

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1952

The Quebec Election

Perhaps the best commentary on the victory of the National Union Government in Quebec yesterday is the slogan used by Premier Duplessis himself in the campaign: "You can't fight prosperity." It was pretty generally conceded that the Government, strongly entrenched and with a tremendous majority in the last House, had substantial budgetary achievements to its credit; though how much of this was due to the favorable position occupied by Quebec in the postwar industrial setup under which the smaller Provinces have been further penalized, would be difficult to determine. The Government, at any rate, capitalized on its "look-at-the-record" appeal, and could point to large expenditures in the field of agriculture, roads, schools and hospitals as well as to the soundness of the Province's finances.

Liberal leader Lapalme, who was re-elected personally, complained that the regime had been niggardly in its spending on health and welfare, corrupt in bartering away timber limits for contributions to campaign funds, unfriendly to labor and negligent in not attempting to develop a steel industry based on Quebec's iron ore resources. Some pretty strong charges were made by Liberal campaigners, and in an election-eve statement Premier Duplessis threatened libel action against newspapers which had carried a Liberal advertisement headed: "Millionaires in Seven Days with the People's Money." The charges concerned the exchange of lots in a colonization scheme in 1950 by Hon. J. S. Bourque, Quebec Minister of Lands and Forests. Whatever the merits of the case, Mr. Bourque seems to have had no difficulty in getting re-elected.

To outsiders there did not appear to be any dominant issue. On both sides the bitter autonomy controversy of 1948 was played down, a fact which, in view of its divisive effect on the country as a whole, the Montreal Star regards as highly commendable.

News From Canada

A Toronto report indicates that a "new" experiment for Canada is to be tried at Blind River, Ont., that of winter smelt fishing. It is usually Prince Edward Islanders who are accused of regarding Canada as something apart but in this case, at least, the Toronto report would indicate that this Island is not a part of Canada for we have been fishing for smelts in the winter time these many years.

It has taken Ontario a long time to learn that the early summer spawning run is not the best time to take the little silvery fish, although they may then be temptingly plentiful. Now, however, winter smelt fishing has come to "Canada."

There is still a difference, however. In this Province winter fishermen are content to pull in the little fish with a hook and line. The Blind River fishermen want to use pound nets, presumably in order to get rid of the Canadian smelts in as short order as possible.

B. C. Aftermath

That the C. C. F. and Social Credit have pre-empted and will continue to hold the left and right extremes of politics in British Columbia for some time to come seems certain. The interesting question, says the Winnipeg Free Press, is whether the wounded Liberal Party can possess its historic centre ground, live through the approaching storm and re-build itself from the grass roots. No one can answer that question yet.

The immediate problem of the surviving Liberals and Conservatives in the Legislature is to decide whether they should support either a C. C. F. or a Social Credit Government. In circumstances of stalemate—as for example in the Canadian Parliament of 1922 and 1926—it is usual for party leaders to confer and devise some modus operandi between them. No such conferences apparently have been held in B. C. Neither the C. C. F. nor Social Credit has any advance assurance of support from the Liberals or Conservatives.

Actually no such assurances can be given when Mr. Johnson is leader of the Government and of his Party only in name and cannot commit it, even if he wished to do so. Mr. Herbert Anscomb, the Conserv-

ative leader, defeated like Mr. Johnson in his own constituency, cannot speak for his Party. Moreover, both the C. C. F. and Social Credit have declared that they will make no bargains of any sort. Hence the members of the new Legislature will enter it blind and operate from day to day, with results in policy and in politics quite unforeseeable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Montague is enjoying the advantages of improved transportation. As a result of recent dredging operations the largest ship on record to load there has been taking on pulp wood.

Now that the Scottish Gathering is past it may be at least possible for strawberry growers to find the necessary pickers to save what looks like an outstanding crop.

One advantage of the ban on margarine is that the visitors to our hotels, homes and restaurants, don't have to ask for butter; and then taste it to make sure they are not being given something "nearly as good."

It was pretty warm yesterday for those who had to work throughout the heat of the day, but for those who were able to sit in the shade with a long cool drink at hand, it was comfortable. While those who could plunge at will into the waters of the Gulf, found it delightful.

