

For Stable Government

Whichever party wins the election, in all probability the Government of Canada will be in safe and capable hands. There is not enough difference between the policies of the Liberals and the Conservatives or between the capabilities of the two leaders to warrant undue concern over the outcome. At the present time public opinion polls favour the Conservatives by a considerable margin. A majority in Parliament of anywhere from ten to fifty seats is what they appear to indicate. But public opinion polls are tricky things; and the shrewd politician, while welcoming favourable reports, does not rely on them too heavily. Professional predicting is by no means an exact science.

There is still a considerable body of opinion in this country which sees another stalemate in the offing, to be followed by another period of unstable Government by one party or the other and, presumably, another election within a year or so. This would be most unfortunate; and, if it were to happen, it is possible that the Conservatives and the Liberals, weary of election campaigns, would decide to bury the hatchet for a few years and pool their strength in a Coalition. That would leave the C.C.F. as the official opposition.

Theoretically, perhaps, a Coalition Government—a ministry of all the talents—is as good as any and much better than one that is never sure of itself from one day to another. But what is good in theory is not necessarily and always good in practice. One faction or the other, making up the Coalition, is almost certain to long for the day when it can reassert its independence and is likely to devote much of its time and effort to that end; while the stronger group is never quite sure that expediency was necessary. Experience has shown that Coalitions work well for a time. But sooner or later weaknesses occur, followed by open disruption; and their last state is much worse than the first.

The hope is that in the present situation one party or the other will come out of the campaign strong enough to provide effective and stable government. We believe that that party will be the Conservatives, and that on the basis of their brief record in office under Prime Minister Diefenbaker they fully deserve support. Should there be a stalemate, however, then a Coalition may have to take over. Certainly it would be better than having an election every year perhaps for a decade.

A Different Picture

As pointed out yesterday, there is not a shred of evidence to support the charge made in the Legislature on Wednesday by Hon. Mr. MacKinnon that the Diefenbaker Government has been responsible for a decline in our groundfish exports to the United States. A clarifying statement has been made by our Federal Minister of Fisheries, Hon. Angus MacLean, which puts the situation in its true light. The U.S. quota of groundfish, fillets and blocks from Canada and all other countries, permitted at the reduced rate of 17 1/2 cents per pound as compared to the regular duty of 2 1/2 cents per pound, is calculated at 15 per cent of the average aggregate apparent annual consumption in the United States of these products for the three years preceding the year for which the quota is set. The decline in the quota from 35,375,636 pounds in 1957 to 32,892,221 pounds in 1958 was due to a decline in the average apparent consumption in the United States during the period 1955 to 1957 and to no other factor. As Mr. MacKinnon must realize, this is a purely mathematical calculation and his charge that the present Federal Government was responsible should, we submit, be retracted unconditionally. If he has any criticism to offer, it should be against the formula which was established in the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement of 1939, under his own party regime at Ottawa.

Actually, of course, U.S. fishery imports from Canada far exceed the

quarterly quotas at the lower rate of duty. As Mr. MacLean points out, our groundfish exports to that country in the last two quarters of 1957 (the latest for which official figures are available) were considerably higher than in the last two quarters of the previous year. And according to the Bureau of Statistics figures of stocks in store in Canada on Feb. 28, this year, there are only 7,126,000 lbs. of groundfish, fillets and blocks as against 12,971,000 in 1957. The figures for all fishery products are 32,945,000 this year as against 59,776,000 in 1957.

This is a reassuring picture, particularly in view of the general recession which is hampering trade with our American neighbors in many ways at the present time.

What The P. M. Said

Referring in the Legislature to the Railways' application for a further freight rate increase, Mr. Leo Rossiter, member for 2nd King's, observed that "freight rates under Liberal Governments had gone up and up for 22 years, but when the railways came to Mr. Diefenbaker and asked for an increase he said, 'no, you are not going to get it.'"

The first part of Mr. Rossiter's statement is undoubtedly correct, as is his inference that successive Liberal Governments did little or nothing in behalf of the Provinces in the matter. The second part, however, is not quite in accordance with the facts.

