

A Basic Issue

Sifting the wheat from the chaff in this election campaign is a chore which, in its final analysis, every elector must do for himself.

Speaking at Kirkland Lake the other day, Prime Minister Diefenbaker warned that Canada could not expand its social security programs unless Canadians increased their efforts at production and tightened their belts.

It's blown over now; but Mr. Pearson must have had a bad moment when he first saw that Red embassy announcement. After all, wasn't he the fellow whose stock the Commies had boosted by opposing his appointment as successor for Mr. Hammarskjold in the United Nations?

Red criticism of any party or party leader, especially on such an issue as nuclear arms, is good for votes in any part of this country, and it didn't take the Government's opponents a split second to figure that out.

That's a corny metaphor, but we'll let it stand. It's the corniest incident that has come to our notice in the whole campaign, and to describe it in other terms would be a sheer waste of words.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. Douglas has accused Mr. Pearson of trying to "weasel" his way into office, which isn't very nice. But Mr. Pearson can comfort himself with the reflection that the NDP leader has said much worse things about the Tories.

Winning Over Malaria

It is encouraging to note, from a World Health Organization (WHO) report, that steady progress is being made in the fight against malaria, a disease which has plagued man for centuries. The organization started an all-out attack in 1955. Since then, the number of people who annually fall ill from malaria has dropped from an estimated 250 million to 140 million. The number of malaria deaths has been reduced from about two million to one million a year.

The 423 international experts in WHO's malaria eradication division work with thousands of helpers all over the world. They spray millions of huts and houses, check millions of blood samples and administer drugs. Helpers carry the treatment into jungles and steppes from Brazil to the Ryukyus. They often have to overcome local resistance, superstition and apathy.

But the results of their efforts have been gratifying. In Ceylon, more than a million people now live in an area that was once infested with malaria. Twenty-one infested towns in the Philippines were cleared and open to settlement. Rice cultivation has increased substantially in former malaria areas in Greece, Morocco, Indonesia and Ceylon.

Malaria is characterized by high fever, weakness and often fatal liver ailments. It was known in biblical times, and for thousands of years people were helpless against it. It wasn't until less than 90 years ago that the main disease carrier was discovered—the female anopheles mosquito.

WHO officials believe that most of the malaria zones in Latin America and Asia will be cleared within 10 years. It will take longer to clear those in Africa. One of the biggest problem areas is Communist China, which is not a member of the organization and provides no information on what it is doing to combat the disease. A large percentage of the Chinese refugees who recently fled to Hong Kong reportedly had malaria.

Pre-Election Jitters

That was fast footwork on the part of the Diefenbaker Government's opponents in blasting the Soviet embassy's criticism of the Government for its alleged preparation of Canada for nuclear armament. The Prime Minister got his retort in first, of course, calling it "colossal effrontery". But Mr. Pearson was right behind him in denouncing it as "arrogant and clumsy"; Mr. Douglas scored its hypocrisy and Social Credit Leader Thompson damned it as "interference with a Canadian election."

Premier Khrushchev can put that in his cigar and smoke it. He should know that it's one thing for our politicians to quarrel like cats and dogs among themselves about our nuclear arms policy—or lack of policy, as some of them keep calling it—but they want no exhortations from the sidelines.

It's blown over now; but Mr. Pearson must have had a bad moment when he first saw that Red embassy announcement. After all, wasn't he the fellow whose stock the Commies had boosted by opposing his appointment as successor for Mr. Hammarskjold in the United Nations? What did they mean by singling out Dief for a similar honorary award? Mr. Douglas, too, on whose party handwagon the Reds have been trying to climb in Ontario, must have felt that he could use this accolade to much better advantage than his rivals.

Red criticism of any party or party leader, especially on such an issue as nuclear arms, is good for votes in any part of this country, and it didn't take the Government's opponents a split second to figure that out. The bee-line they made for the nearest microphone bespoke the urgency of the case. This promising Tory windfall had at all costs to be nipped in the bud!

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COMMON MARKET WONDERLAND

HARD TIMES IN CHINA

Fresh Stocktaking In The Far East

United Kingdom Information Service. They are anxious to get away while they still have the strength to undertake a Journey. The news of the Chinese food shortage has caused a fresh crop of panic in the Far East.

