold the lead. Unless General Eisenhower makes some spectacular gains in the next few weeks, it would be a fair long-shot guess to say that the next man to occupy the White House would be Taft.

Rehabilitating English Oyster

Britain is following the lead of little Prince Edward Island in rehabilitating its oyster industry. Oysters in England today, says "London Calling", are a rich man's delicacy, but 100 years ago they were so cheap that their position was no higher than that of the whelk today. About ninety years ago Billingsgate Market alone handled 490 million oysters in a year. In 1946 the total production in England and Wales was only eight million—about one-sixtieth of what it had been. In 1870 American oysters were introduced on the breeding grounds in Essex. Their breeding was abandoned years ago, but the pests they brought with them have survived and are probably the biggest factor in the decline of the English oyster. There are two main pests—the American tingle and the American slipper limpet.

The tingle is a small whelk, much smaller than the British variety, and it eats young oysters, boring through their shells and absorbing the contents. Each tingle can eat an oyster in a day. Tingles are very mobile shellfish and hibernate in deep water, but in the summer they can be dredged up and killed. The other pest—the slipper limpet—is a shellfish which breeds in chains in great quantities all over the oyster grounds. It is supposed that it eats the same food as the oysters do, and it is very successful in competing for space and food with them. The oysters are literally smothered by beds of limpet shells. They can be dredged up and crushed and returned to the water as food for oysters.

In 1921 oysters on the European coasts died in enormous numbers. The reason has never been discovered, but it has been suggested that it was due to the dumping of TNT and other high explosives in the sea after the war. Before that, during the 1914-18 war, when no attention was paid to the oyster beds, the pests had multiplied very greatly. Then there was

the slump when money was scarce and few people could afford oysters. Then there was the 1939-45 war; and two very hard winters—the first in 1939-40, the second in 1946-47.

The research unit uses various methods to protect the oysters. It has its say about sewage and industrial effluence schemes. It uses dredges to bring up the oysters and clean them and resettle them in the sea. It uses the insides of egg boxes, coated with lime for the sprat to settle on, and it sometimes settles the oysters in salt-water ponds for a season to keep them out of harm's way. It has found out how infected oysters may be cleansed of typhoid fever.

The unit has been working since 1947 and has been able to record a steady improvement in the quantity and quality of oysters since then. One of the scientists is convinced that it is not impossible that oysters may become once again a common article of diet in England, but that will not be for twenty or thirty years.

Pull Over For The Fire Engines

It should be instinctive with every driver to pull over to the curb and leave a clear street when the siren is heard of a fire-engine rushing to save lives and property. All too often the sound of the siren is taken as a signal to drive rapidly in the same direction as the fire-engine. The approach and immediate neighbourhood is apt to be choked with cars and people on foot. Drivers are even known to cross hose lines to the peril of equipment and the men using it.

Our volunteer fire-fighters do a wonderful job at the risk of their own lives and limbs and at the sacrifice of time and sleep and many of the comforts and conveniences which they could otherwise enjoy. The very least which we can do in return is to avoid making their task more difficult and dangerous.

When a call goes in to the Fire Station every second is vital as the equipment speeds to the scene. Failure to give a clear passage is not only a punishable offence, it may result in a delay which could have fatal results.

EDITORIAL NOTES

School closing is a joyous time for all, except possibly the mothers who can no longer count on having a certain amount of time to themselves.

William IV died this date 1837 and was succeeded by Victoria. His reign had seen the so-called Radical principles supplant solid Toryism, the passing of the Reform Act of 1832, the abolition of slavery, passing of a Poor Law and legislation enacted for the protection of the worker.

Concern is expressed at the decline in housebuilding. From 1948 to 1950, Canadians built houses at an annual rate of 94,800. Last year 72,000 were built. And estimates for 1952 run as low as 55,000 to 60,000. This is a disquieting situation, and calls for some explanation.

The one dollar a day recommended by the now Chief Justice Isley as compensation for treatment in Japanese P. O. W. camps does not seem excessive, although ex-enemy assets in our hands are inadequate to meet even minimum claims. The Prisoners of War are entitled to compensation for the degree to which their treatment fell below that called for by the Geneva convention.

The sixth Overseas Scots Reunion will take place in Pittencrieff Glen, Dunfermline, on Tuesday, June 24. Four planes, named Dunfermline, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, will carry 160 Scots from Montreal to Prestwick Airport. One plane will leave each day on May 28, 29, 30 and 31. It is expected that several thousand people will attend the reunion in Pittencrieff Glen. During the weeks the Canadian Scots are in Scotland trips will be organized for them to all parts of the country. Edinburgh, Inverness and a sail on a Clyde steamer are expected to be highlights of the trip.

