

Not By Plebiscite

According to Social Credit Leader Robert Thompson in an interview in Toronto, "it is the responsibility of every member of Parliament to fight for what his constituents want." This is the popular view, and it probably accounts for more successes at the polls than any other line of approach. But its false doctrine, so far as our democracy is concerned, is that it is proclaimed heretical, and this is what the Ontario Intelligencer does in a pungently phrased comment.

No member of Parliament, says the Intelligencer, has any such responsibility. His duty is to fight for what he believes is in the interests of Canada as a whole—and to outline his beliefs as plainly as possible before the election so that voters can decide whether they want him to represent them in Parliament.

Any member who attempted to echo the wishes of the majority in his riding on any and every question would be remiss in his duty. If all members acted in this way, and if they were all seventh sons of seventh sons with the power to ascertain accurately the state of public opinion, we would have the equivalent of government by plebiscite or referendum.

This is in accord with the views expressed by that great statesman, Edmund Burke, in a speech in his Bristol constituents back in 1774. It is worth recalling Burke's words at this time, since one at least of our federal party leaders seems to be unfamiliar with them.

"Certainly, gentlemen," said Burke, "it ought to be the happiness and glory of a representative to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence, and the most unreserved communication with his constituents. Their wishes ought to have great weight with him; their business, unremitting attention. It is his duty to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions, to theirs; and above all, ever, and in all cases to prefer their interest to his own."

"But his unbiased opinion, his mature judgment, his enlightened conscience, he ought not to sacrifice to you, to any man, or to any set of men living. These he does not derive from your pleasure; no, nor from the law and the Constitution. They are a trust from Providence, for the abuse of which he is deeply answerable. Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices to your opinion."

Hopeful Prospects

For the first time in five years, notes the Financial Post, it is now possible to see a balance of payments deficit of \$600 million-\$700 million for Canada instead of \$1 billion or more—if we get decisive government. The preliminary trade figures for the last quarter of 1962 suggest that a basic turn is taking place. Seasonal factors to one side, exports are up and imports down appreciably from the quarter before. Given the continuing and salutary effects of the discount deal, this trend could continue through 1963 and out the commodity trade deficit by up to \$200 million.

Another reason to expect a smaller balance of payments deficit, in The Post's opinion, is that the spending of Canadian tourists abroad—and the frequency of trips

outside the country—is being slowed by the discount dollar and the lower exemptions on goods brought back. In 1963, this might cut up to another \$150 million-\$200 million from the overall balance of payments deficit.

Canada could also enjoy a relatively low interest rate and readily available credit—precisely the monetary climate needed to speed 1963's business recovery and aid in the creation of urgently needed new jobs.

Note is taken of the speed with which the Bank of Canada has moved within the confines of "austerity" to meet the needs of the domestic economy. The emerging trend, adds our Toronto financial contemporary, is that the Canadian economy appears to be on the brink of a new vigor and possessed of a drive. The devaluation of the dollar has greatly increased the underlying strength of the economy. This shift is away from foreign sources and to domestic sources. The prospect is for prosperity. But irresponsibility among those now polking on the hustings, or failure by the electorate to return a constructive majority government, could easily chip off the potential in the economy—and plunge Canada into a new crisis that would make last June's look like a tea party.

Undeserving Attacks

We are in full agreement with the Sarnia Observer when it remarks that one of the sad features of the current election campaign is the personal attacks upon both Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Pearson. Both the top New Democrats and the Social Credit spokesmen have been harping on this theme unpleasantly.

The people best qualified to decide whether men are gifted with leadership qualities are the members of their respective parties. The Liberals, seeking a successor to the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, chose Mr. Pearson as a Canadian of outstanding distinction at home and abroad. The fact that he failed to lead his party to victory in two national elections does not necessarily imply that he lacks ability to do so.

As for Mr. Diefenbaker, the record shows that there was a great deal more done in the last Parliament under his minority leadership than is generally acclaimed. This is probably because of the constant bickering that went on in the Commons, overshadowing the work accomplished.

Surely there are more potent issues in this election which need to be thoroughly aired without impugning the leaders of the two major parties. We must demand government which will tackle our economic problems courageously and we must learn to get along without money issues, emotionalism and political nonsense which could only lead to another unstable and splintered Parliament.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The province of Ontario has surpassed the Roman Empire in the extent of its highway construction program, according to Robert F. Leggett, of the National Research Council.