It is not true to say that Mr. Diefenbaker told the railways "you are not going to get it". What he told them was that they would have to wait until the Cabinet had had time to review the whole question. In other words, a decision was deferred, pending study of both arguments to the dispute. The 8 Provinces which disputed the ruling of the Commissioners are hoping that the increase granted will be withdrawn by order of the Government—and we believe there is every reason why it should be; but it is important for all concerned to realize that the postponement does not necessarily mean that the judgment will be reversed. What we can be reasonably sure of is that the Diefenbaker Government, if it is returned to office, will weight the issue very carefully and give a decision which it considers to be just.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir Anthony Eden is reported to be writing his memoirs. They certainly should prove interesting and informative; and people of many lands will hope and pray that the ailing statesman will have the strength to complete them. It is a heavy task.

A member of the Legislature has suggested that the fact that Prime Minister Diefenbaker "doesn't spend his holidays in the United States" may encourage United States' authorities to increase the tariff on Canadian lobsters. Now we've heard everything!

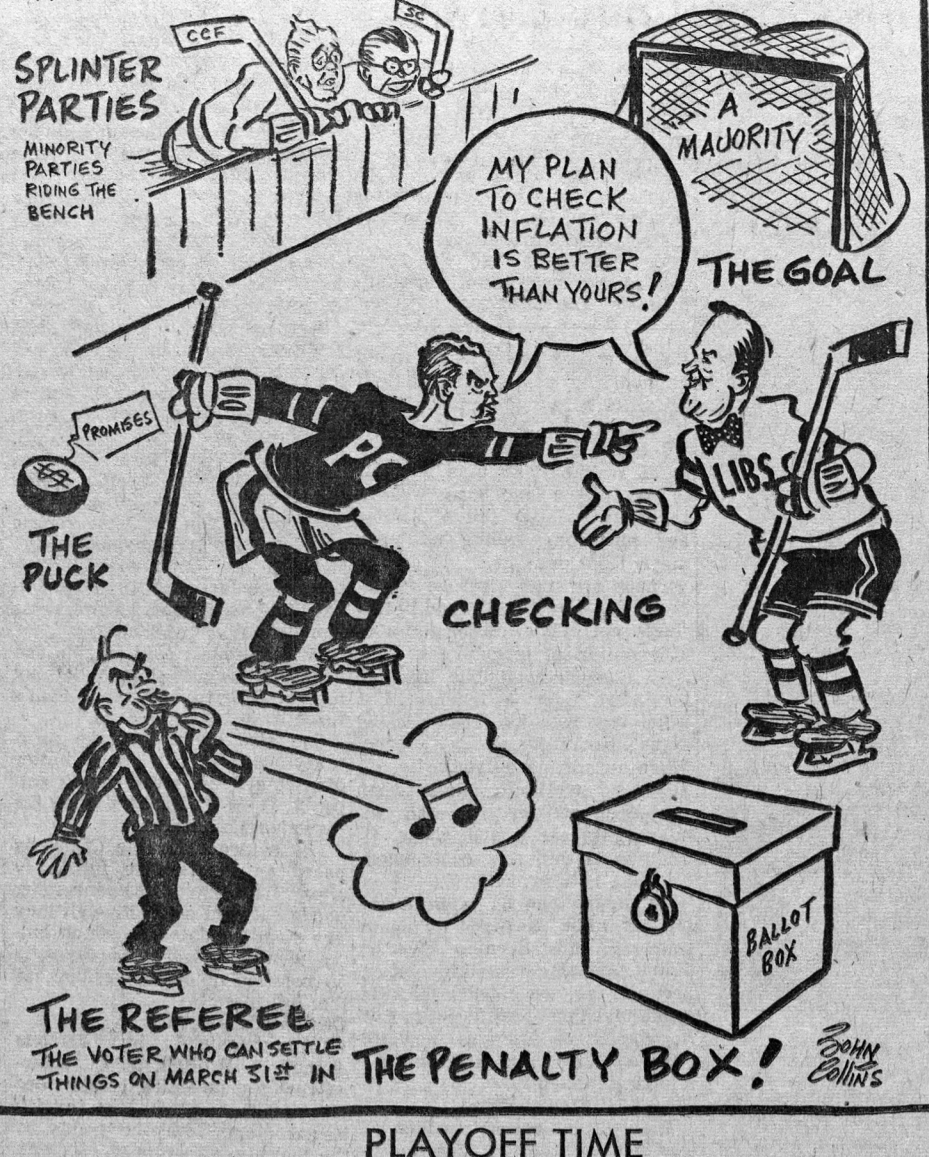
Electrical fishing gear is now being talked about as a possibility. When the time comes that all fishermen will have to do will be to sit in their boats and push buttons, how many will want to go fishing? Very few, we imagine; for uncertainty and a sense of adventure have always been attractions to fishermen.

