

THE GUARDIAN

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."
SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1956

Nearing The Homestretch

From all appearances the general election on May 25 will be a more closely contested one than we have had for years in this Province. It is the first straight two-party fight for some time, and both sides have been vigorously campaigning.

Both parties are fortunate in having a number of outstanding candidates, and regardless of the results of next week there should be no scarcity of cabinet timber. The electors will make their choice of the material. It is hoped that they will do so independently of any consideration other than the welfare of their constituency and the Province generally. Perhaps this is too much to expect of human nature; but at least there should be no encouragement given to bribery in any shape or form. That has been the curse of many elections in the past, and it was due as much to lax public opinion as to the politicians themselves. No elector should expect special favors for casting his vote. He should do it of his own free will, making his own intelligent decision and—wherever possible—making his own arrangements for going to and from the polling booth. Why should he have to be carried or cajoled, or pampered into exercising a privilege that his forefathers fought long and hard to obtain for him?

We should all like to see a 100 percent turnout of voters in this election; but such a vote, if obtainable, could have real value only if it represented the public spirit of the electorate and not the zeal of a few party workers. This is a small Province, but the issue of democracy is just as vital to us here as it is at Ottawa, at Washington, at London, or at the councils of the United Nations. And democracy is concerned just as much with why we vote in free elections, as with whom we vote for. The motive doesn't show up on the ballot, but it is a factor of quite as much importance to good government as the "X" we mark with the pencil.

No Resemblance

The setting up by the Soviet Union and its neighbours of the so-called Eastern European Defence Organization under Russian leadership and control comes as no surprise to anyone. Nor does it change the international situation one iota. Even without this formal pact the countries under Soviet domination had no choice but to fall in with Moscow's wishes; they are too weak, economically and militarily, to do otherwise.

The Russian view that the alliance is an Eastern version of Nato may sound good to Communist parties behind the curtain; but, actually, there is no sense in it. For one thing, it is doubtful whether the seven states whose governments have thrown in their lot with the Soviet Union would be of much help in time of war. Their attachment to Communism is by no means to be taken for granted; indeed, reports indicate that in each country there is a well organized underground movement ready to go into action at the proper time. Whatever may be said of Nato—no doubt it has its weaknesses—it has never been suggested that the countries that make it up are anything but determined to join forces, if need be, in a common cause.

For another thing, it is a well known fact that Russia's influence among her immediate neighbours was and is established on force on the one hand and weakness on the other. It was not an accident that the only Eastern European country with any measurable power of its own—Yugoslavia—repudiated Russian tutelage shortly after it had been imposed. Nato is a different matter. Whatever influence economic affairs may have had in its construction, no member nation is politically subservient to any one of the Western Big Three.

Assassin

A well-known American newspaper reporter, Robert J. Donovan, has been doing some research into the macabre subject of assassination with special emphasis on the killers and would-be killers of American Presidents. The result is an interesting and informative book called "The Assassins", now being produced by Harper and Bros.

Since the founding of the United States Republic three of its presidents have been assassinated; they were Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley. Four others—Jackson,

both Roosevelts, and Truman—survived villainous attacks on their persons. This is a higher percentage of actual and attempted assassination than is recorded in any other civilized country. In Great Britain, where political tensions and rivalries produced plenty of strife in the past, not a single Prime Minister met death at the hands of an assassin. The same is true of the English speaking countries whose governments have been modelled after the British pattern. This probably has no political significance; it is an interesting fact, nevertheless.

Mr. Donovan goes to some length to describe the personalities of the men who killed or attempted to kill American presidents and the reasons, so far as they can be understood, for their crimes. One was an actor embittered by the South's defeat in the Civil War; another, an amateur politician who was disgruntled over his failure to secure a high diplomatic post; another fancied he was being persecuted by the President; two were ordinary "crackpots" who gave no reason for their crimes; and the final one, the Puerto Rican who fired at President Truman, was a Nationalist fanatic. This last was the only one of the lot who appeared to have the backing of a political organization.

Of particular interest to criminologists is the fact that none of the seven had any previous criminal record, nor was any one of them a political radical in the generally accepted sense of the word. It would, of course, be foolish to suggest that the more closely a Government head is guarded, the more danger he is in from would-be assassins. At the same time, it is a fact that the President of the United States is and always has been surrounded by an army of police protectors. The Prime Minister of Britain, on the other hand, moves around most of the time just like any other citizen. His one bodyguard is more of a personal attendant than a policeman, although he does act in that capacity on occasion.