In the United States a congressional committee has been warned that the future needs of some large American cities for fresh water may be filled economically by de-salting the sea water. James K. Carr, under-secretary of the Interior at Washington, states that the use of large conversion plants in combination with thermal electric power plants probably could purify sea water at rates low enough to compete with other water sources.

Zafrulla Khan, president of the United Nations Assembly, had this to say the other day as a subject of concern to all of us: "At one time it was said that the world could not continue half free and half slave. We have realized the truth of that adage. It would be wise and beneficial if we were also to recognize that mankind cannot continue one part fed and three-quarters hungry, one-quarter well and three-quarters diseased, one-tenth basking in the light of knowledge and science and nine-tenths floundering in the morass of ignorance."

I HAVE A FEW RULES OF MY OWN



TOUCH FOOTBALL IN EUROPE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Campaign Warm's Up Across The Country

This election started like a turtle. Thompson or Real Coucette are "strangers" noticeably showing up either spurred by curiosity or else genuinely shopping around to see if Social Credit merits their support.

If the sympathies welcome given the US-Russia Prime Minister and his Canadianism proved a surprise of the early campaign, so too did the reception of Social Credit leader Bob Thompson on television.

"He's a doll!" exclaimed one Ottawa televisioner. "He's so sincere and I understood all about his policy." Typically, an older woman of prominent Grit ancestry and with her vote uncommitted for the first time in 40 years, scans the broadcast programs to note when she can see or hear Bob Thompson on the air.

EMPHASIS ON TEAM

The liberals have changed their campaigning methods. Mike Pearson plays the role of leader of army colonels and captains still vowing vengeance over what they regard as the betrayal of France in Indochina and Algeria.

PUBLIC FORUM

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A NEEDED SOCIETY

Since the first issue of this paper carried the good news of the reorganization of the S.P.C.A. in the form of the new Society, together with several of my good friends, have taken out membership in the society, thus assisting in a small way to help the organization get on its feet.

The arrest of Bidault and the "capture" of Paris National Resistance Argoud, believed to have been kidnapped in West Germany by the Gestapo agents, mark a further stage in the crumbling of illegal opposition.

WANTS OVERHAUL

Stanley Little, president of the National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE), said Saturday the country's labor movement needs a major overhaul—from the Canadian side. Saturday he told the individual union. He told an educational conference of the C.I.C. and the Toronto and District Labor Council labor requires a smaller number of larger unions.

FLYING DUTCHMAN RESTAURANT "Your Island Steak House" I am, Sir, etc. FRANK McARTHUR

Kuru Always Ends In Death

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen KURU is a fatal disease confined mainly to certain clans of the Fore people of New Guinea. This, malady, was unheard of before 1948, when an Australian patrol established contact with the Fore tribe. They were true stone-age peoples, according to a report in World Health, practicing ritual killings, sorcery, and ceremonial cannibalism.

The patrol leader wrote in his diary: "Proceeding SW across range, and down across a steep, rocky slope to a small village, near one of the dwellings, I observed a small girl sitting down beside the fire. She was shivering violently and her head was jerking spasmodically from side to side as if she was a victim of sorcery and would continue this shivering, unable to rest, until death over her while in a few weeks."

The Fore people are certain the disease stems from witchcraft. To physicians, it is a medical mystery. Heretofore it is blamed because the disease is limited to isolated tribes where intermarriage is common.

Degeneration of the central nervous system occurs, which leads to the trembling, head jerking spasms and psychosis. In some respects it resembles multiple sclerosis, but more and more, it resembles a venereal disease, scrapie, that attacks certain ruminants and that is a viral infection with a strong genetic trait.

The Fore people seek a remedy for Kuru and all victims die, usually less than a year after the onset of symptoms. The disease kills half the adult women and many boys and girls. The mystery has not been solved and it will take research.

Kuru is so prevalent it threatens to become a major problem of the Fore tribe. So many parents succumb, the care of orphaned children has become a major problem. The government has a building for these unfortunate children at the Lutheran Mission and a hospital exclusively for Kuru victims.

BIZZINESS AND AGE P.V.C. writes: Why do so many oldsters suffer from dizziness?