American women doll up so much—take it from an English clergyman—because they're worried all the time about losing their husbands. That, Canon Hugh C. Warner told the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce in London, is one bad effect of easy divorce laws. "As far as my information goes about America, one quite clear result has happened—it has caused a grave and constant worry all the time that the marriage will suddenly break up." Warner reported, adding: "The modern American wife tends to feel she must wake up early in the morning to get her paint and powder on before her husband wakes. Otherwise she feels she may not have him by the evening."

There's One At Our Doorstep Too!



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.

GET WELL AND STAY WELL

Sir.—MacLean's magazine has given much space to the subject of doctors, specialists, over-crowded hospitals and sickness in general. Also to the high cost of being sick and the danger of losing the savings of a lifetime in a year's illness, with ever increasing charges. One reason for shortage of rooms, is that many chronic invalids occupy beds that could have accommodated 35 others for a year at 10 days each. And one reason for hospitals being in the "red" is that too large a percentage are not able to pay.

The Age-Old Story

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple; and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. . . . When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand;) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains. . . . For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, no man could endure them. But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

'Impaired' Drivers

Between the sober driver and the obviously intoxicated driver is a middle stage from which come all those persons who are paying fines of \$75 and \$100 for driving while their ability to manage an automobile is "impaired" by the consumption of liquor. This is a comparatively new offence, under the law, intended to catch and punish the border-line cases, and the need for it seems to be demonstrated by the number of persons who ignore that wise admonition: "If you drink,

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) POST OFFICE DRAMA

"Whilst Mr. Williston Brown, junior clerk in the City Post Office, was stamping the letters taken from the boxes last evening, the clerks on duty were startled by a loud explosion. As soon as the smoke cleared away, Mr. B. found that the letter he had been stamping had been literally blown to pieces. His hands were scorched, and the stamper was gone from his grasp, while his fellow clerk, although 'White' was alive, unhurt, and thankful for his escape. "The blackened fragments of the letter were picked up. It was addressed to 'Saskatchewan Territory' but the names of the sender and address were both gone, so that it has not yet been ascertained who the guilty person is, or if it was a 'conspiracy to murder.' Several of the pellets or explosives contained have been found (only a part of them having ignited) and one of the clerks ventured to strike one of them a smart blow, when a loud report followed. If this 'infernal machine' had exploded in one of Her Majesty's mail bags between here and Saskatchewan the mails would possibly have been burned, if no worse result followed." —The Examiner, May 5, 1883.

The Poet's Corner

FROM WOODNOTES Knowledge this man prizes best Seems fantastic to the rest: Pondering shadows, colors, clouds, Grass-buds and caterpillar-shrouds, Boughs on which the wild bees settle, Tints that spot the violet's petal, Why Nature loves the number five, And why the star-form she repeats: Lover of all things alive, Wonderer chiefly at himself, Who can tell him what he is? Or how meet in human elf Coming and past eternities? —Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Falling Divorce Rate

The sharp decline in Canada's divorce rate since 1947 is cause for satisfaction. But gratification must be dulled by the knowledge that between 1940 and 1947 many divorces could be attributed to special wartime circumstances. The divorce rate may not continue its decline now that these conditions have disappeared.

The Age-Old Story

In 1940, the rate was 20.8 per 100,000 of population; in 1945, 41.9; in 1947, 65.3; by 1950, it had declined to 37.8, and by 1951 to 33.9. Reckoning divorces per 100 marriages, the rate in 1940 was 1.92; in 1945, 3.70; in 1947, 5.58; in 1950, 4.40; and in 1951, 4.15. By either count the 1951 rate was much higher than in 1940, being almost twice as large per 100,000 of population, and about three times as high per 100 marriages. The discrepancy is accounted for by the comparative growth in family formations since 1940. There is general agreement that the extremely high divorce rate in the last years of the war and for two years afterwards was due to extraordinary conditions. Too many very young couples, still incapable of mature judgment, were hastily married. For too many others, long wartime separation was a death blow to secure marriage. Moreover, money for costly divorce proceedings was comparatively easy to come by. The falling divorce rate is evidence of the more stable life made possible by peacetime conditions. But sufficient reasons still exist for breakdowns in Canadian family life to create uncertainty as to whether the divorce rate will continue to decline, or will level off about the present percentage. Of these reasons, the most serious is undoubtedly the shortage of housing at reasonable prices. Social workers and family court judges argue that young couples with one or two small children who live with their relatives or in lodging houses are trying to maintain homes under the most trying conditions. A second barrier to family stability is the post-war inflation, which has brought falling living standards to many couples and forced a rising number of married women to seek work outside the home. These two reasons alone can create almost intolerable tensions in many families. Despite the decline in the divorce rate since 1947 complacency is unwarranted. The rate continues relatively high, and constitutes a serious social and spiritual problem.