The fact that British Columbia Social Creditors have selected a leader and Premier since the election is typical of the effect of the alternative vote. Had they a strong leader during the campaign he would certainly have been defeated and the party probably would not have won some of its seats.

Next month, John Cobb, holder of world's land speed record of 394.4 m.p.h. will attempt to raise the world's water speed record of 160.24 now held by the U. S. A. His speedboat is powered with a de Havilland Ghost gas-turbine, as used in the Comet airliner.

The Deer Park Baby Hut named after Deer Park United Church in Toronto was built and equipped by The Canadian Save the Children Fund and is maintained by the British Save the Children Fund. The Canadian Save the Children Fund, helping needy children in fourteen countries, appeals for support in way of money, clothing, blankets, diapers and soap.

Exchange tours of Air Cadets, in which Canada participated last year, will be greatly extended this year with Norway, Sweden, Holland and Denmark participating along with Britain, the United States and Canada. The scheme, sponsored by the Air Cadet League and the R. C. A. F., will bring fifty-nine cadets to this country while a similar number of Canadian cadets will tour the U. S., Britain and the Continent.

All our citizens will be shocked to learn of the unexpected passing in Toronto of Mr. B. Roy Holman, a former Mayor of Charlottetown and very widely known throughout the Province and the Maritimes. Mr. Holman had resided in Ontario for the past few years, but he retained his keen interest in Island affairs and had a warm welcome for old friends wherever he met them.

James Abbot McNeill Whistler, American painter, lithographer and etcher, died this date 1903. His work was little understood and in fact some nocturnes were so fiercely criticised by Ruskin in "Fors Clavigera" that Whistler sued for libel, winning one farthing. His painting, notably his portraiture, was balanced, fragile and exquisite, and occasionally this style, in his later work, became an end in itself.

Lord Lovat leaves for Cape Breton today. His brief stay here including, as it did, the Highland Gathering at Montague gave great numbers of Islanders a chance to know him and wish his early return. He yet has a Fraser Gathering at St. Ann's, Friday, a county Mod at Sydney on Saturday, a dinner at Antigonish on Sunday and the Pictou County Clan Fraser Gathering on Monday before heading for New York and his ship home.

The amazing progress in aviation is highlighted by the disclosure made this week of a U. S. Skyrocket research plane having flown more than 1,300 miles an hour, or twice the speed of sound. While the details have been kept secret, it is indicated that the plane is a turbo-jet with a rocket engine for the additional thrust to move into supersonic flight, and has wings swept back 35 degrees. Refrigeration equipment capable of cooling a theatre of 3,000 seats is required to keep the plane's metal from turning soft, and the pilot from being roasted alive.

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.

THE OVERSEAS SPECIAL

Sir.—The "Overseas" excursion train left Moncton, N.B. at 10.15 on Saturday evening, July 12 with 152 Maritimers on board. Four passengers from Boston were added to the number in Montreal, making in all a total of 156—142 adults and 14 children. On arriving in Montreal, the entire party were given a free bus ride of one hour, touching points of interest in the old historic city, needless to say this outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Mr. J. V. Dodds, of Edmonton, who is the efficient organizer and secretary of this excursion, came down to Moncton to travel west with the passengers. The train is made up of 12 tourist coaches equipped with splendid sleeping berths, one diner, one baggage car and two recreation cars. The presiding dignitary of the party is extreme courtesy on the part of the officials in charge. Mr. Dodds and his obliging assistant, Mr. Goodridge, are doing all in their power to provide entertainment for the passengers and make conditions as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

The conductor, who is Mr. Albert Bourgeois, with his ready wit provides ample fun for the party, all down along the line, those in charge have the best interests of the passengers well in hand. Each passenger wears an identification badge, giving the name and home address of the bearer. In this manner, practically all passengers form an acquaintance in an incredibly short time.

The entire company readily developed a feeling of "At Home" and thus new friendships are formed and a happy time for all is very much in evidence.

Delicious meals are served every day in the dining car by a capable staff who are real artists in their art. The passengers are put on by Mr. Dodds, and a hearty sing-song, in which all music lovers take part, is enjoyed by all, with Mrs. McFarlane of Beauce as organist.