Cautious Optimism

There is no doubt about it; there is an optimism among Western leaders that has not been evident heretofore during all the troubled years of the cold war. Look where one will, one sees signs of cheer and confidence. In Washington President Eisenhower and his Secretary of State Mr. Dulles are talking quite openly of "a change for the better." When they chatted before the microphone a few nights ago there was an unmistakably glad tone to their voices, amounting at times almost to religious joy. Indeed, once or twice Mr. Dulles chuckled audibly, thus permitting himself a most unusual luxury. In England Prime Minister Eden professes to see "a bright ray of light through the darkness." In this he is helped, no doubt, by election fervour; but, all that aside, there is no mistaking the upward lift of his spirits. Our own Mr. Pearson, who is not a man easily fooled by appearances, comes back from the Nato meetings with a message that "we've left the trenches and are now out in the open."

To be sure, accompanying these expressions of cheer is a note of caution. Mr. Pearson, for example, says that "peace has not yet broken out." Quite rightly, too; the one thing that the West cannot afford to do right now is to let optimism overrule good judgement. Any public demand, on the basis of reassuring reports, for a let-up in defence measures could make matters worse than ever; it is indisputable that whatever improvement has, in fact, come about in world affairs, can be credited to the determination of the West to build up a position of strength. For all that, we can afford at least a little lifting up of spirits. It will do us all good, so long as we keep in mind that one series of cheerful reports does not make a safe and peaceful world any more than one swallow makes a summer.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There was some form of human life on the North American continent 23,800 years ago. That, at any rate, is the opinion of archaeologists who have been studying an ash pit in an undisclosed place in Nevada.

England has raised the price it guarantees farmers for grain in order to make up for increased wage rates granted to male farm workers. In terms of U. S. dollars per bushel, the new prices for 1956 crop grain are: wheat, \$2.23; rye, \$1.62; barley, \$1.47; oats, \$0.92; mixed grains, \$2.88 per 100 pounds.

Much is being done to make the world jamboree of Boy Scouts at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, next August a big success. Canada's Boy Scout organizations are certainly contributing their part. Among other things, they are raising a fund to enable foreign Boy Scouts who couldn't otherwise come, to attend. The fund has reach \$35,850, sufficient to pay for 717 Scouts from countries short on dollars, and supply them with some pocket money.



Not A Holiday Weekend For Everyone

OTTAWA LETTER

Tulips and Tourists

By Patrick Nicholson

OTTAWA: The brilliant daubs of rainbow hues alongside the Scenic Driveways in our Capital remind us vividly that Ottawa's Tulip Festival is now at its height. The magnificent public show of these million new Dutch bulbs is unequalled anywhere else on this Continent. It is an annual reminder of the gratitude to Canada which is expressed so eloquently by the people and the Queen of the Netherlands, gratitude that this city provided a safe haven for the Royal Family; and that this country played so prominent a role in the Liberation of Holland.

Ottawa's Tulip Festival has another significance. It marks the opening of the tourist season, as the first wave of summer visitors motor in to admire the beauty of the bulbs. Tourism has ceased to be a fountain of gold for Canada. To the bewilderment of the trade and to the worry of the government, it has become a dollar drain, costing us on balance more each year than we earn from it as a nation.

Ottawa has recently been hearing the eloquent exhortations, yearly growing more urgent, of government officials, to the effect that we should make more effort to welcome tourists, especially those from the United States, and to ensure that they will want to return other years.

WORLD'S NO. 1 TOURIST

John Canuck, of course with his wife and family, is the World's Number Two Tourist. He is the second largest spender after Uncle Sam. He used to be also the second largest host to foreign tourists after Uncle Sam, but is likely to lose that position to Britain this year. John Canuck is second in another respect too: when he balances his books at the end of the year, the excess of his expenditure on foreign travel over his receipts from foreign tourists is the largest in the world—except Uncle Sam's.

Official figures just released show that the United States citizens travelling to other lands spent \$885,000,000. Canada's population is only one-eleventh the size of U. S. A.'s, yet Canadian travellers to other countries spent a total of \$365,000,000. These are the figures for 1955, the latest year for which all details are available.

Other countries whose globe-trotting inhabitants spent significant totals abroad were Britain (\$240,000,000) and France (\$128,000,000).