There has been no stranger happening in recent times than the sudden flow of refugees from Communist China into Hong Kong. The flood began suddenly towards the end of April and continued for a month, apparently with the connivance of the local Chinese authorities. It stopped just as suddenly about the end of May.

One explanation put forward is that a part of the movement, which is thought to be taking place throughout the whole of China, has come not from the Chinese districts but from the areas which face by a terrible disaster, is demolishing its urban economy.

This was made clear in the resolutions passed at the recent meetings of the National People's Congress, the first meeting in China to a national parliament. It was decreed that the number of members of the Congress to the towns three years ago should be sent back to the villages.

It seems likely also that many of the genuine peasants among the refugees are in flight not so much from starvation today as from privation to come. They have an instinct for famine conditions.

It is also becoming clear that the terms, when they do emerge, concerning the price of prohibitive price on Britain's exports.

More talks will probably be arranged during the fall months and several observers think it won't be until December that the terms of entry for Britain become clear.

British officials remain vaguely optimistic. Their main worry is the uncertainty of the French attitude and General de Gaulle's real motives.

With only two more ministerial meetings scheduled in London before the Autumn, Prime Minister Macmillan's hopes of having a firm foundation for the Commonwealth prime ministers in September look slim.

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Pleasure in Idleness

Without effort, delightfully useless activity like children's play, has become a major constructive nonsense in the life of every man and woman. Yet we have grown so distrustful of spending free time freely we have turned leisure into a grim pursuit of guilt and self-betterment.

Our problem is not so much how to use leisure, but how to be leisurely in its meaning. Let a man look up from his work from time to time and follow the lead of his fellow workers. Let himself not only be carried, but will return to the man's own leisure, but how to be leisurely in its meaning.

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Doctor Answers Coma Questions

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen. COMA IS A state of profound unconsciousness in which the individual cannot be aroused by calling, shaking, or other stimuli. In a respect, it is the end result of a variety of infections, injuries, poisonings, and other conditions.

A Chicagoan asked us several questions on comas. "Does the person die or live? Is there any perceptible breathing?" "Does the person die or live? Is there any perceptible breathing?" "Does the person die or live? Is there any perceptible breathing?"

There are times when a physician should be called and this is one. Since the cause of coma varies, the physician needs help in determining the cause of coma and what occurred before the individual lapsed into unconsciousness.

The previous health status also must be considered, with particular reference to kidney disease, high blood pressure, injury, diabetes, epilepsy, and possibly other conditions. All of these may terminate in coma and prompt treatment may save life.

The same can be said of the pulse and blood pressure. The pulse may be slow, weak, or irregular. The blood pressure may be high or low.

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Speaking for Myself

While many election outpourings are being held, plenty heard here on a island, have been of a kind to say, "Oh, the hell with it."

There is, of course, plenty of provocation for them when they see the "liberal" who "they're all alike" — that "what they don't make a difference" — that "I'm all playing a 'dirty game' that 'they all twist and distort the facts so much that there's no way of choosing between them."

No matter how small little truths may be found in such declarations, however, this is a larger truth. The case for democratic procedures does not rest upon the proposition that they are perfect. It rests upon the fact that they usually work pretty well.

And the strangest yet priceless feature of democratic procedure is that it can be used by balancing platitude, abject flattery, and a claim against valid claim, vengeful trick against vote-getting, and a show of force against a show of force.

Meanwhile, it remains a very tough world so that nothing terribly shocking, or even surprising in the fact that much of politics, not only on the hustings but even in Parliament, is done in a rather low level of rough-and-tumble.

While the matter rarely is mentioned in polite society, it remains a fact that the process has been repeatedly recognized by many British leaders, to quote from the speaker, that success in politics can depend upon the "systematic organization of the opposition."

It happens that I have had a working relationship with two of these men, extending over more than 15 years, and I can assure you, confirmed admirer of the third for ever long.

I am unable to imagine that any country is in much danger of "going to hell in a bucket" when the worst that it faces is that it is going to have as its next Prime Minister either John Diefenbaker or Lester B. Pearson or (as an outside possibility) Tommy Douglas.

On the basis of personal feelings, I'd like to see all of them win. Since that is impossible, I take satisfaction in the thought that I can see three such men in the top, continuing to do about the best that can be expected of it.

Postscript

If the things I've said above have been satisfactory to you, who have grown gloomy about the workings of Canadian democracy, there's one more question I want to raise: Just when, if ever, before has Canada ever had a more successful democracy just fine.

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