The singing is led by Mr. Eliphale Howatt of Wiltshire, P. E. I., assisted by Mr. Goodridge of Edmonton, Hugh F. Morrison, Summerside, Geo. MacKay, Kensington. Also assisting is a goodly number of ladies, of special mention being Mrs. G. G. Morrison of Summerside. It is but fair to state that Mr. Howatt is well deserving of the name "Life" as he is recognized as the life of the party.

To Mr. Alex Wood of Albany, P. E. I., goes the honor of being the eldest gentleman passenger on board. Mr. Wood is 83 years of age and is making the trip to Vancouver to visit his sister who resides there. In point of age, Mr. Archie Woodside, of Malpeque, is a close second, he being 82. The youngest passenger is Mrs. Eva B. Pickering of Kensington, R.R. 2. The youngest child making the journey is Master Lawrence John Whitman, P.C.A.F., Chatham, N. B., who is 15 months old.

Summing up the excursion in a few words, the passengers are unanimous in their opinion that never was there an excursion train left the Maritimes carrying such a happy, satisfied bunch as is to be found on the "Overlander Special". All praise is due Mr. Dodds, and his officials for the outstanding manner and which he has conducted this, the first excursion of its kind from the Maritimes to Western Canada.

I am, Sir, etc., CHAS. S. MACKAY

Written en route and mailed at Winnipeg, July 15

WESTERN FEED GRAIN

Sir,—In the course of your Friday feature "Among the Farmers", I note that, on July 28th and 29th, "representatives from member organizations of the C. F. A. will meet in Ottawa and thresh out if possible a solution to the question of distributing Western grain in the Eastern Provinces"; also, that "the Western farmer is satisfied that his position has been improved by State control marketing of coarse grains. The Eastern feeder may certainly be excused for feeling that the marketing of State control should also apply on his behalf."

Now, Sir, this layman recognizes the validity in this latter viewpoint and that, in a sense, the above two groups—i.e. "The Western farmer" and "The Eastern feeder"—are looking at this problem from their respective sides of the feed-trough. Nevertheless it seems to me that there is a deal of common ground, involving the respective best interests of experts may be relied upon to spotlight these mutual interests at the Ottawa conference. It is a complicated problem, at the best; but, as a friend of the farmer, I can see ground in urging both of the above "East-West" specialists to get together and put it: "All your strength is in unity"—all your danger is in discord.

The Neighbors



The Poet's Corner

FROM SHADOW RIVER

A stream of silver gladness, Of filmy sun, and opal-tinted skies; Of warm midsummer air that lightly lies In mystic rings, Where softy swings The music of a thousand wings That almost tones to sadness. Midway 'twixt earth and heaven, A bubble in the pearly air, I seem To float upon the sapphire floor. A dream Of clouds of snow, Above, below, Drifts with my drifting, dim and slow. As twilight drifts to even.

—Pauline Johnson.

papers is thought-provoking: "A total nudging 30 million tons of feed grain, &c., have been shipped to Eastern Canada and British Columbia since the program was initiated in October, 1941. Total freight assistance paid on this volume was \$175,345,000."

From my viewpoint, to say the very least, it would be surprising if the above legislation has not rendered substantial benefits to primary producers at both sides of the "feed trough", either in terms of stabilized prices or continuity of supplies.

I am, Sir, etc., GREENACRES

BORDEN LIQUOR STORE

Sir,—Through your columns may I, too, add my protest to the opening of still another liquor outlet in our Province, this time in the town of Borden.

When the issue of Government sale was clearly stated some years ago in a political campaign, the Conservatives, who espoused the liquor interests, were defeated and the Liberal Party came in on a dry platform. Since then it has become increasingly evident that we were sold down the river. The liquor interests went underground but continued their nefarious activity. The issue, in succeeding elections, was never clearly defined but by deceit and camouflage, inherent in the traffic, the wool has been pulled over the eyes of our legislators until their vision has been completely obstructed. "Where there is no vision the people perish."

We are perilously near the situation in Hitler's Germany when right-thinking citizens could find no effective means of protest. We were warned recently by a prominent speaker, that due to the loss of moral fibre, our civilization is on its way out. In the turning of a Boy Scout hall into a liquor store we have the latest demonstration of this probability. The lights are fast going out! Let us awake before darkness falls. Rise up, O men of God, His Kingdom tarries long. Bring in the day of Brotherhood And end the night of wrong. I am, Sir, etc., WILLIAM R. CLARK, North Wiltshire.