There are many causes of dizziness, some of which are common in the aged than in the young. On the other hand, certain reflex become less with the passing years. On rising from a sitting or reclining position, some people feel dizzy. The reflex that brings more blood to the brain is sluggish and the person feels woozy for a moment or two. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Dr. J. H. H. H.

FATTY TUMORS

G. H. writes: Fifteen years ago I had a fatty tumor removed from my arm. Now I have become more of the size of a pea and others as large as a nut. Will these lumps turn to cancer if they are not taken out?

REPLY: These tumors seldom become cancerous but their presence does cause a gain in weight. They are one fatty tumor after another. One is removed and another pops out somewhere else.

EASY LIVING

A.V. writes: Dr. tranquillizers cause a gain in weight? I am now 20 pounds since I started taking this drug.

REPLY: Yes, provided you were tranquilized to the extent of not wanting to do anything but eat and rest.

VENTILATING YOUR CONFLICTS

E. F. writes: How do you give yourself a mental purge every now and then, as suggested in your hint?

REPLY: Talk about your problems and air your spleen. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Everyone needs love, especially children.

ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT

OTTAWA (CP)—Lt. Col. Walter Garber of Bridgewater, N.S., and Kingston, Ont., will retire from the army this month. He will be replaced by the Civil Defence College, Antigonish, N.S., the army said Saturday. Mr. Garber has a long staff officer, with the directorate of military training at army headquarters.

PUBLIC FORUM

It's far better to live a little as we go along than to spend all our time getting ready to die. —Hull Reporter.

The man who tells a girl he has no intention of marrying makes a big mistake, as no girl will pass up such a challenge. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

If you are inclined to complain about the cold wintry weather, just remember there are no angels in heaven or in purgatory. —St. Catharines Standard.

At the rate we have been having Federal elections, it might be more economical for the Government to buy voting booths instead of merely renting them. —Ottawa Journal.

One advantage in being fish, compared with being people, is that their young don't wake them several times during the night yelping for water. —Sudbury Star.

Officials of the French national radio and television network have pointed out that announcers are making mistakes by translating English terms into French. Their recent bulletin points out that what is called Indian ink in Anglo-Saxon countries is known as indigo in French. Similarly, a tablecloth should be translated into French as a souper rather than as a tablecloth. —France Soir.

Truth About Devaluation

Northera Miner

Want somebody please explain to the poor, confused and embattled electorate that the 1961-62 devaluation of the Canadian dollar was a good thing—a mighty fine thing for Canada. In fact, and something that was long overdue! The battle lines are now being drawn for the coming election and the two major parties are busily promising to bring about a more sound health, not nuclear arms or other features of foreign policy, but principles of fair play, for some unexplained reason, both of them seem tongue-tied and overcome by embarrassment when it comes to explaining what happened to the Canadian dollar.

This is particularly strange as far as the Progressive Conservatives are concerned. They are the ones who ought to be making political capital out of the fact that they engineered the dollar back down to realistic levels after it had soared to perilous and unprofitable heights. The fact that the Conservatives are to be criticized on this score is not only because they did not accomplish the deed sooner, if they had, perhaps they could have saved the country from last spring's exchange crisis, but that's another story.

The point at issue is that the Conservative government did embark on a stupid policy of dislodging the dollar from its unjustified eminence. And...

The Poets Corner

MARCH SNOWS You have... the silent coming of the snows; Softly the white legions of the dead rain fall; Soon this cold army conquers all; Roads and towns, villages, all in pall.

The crystal bodies of the rain-fallen, Await the strange call of life on high; They cling to the yearning earth, entreating deep; The multicolored lives of things die; The silent waiting of my myriad host.

Reminds the Mother, Winter is a ghost; Soon to flee, wrapped in his sister's shrouds of snow; While March, grim, in his sexton, bids the winds to blow. —Wm. H. Donette Rollo Bay and Charlottetown

TEN YEARS AGO

(March 18, 1953) Rural women from all over the world will meet in Canada this summer when the Associated Countries Women of the World holds its seventh triennial conference at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, August 12 to 23.

Final vows were taken by Sister James Florence in far off Africa, when she made her profession for life in the Maryknoll Sisters. A native of Charlottetown she is a daughter of former Mayor James E. Blanchard.

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Quebec, \$11.25
Montreal, \$12.50

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