There seems to be a widespread view that under the present law margarine can be brought to the Province, provided it is not offered for sale. Our understanding is that possession as well as sale of the product is prohibited by law. A simple statement from the Attorney-General would clear the matter up—though, of course, it might not keep margarine out.

Scientists are said to be worried that something might be done to contaminate the moon by radioactivity before the first man arrives there. That would be unfortunate; but it would be well if the scientists were to transfer some of their anxiety to the earth which already, according to much reliable evidence, is feeling the contaminating effect of nuclear explosions.

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands spoke admiringly of Canada on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Amsterdam. Her Majesty spoke particularly of "the wave of post-war Dutch immigration into Canada". These people have been an asset to this country. Quite a number of them have settled in this Province and have done well. They are excellent farmers.

TO HELP OUR READERS UNDERSTAND THE ELECTION WE HAVE TRANSLATED THINGS INTO HOCKEY TERMS—



PUBLIC FORUM

FARM STABILIZATION ACT

Sir—The Farm Stabilization Bill has been introduced into the present election campaign and has unfortunately been the subject of gross misrepresentation. It is claimed that under its provisions price supports will prevail at lower levels than obtained under the old Agricultural Prices Support Act and some candidates are stating that potatoes are not provided for under the Act. These statements are inaccurate and I beg the privilege of space in your paper to clarify the objects and intent of the legislation.

This Act was finalized after consultation with farm leaders, the Federation of Agriculture, Farm Unions and other agricultural interests across Canada and most of the recommendations coming from these groups have been incorporated into the Act. Satisfaction with the final Act has been expressed by representatives of these groups across the whole country.

At a recent annual meeting of the Canadian Horticultural Council, Dr. Hannan, President of C. F. A., speaking on this matter, stated, "This is the best measuring rod we have had to date on Price Support. The Bill promises to be one of the most outstanding events of the year in farming circles and indicates progress in a price support program. A number of our recommendations have been incorporated into the Bill."

Regarding the Act itself, there should be no confusion or misunderstanding. The Act specifically states that it is expedient to enact a measure for the purpose of stabilizing the prices of agricultural commodities in order to assist the industry of agriculture to realize a fair return for its labor and investment and to maintain a fair relationship between the prices received by farmers and the costs of goods and services that they buy thus to provide farmers with a fair share of the National Income.

This is exactly what farm organizations have been seeking for years and have been unable to secure until this Bill was enacted.

Coming now to commodities covered by the Act, Note this carefully.

(1) "Agricultural Commodity" means cattle, hogs, sheep, butter, cheese, eggs and wheat, oats and barley (not under Wheat Board Control)

(2) Any other natural or processed products of agriculture designated as an agricultural commodity for the purpose of the Act.

Can anything be clearer? This Act provides for the widest possible range of agricultural products. Potatoes are very definitely in with other fruits and vegetables which also include turnips, apples and any product produced by farmers on which a price support may be desired. Surely this extract effectively disposes of the statements used by Candidates and in some newspapers that potatoes are not included.

Under the Act, a Stabilization Board shall be set up composed of three members and in addition an Advisory Committee of nine members composed of farmers and representatives of farm organizations, which committee shall meet from time to time and after thorough investigation will advise the Minister and the Board regarding proper stabilization prices on farm products.

Under Section 7 of the Act, it is provided that this Board shall take action to stabilize the price of agricultural products and shall take such action and make such recommendations as are necessary to ensure that prescribed or guaranteed prices for commodities shall have a fair relationship to the cost of production of such a commodity.

This is an important provision and relates any price set by the Board to costs of production, goods and services and other factors.

LIBERAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Sir—Could I in a few short paragraphs answer the letter written by Angus Darrah. I am at a loss whether to address him as Mr. or Master Darrah as his letter reads like something a small child would dream up.