OTTAWA, June 19 —(OP)—The

Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Mines and Technical Surveys Department will place 84 parties in the field this summer, the department announced yesterday. A total of 19 geodetic, 43 topographic and 22 letal surveys parties will operate in areas throughout Canada. Approximately 150,000 square miles of territory will be mapped.

Notes By The Way

Two highway culverts weighing a ton each have been stolen from a Wisconsin town, obviously by some fellow who wanted to put away something big for a rainy day. —(Windsor Star).

We agree with the Toronto columnist who has stated "Let us hear no more about such punks as Boyd, Jackson and Suchan until they are brought to trial." Such exaggerated accounts of their being "perfect husbands, former athletes, nice, quiet fellows" tend only to make them appear as heroes in the eyes of immature, would-be tough teenagers! (Brookville Recorder and Times).

When Boy Scouts hold international camps they call them Jamborees. Older Boy Scouts, known as Rover Scouts, call their camp gatherings Rover Moots. From July 23 to August 1 next, the First Scottish Wee Moot will be held at Auchengillan. At least two Canadians are planning to attend. —(Boy Scout News).

The city hunter is a menace to the farmer. In the first place he is a trespasser. He is often discursive. He leaves gates open, breaks down fences, shoots at anything that moves, scares stock and is generally unmanageable. The farmer, on whom the cities depend on food, is within his rights in seeking some more efficient measure of protection against hunters than he now possesses. —(London Free Press).

It has been decided that the new Newfoundland University will be erected on what is known as Halliday's Farm situated off Elizabeth Avenue. The site is a commanding one and offers the landscape architect a great opportunity to surround the seat of learning with wide spaces of land to serve the purpose of playing fields, walks, of plots of flowers and tree-shaded grounds. The University will be a great adornment to St. John's. —(St. John's Telegram).

Increasing highway and traffic crashes focus attention on a California law whereby minor traffic violators, instead of being fined, are sentenced to a course of from six to ten hours driving instruction. Throughout the North American continent there is going on now a drive to educate motorists not only in safe driving but in the necessity for sportsmanship and individual responsibility. Driving courses in schools are part of this program. —(London Free Press).

We know many Canadians who have been misled while touring their own country by roadside signs that advertised wonderful fishing, boating and bathing facilities. Investigation of these promises has disclosed shallow, weed-infested and mud-bottomed ponds, sometimes reached by tortuous drives through a farmer's fields. There is no "sucker list" in the tourist business and visitors who find that conditions do not meet the promises never return, and the "bait" must be used to lure a new crop of uninformed visitors. —(Sudbury Star).

They ended the journey in the ditch. The three-month sentence for such tomfoolery, and particularly the suspension of the youth's driving licence for five years should effectively teach others that fun-and-games on the highway are dangerous, expensive and intolerable. —(Peterborough Examiner).

Member stores of Greater Cornwall Retail Merchants' Association will remain open until nine o'clock Friday night, June 13, to inaugurate a new era in this city's mercantile history. Night shopping hours from this week on will be confined to Friday instead of Saturday as for many years past. —(Cornwall Standard-Freeholder).

The shade of Mart Hooper is probably hovering uneasily around an exhibit of hockey sticks at the International Trade Fair at Toronto. The sticks were made by workmen of Salikot, Pakistan, who would like to sell their product in the heartland of hockey. The Pakistanis have plenty of self-confidence. At that they may have something not to be sniffed at alongside some of the sticks being worked off on youngsters. The sticks might look all right in store windows, but quickly give up the ghost and fly to tatters when put to the use for which they are sold. —(Winnipeg Free Press).

Judge Latchford of Wentworth, presiding at the general sessions of Peterborough County Court, sentenced an 18-year-old district youth to three months in jail and suspended his driver's licence for five years on a "sucker list" found guilty of a "macroscopic display" (the Judge's description) on the highway. In a truck he was driving he had jockeyed a newly-married couple by alternately speeding up and going slow to prevent the couple's car from passing or making any headway.

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