When it comes to the receipt

of funds spent by visitors from other countries, the United States again leads—largely thanks to Canadians who contribute more than half Uncle Sam's earnings in this industry. The States takes in \$527,000,000; Canada is again number two country, receiving \$302,000,000, of which more than four-fifths is spent by Americans. Britain is third earner, at \$246,000,000, and little Switzerland's mountains host her into fourth place with tourism earnings of \$182,000,000.

WHAT CAN CANADA DO?

The officials, ranging from Jean Lesage, Minister of Nat. Resources, and Leo Dolan, Chief of the Canadian Tourist Bureau, downwards, have all urged Canadians to be more Canadian toward tourists from other countries. This is very sound advice. Tourists normally visit other countries to see how their inhabitants live and to see a pale imitation of their own way of life.

The average American tourist visiting Canada stays at a motel outside which the Stars and Stripes flutters; he eats food which is a less well prepared and more expensive version of what he can eat at his local short-order lunch- place at home; and he pays his bills with the money which he daily uses at home, but with the unaccustomed confusion and insult of being charged extra because, he is told, his money is at a "discount".

The instructors have been telling us repeatedly about the urgent need to provide "distinctive Canadian dishes." Now it is time for us not to hear something about that discount. The word is prominently displayed in this connection in, for example, all Ontario Government liquor stores. It is the wrong word, and it is an insult. It naturally makes our American visitors mad. The rate of exchange is, say, \$1.02 in U. S. money to \$1.00 Canadian. The word "discount" implies an inferiority which was never intended by the short-sighted government officials who many years ago chose the unhappy word "dollar" for our currency.

To obviate this confusion, and to give an added sense of being in a foreign country, all tourists could be assisted— if it is done in many European countries— by the presence of currency exchange facilities at border points. Crisp new Canadian dollar bills and shiny newly-minted coins, available at all times from Border officials, would make a good start to every visit.

Farming Activities

(The Canadian Press)

A wet cold spring has delayed seeding almost everywhere in Canada except in New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta.

However, a Canadian Press survey this week showed that, despite setbacks from the weather, growers expect to plant about the same acreage this year as last—and hope for a good harvest.

Even recent floods in Saskatchewan did little to discourage farmers about grain prospects, although they left much land under water and helped delay seeding in other sections two to three weeks. Agricultural experts said there still are reasonable hopes for a good crop this year if warm dry weather holds.

SASKATCHEWAN SEEDING
By mid-May it was estimated that about 20 per cent of Saskatchewan's wheat acreage and five per cent of the oats and barley had been seeded. It was expected the wheat acreage planted would be about 80 per cent of last year's 15,540,000. The 1954 Saskatchewan wheat crop, smallest in 11 years, was 163,000,000 bushels, compared with 275,000,000 bushels in 1953.
The Saskatchewan government estimated 1,400,000 acres flooded in 37 areas this spring with 3,243,180 acres of crop-producing land affected in some way by the flooding. Provincial officials estimated it will cost \$4,643,270 to drain the land still under water and they asked the federal government to pay 75 per cent of the cost.

Elsewhere on the prairies the picture is brighter. The Alberta agriculture department had no figures for acreage seeded up to May 15 but said seeding generally was ahead of this time last year. Alberta farmers expected to plant more than 6,000,000 acres of wheat this year, two per cent more than in 1954.
In Manitoba, where excessive moisture has delayed seeding, growers plan to sow 2,015,000 acres of wheat this spring, about 20,000

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Medically Speaking

WHEN MAN TAKES OVER FOR NATURE

Unlike very simple plant and animal life, man cannot replace, by the process of growth, any parts of his body that may wear out or be torn from him. Occasionally, one organ of the body may function for another, as in the case of one kidney doing the work of two, but man and the so-called higher animals cannot naturally perform the rejuvenating process in any but a very minor way. Therefore, man generally devise many spare parts for his own body, very much like the tin man in the "Wizard of Oz."

Ancient Practice

False substances, or prosthetics as they are known medically, that take the place of the normal parts of the body, have been used as far back as ancient Egyptian times. Today, the man who has a defect from a skull injury can have a silver plate put in his head; if the lenses in his eyes are destroyed, a plastic lens made of acrylic is available. Plastic cheek bones, plastic joints, and plastic ears which look almost life-like are now available to help those whose bodies have been terribly disfigured.