He states that in the last week speeches have taken on the color of soap operas, and it would not surprise him if the Liberals would offer him before March 31st our tax money back for the past twenty-two years. If he can use figures, and perhaps he can, let him compute how much Kings County has received from the Federal Government for the past twenty-two years through public works, grants, etc., and see if we secured our money back. I think we did and other people will think the same on March 31st and vote for T. J. Kichham. If nineteen of our party are in moth balls today on March 31st there will be four times that many Conservatives in the same boat.

He also states that Mr. Kichham has done nothing about St. Peter's Bay bridge for eight years. Could it be that friend Darrah took a dip with his pal Mr. Pratt in St. Peter's Bay, say about February, 1946, and received a shock from the cold water which chilled their brains and they never recovered?

I would like to inform friend Darrah that T. J. Kichham has been a very active federal member of this County for the past eight years, and therefore would have nothing to do with the maintenance of this bridge as it is local government work. Since Mr. Kichham has secured so much for Kings County no doubt friend Darrah figured he could do that also, and I know he will after we return him to Ottawa with Lester B. Pearson on March 31.

I am, Sir, etc.,  
JOHN MACINTYRE,  
President 1st Kings  
Liberal Association  
Souris, P.E.I.

EFFORTS FOR PEACE

Sir—Yes, I have been listening in too. I heard the new Liberal leader, Hon. Lester Pearson speak in Summerside, and his speech was so Americanized that I wondered if he had his eye on John Diefenbaker's job or running for president of the United States. A few evenings later I heard Mr. Pearson on a telecast delivering an address on peace. A very fine effort. Few would find fault. Then I picked up the newspaper and I read where the new Liberal Leader while campaigning in the French-speaking Quebec told the Habitants that the time had now come when Canada must have a new distinct National Flag. Then I wondered why Mr. Pearson did not tell the people in Summerside and the rest of English-speaking Canada that the old flag must be pulled down. Then I wondered if Lester Pearson made the same mistake Louis St. Laurent

PRESENT AND FUTURE

Sir—Recently, I read in the Macleans Magazine the personal thoughts of Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker and of Hon. Lester Pearson. A few thoughts on this excellent article have remained with me, and I would like to share them with you.

Before I begin I would like to state that both interviews were covered by the same 3 non-partisan reporters.

In our look at Mr. Pearson we found a completely charming man, a man of undisputed ability in some fields. When asked by one of the reporters what he would like to do had he not become a politician, he answered with almost disarming charm. "The manager of a baseball team."

At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Pearson stated that it was not his policy to concern himself with the future, rather he believed in living each day as it came, and letting tomorrow look after itself.

In our look at Mr. Diefenbaker we have a man who by his own statement decided, at the early age of nine years, to become a lawyer and a good politician and never in the ensuing years (although beset with political defeats) did he waver from that ambition.

When asked the same question

Change Of Life In Men

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.  
MUCH has been written about the menopause and the difficulties many women experience at this stage of life. But relatively little attention has been given to the male climacteric.

Men have a "change of life" period, too, you know. And the physical and psychological readjustment can be just as trying for them as it is for women.

As with the menopause, the (Continued on page 5)

made when talking pretty nice to Mr. Nassar in Egypt when on his world tour for peace. Mr. St. Laurent forgot that words of great men when away from the House, travel around the world in a matter of minutes.

Doing away with our flag is a pretty hot potato so that the cunning John Diefenbaker keeps away from it. No one knows better than the new Liberal leader Lester Pearson that should he become Prime Minister on March 31, and do away with our grand old flag to compensate the Quebec vote, that he would stir up the biggest scism ever known in English-speaking Canada since the War of 1812. Then I began to think of that coveted Nobel Prize for peace, and out of respect for the cloth, I wondered would it have been better for a Minister's son to have become a famous baseball coach which the new leader admits was the only great ambition of his life, rather than take on a job which takes him campaigning into the Province of Quebec.

I am, Sir, etc.,  
LOUIS W. PEARSON  
Chelton, P.E.I.

ELECTION ISSUES

Sir—The main Opposition points in the election campaign seems to be, unemployment and its cures. Of course the present government must be to blame according to the Opposition.

It is quite clear that the recession is quite general on the international scale, and more serious than two previous recessions that apparently were more noticeable in Canada, since World War Two.

Although economic advisors of the former Liberal administration have been exposing danger signals since 1954, the government at that time preferred to confuse the people with the impression that the economy of Canada was booming, with the end result in sight; patting themselves on the back for their record surplus budgeting until they became confused with inflation and recession, and in desperation applied the brakes by introducing a tight money policy which has since been referred to as a sensible distribution of money; and had it not been for the present Prime Minister could have read depression rather than recession.