Old Charlottetown

FIRST DOG TAX

What appears to have been the first dog tax to be imposed in this Province was enacted at the Legislative Session of 1836. A petition from "divers inhabitants of Charlottetown" complaining of the increase in dogs in the town as a serious public nuisance, and praying for some measure to obviate this increasing evil, was presented. While the House was considering the further request for a "fair and equitable tax on dogs kept within the said town and its vicinity," another petition was received also from "divers inhabitants of Charlottetown," stating that the proposed tax would subject the petitioners to "great inconvenience, besides hazarding the safety of property," but suggesting an enactment making it compulsory on the owners of all vicious or mad dogs to destroy them.

The Legislature compromised on this issue by enacting that "every occupier of one entire or whole house in this Island shall be entitled to keep one dog, free of duty; but that the owners of all other dogs kept therein shall pay a tax of five shillings annually, for each dog so kept."

The Age-Old Story

The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun until the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

Venice Is Sinking

(Stratford Beacon-Herald) Venice has always been called romantic. Almost from the time it was founded until the appearance of Napoleon on the European scene, it was considered invincible. But it proved to be invincible only because no one had bothered to attack the place.

Napoleon made short work of it. The city became impoverished, in comparison with the time when it concentrated a vast portion of the wealth of the globe on its collection of marshy islands.

Recently the Mayor of Venice found it necessary to apply to the Italian Parliament for the several hundred thousand dollars needed to secure the houses from the damage of passing ships and the wash of high tides. The city of 173,000 is in real danger of sinking into the sea—cathedral, palaces and all. The city seems to have given up its age-long battle, and to be resigned to the fate of slipping back into the muddy sea it was built upon from. It was constructed as a safe refuge for the remnants of Roman power from marauding Huns, Vandals and Goths. The invaders from the North conquered all Western Italy, but the Eastern people refused to sur-

The Passing Scene

A fine editorial in a recent issue of this paper captioned "Two of a Kind" prompted me to write this article. Anyone who thinks at all about the ideological conflicts of our day (and who does not?) must be puzzled over the sympathy for the Communist cause shown by men like Dean Johnson and Dr. Endicott. I mention these two because their names are often in the headlines. But there are many others like them, men of more than average intellectual ability and who are deeply devoted to the welfare of their fellow-men.

One wonders by what process of reasoning such men have arrived at respect, let alone admiration, for the communistic way of life. Many of them like Johnson and Endicott are clergymen and presumably very much concerned about the condition of human society and anxious to do what they can to improve the lot of individual men and women.

It would be quite incorrect to say they are not sincere. But sincerity can be a vice as well as a virtue. The devil himself, according to all available reports, is very sincere, but hardly anyone every speaks a kind word about him on that account.

The Communist have shown plainly enough that, should they succeed in their plans for world conquest, the Churches would be the first institutions to feel the heavy hand of their fury. Strangely, this prospect never seems to occur to the Johnson-Endicott type of fellow travellers. Certainly it has little or no influence on their speech and actions.

Dr. Endicott is reported to have said that his interest in practical Christianity had a good deal to do with his present political bias, or words to that effect. This, of course, is an old story and nothing could be more pleasing to the masters of Imperial Communism. While they despise both Christian tradition and Christian practice, they are not above calling on both to further their own ends and purposes. They know well enough that the more they try to associate their doctrines with the social facts of Christianity, the more likely they are to win sympathy in this part of the world.

The surprising thing is that a lot of intelligent people fall for the obvious mistaken interpretation of early Christian history. I once heard the President-Emeritus of a well known American college "admit" that the primitive Christian Church was communistic.

Whoever thought up that myth in the first place certainly rendered a fine service to World Communism. There is not the slightest justification for it in the New Testament, and such records as we have of the first years of Christianity do not give it any credence. What the first Christians did have for a short period was a communal way of living. "They had all things in common" we are told. There was nothing whatever communal about it, and it certainly had no political significance. Ananias and his wife were condemned not for holding back some of their property.

But now it appears that the Atlantic Sea that sheltered them will bring down their houses. Venice may be only a legend, in a few more years.

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