Blood Vessel Repair

Blood vessels that have been destroyed to such a great degree that surgery was once of no help, can now be helped with the aid of a new plastic tubing made of polyethylene. For those whose kidneys temporarily fail, an artificial kidney has been devised to take up its function until it can return to normal action. Other metals, such as platinum and tantalum, are being used in brain surgery to help the doctor complete his work more easily.

LATE IN R.C.

Seeding in British Columbia is two weeks late but crop prospects are good given favorable weather conditions. Total grain acreage in the province is about 250,000, apart from land in hay and clover. Spring wheat acreage was increased this spring to 85,800 from last year's 81,400.
Grains came through the winter "extremely well" in Ontario with only a small amount of winter kill. Heavy fall rains prevented a drop in the average yield to 64,000 from 71,000 in 1954. Flue-cured tobacco to 90,000 from 116,000, and burley tobacco to 4,300 from 4,800. Fruit blossoms are about two weeks ahead of schedule and yields are expected to be heavy.

AVERAGE POTATO CROP

Little information is available from New Brunswick but the main crop of potatoes is expected to be about the same as last year. Seeding is a little ahead of schedule. Prince Edward Island experienced a cold spring and seeding was delayed except for a few acres of potatoes, turnips, small fruits and vegetables.
Nova Scotians expect no change in acreages this year although there may be a "slight upward swing" in potatoes as a result of strengthened prices. Apple growers are grooming their orchards, clawed by hurricane Edna in September, and are hoping for a 3-000,000-bushel crop.
Farmers in Newfoundland have not started seeding yet and do not expect to do so for several weeks. The ground is soaked and snow remains in some places.

JAPANESE WOMEN

About 98,000 women matriculated at Japanese schools and colleges in 1954, three times as many as in 1947.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. E. W.: Is there such a thing as a false pregnancy?
Answer: Yes. Sometimes, due to psychological needs, a woman may stimulate all the signs and symptoms of a pregnancy even though she may not be pregnant. These women may even convince their physicians that they are pregnant.

CLEAN CLOTHES WEAR LONGER

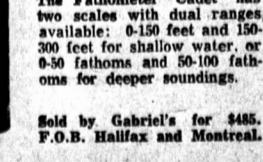
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NOTES BY THE WAY

The annual report for 1954 of Fire Chief Waterman points out that old and defective wiring, together with careless smoking, are two of the most prevalent causes of fires. The careless smoker, the Fire Chief asserts, is by far the cause of the larger percentage of serious fires. The careless smoker, he might have added, is a menace to himself, to others in the same building, to firemen, and when he sets fires ablaze to the Province. —Toronto Telegram.

Talking before a lawyer's gathering in Chicago, former President Truman told his hearers that "unless the citizens have rights against the Government, no one can be safe and secure." As all men do, Harry Truman will some day leave us and there will be discussion of what kind of memorial ought to be raised. Our suggestion would be that those words be uttered in Chicago be carved on the cornerstone of every town hall, county courthouse and Federal building in the land. —Detroit Free Press.

Joe Vitch is no ordinary man. He came out from Scotland over 50 years ago and he has only once been "out," as Northerners call civilization. He lives with dozens of dogs and cats across the river. He's quite a character. At a party for some visiting dignitaries one of Joe's cats got in the reindeer stew. Joe caught it by the tail, flung it out and continued to serve as if such occurrences were accepted features of Aklavik banquets. —BBC Home Service.

There seems to be two extremes of thought in respect to getting up in the morning. On the one hand are those who exclaim "happily about the lengthening days, saying: "It makes a person feel like leaping out of bed to greet the sun." On the other hand are those who harbor the dark thought "What good can come out of a day that has to start with getting up?" In between are the silent majority who are dumb, resigned slaves of the alarm clock, too broken for actual revolt, but certainly taking no joy in that peremptory ring which announces the coming of another day. —High River Times.

Inspector Robert Witts, formerly of the London Detail of the Ontario Provincial Police (and also St. Thomas), told the Forest City Kiwanis Club in London, Ont., that super-highways are not the answer to the problem of dangerous driving. Super-highways, he said, tend to mesmerize the driver because the sight distances are so great. Speeds are built up by the wide, open highways and today's cars are not built for the speeds at which some people wish to drive. No highway, no car, no law can at best tend to reduce accidents. The most dangerous gadget on the roads is the nut behind the wheel. Until in some way the level of driver intelligence is raised we shall continue to have crashes, injuries and deaths. —London Free Press.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

The Age Old Story

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

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