The Prime Minister's huge Public Works program as a stimulant to the economy is not the answer, according to the Opposition leader, but is a financial crisis, creating a deficit of alarming proportions, the extent of which could not be known, as a budget has not yet been presented.

The Opposition answer seems to be a huge tax cut, and expansion of the social security program "established by our present Government" which before last June was claimed impossible.

It is known that the future of the recession is based on the activity of the Canadian working force, and expansion of foreign trade. It would appear that the Prime Minister's program would be a better immediate solution, than a tax cut which could hardly be applied before next year, and would not be of much interest to those who are unemployed. The extension of unemployment to the sick, and family allowances to the age of 18, could hardly stabilize the economy of the country for the coming year.

It is also interesting to note that United States' in a similar position goes along with our Prime Minister's views in their attempt to halt a similar recession. It is also noted that a local candidate has been pointed at as a possible future Cabinet Minister. Unfortunately for the Liberal party we are ably represented in our present Cabinet.

I am, Sir, etc.,  
J. LOUIS MACDONALD,  
Carleton, P.E.I.

CONSERVATIVE PROMISES

Sir—The election is near at hand and at a time when the weather and roads are at their worst. The Government, as I see it, have no excuse for calling it now; the Liberals instead of hindering them gave them all the help possible, and it seems to me the job got too big for them. They had no experience; the unemployment situation got worse and they are now putting us out on the roads not fit for a dog to travel on.

The lifeblood of our nation is exports. What is the good of price supports or anything else when the nation you export to finds out you are cutting their trade 15 per cent? They place an embargo against you, United States is our nearest neighbor and best customer. She buys from us twice as much as the whole world does though she has great surpluses in many products.

What has Prime Minister Diefenbaker done in expanding trade? He has gone from Vancouver, B.C. to St. John's, Newfoundland, with a blank cheque in his pocket and filled with the exuberance of his own verbosity and his long experience in convincing juries he imagines he can make the people of Canada believe he is another Moses leading them into the Promised Land. He is the biggest hoax and bluff that has ever come down the Pike. Farmers and fishermen, beware of this constant cry of "no truck or trade with the Yankees," which has knocked out the Conservatives before and will again. They seem never to learn. If they did they might have been in power as long as the Liberals.

When the grass grows lush in the U.S., again and our feeder cattle which they bought at a good price gets fat, they will put an embargo against us and the President cannot stop them on account of Diefenbaker cutting off his nose to spite his face. Fish will be the same and other exportable products will follow. How would the farmer like to get 11 or 12 cents a pound for beef cattle and lobster fishermen the same price, or possibly not be able to sell at all.

I believe Mr. Diefenbaker is the second Pied Piper, only not so good as he had to come a second time to the Maritimes. A Lord in the British House of Commons once said, "I smell a rat. I see his feathers." Notwithstanding all the Conservative leader's "New Canadianism", and "angelic honesty", there is bluff and bluster in his pleading for a party that never made Canada great since Sir John A. Macdonald's time.

I am, Sir, etc.,  
JOHN L. MACDONALD,  
Rice Point, P.E.I.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We will never find peace in pill bottles, says a Russian publication. Probably not, but, as usual, the Russians don't go on to say where we can find it.—Ottawa Journal

as to what he might do were he not a politician, he answered "I can't possibly think of anything else—nothing else interests or appeals to me." And when asked about the future, Mr. Diefenbaker stated that the future of this country never strays from his thoughts or plans.

Now the big question is: Should we pick a man like Mr. Pearson, friendly and charming though he is and extremely capable in some fields but by his own admission believes in letting tomorrow look after itself; or a man, indeed a statesman like Mr. Diefenbaker who possesses the uncanny ability of being able to look over the horizon, into the future of this vast country and in so doing plan and work for that future. So that when our children reach the end of this century they will be able to look back and say with deep pride "this has truly been Canada's Century."

I am, Sir, etc.,  
(MRS.) SONIA D. MACRAE  
Charlottetown.

MAXIMS

The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground secretly making the ground green

The Age Old Story

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD GOOD FRIDAY 3—4 P.M. ZION CHURCH  
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