

The Other Way

One of the things we like to beef about is our electoral system, with all the confusion it causes when rival candidates take the stump, denouncing each other's policies and proclaiming their own party's messianic mission to serve our interests.

Elections, we say, are like horse-races; you can't be sure who's going to win. And if it isn't a federal one, that's popping up it's a provincial one, or a municipal one, keeping us in a continual state of jitters.

Well, there's to be another election soon and it will be run on just such lines. We won't be participating in it so we can watch it disinterestedly from the bleachers.

Nominations have already been practically completed. At least, the leaders have had their names submitted—and all without opposition.

On the whole, however, we'd probably prefer to settle for our own system of voting for whom we darn well please. It has its faults, but at least we get a run for our money.

Remember the Maginot Line, that was to safeguard Europe from a Second World War? That monument to the futility of the 1930's and the fallibility of military strategists survives much as it was at Schoenenbourg, France, and perhaps it is just as well that it should be preserved for posterity.

This fort, however, is still in perfect working order. Its cannons are operative, though empty. The tiny underground railroad that brings the shells the two miles from storage to the gun positions still works.

Its elevators, which descend about 70 feet, or equivalent to the height of a six-story building, still work. So do the giant kitchen built to feed the 600-man garrison and the complicated ventilator system designed to bring air in from the outside—and filter it, if by chance the Germans poisoned it with gas.

The fort is open, as a sort of living museum, an example of how suddenly the fashions in war can change. Visitors come—German officers, American and Canadian officers, French cadets—and marvel at both the strength and waste of the structure.

The border with Germany is still only four miles away, and the fort's 75 cannons still can cover it, but nearly everything else has changed. Overhead, supersonic French jets whip by, oblivious of the border.

The Maginot Line and this fortress were designed for a time that had already passed, after World War I. The construction began here in 1930, and the masonry was completed by 1933.

But the Germans went north. They never attacked the real Maginot Line. Rather, they roared past at speeds that astonished their own generals. They took it over after they had won the war with France, but never really occupied it.

But there was no such problem. Though the French restored what had been destroyed, the fort's function today is not offensive or even defensive. It is just a reminder of what might have been.

Mr. Diefenbaker has intimated that he will have some comment to make on certain aspects of a report released to the press last week in the Munsinger case.

As the Ottawa Journal drily says in this connection, "There are times when the due processes of such an inquiry look curious to the layman."

Had the commission counsel felt that bit of Mrs. Munsinger's story was worth showing to the public, Commissioner McClellan could have been asked to testify as to that remark in the police report, and lawyers in cross-examination could have brought out that this was, but her comment and unsupported.

"If this inquiry had to be held," concludes our Ottawa contemporary, "it was worth holding as much of it as possible in public; but we had not imagined that allegations would be officially made public that were not part of the inquiry's evidence but only a 'handy' kind of resume of the plot. Handy for whom?"

Now it's the grand old art of sculpture that's to be transmogrified in this machine age. Two Hungarians have invented an apparatus for taking all the art out of it.

Now it's the Liberal government in New Brunswick that is being criticised for mismanagement of its new industrial projects. The opposition is demanding a royal commission inquiry but a government spokesman made it plain, the other day, that the government was "more interested in establishing profitable industry than we are in establishing commissions."

Who is responsible for this not having been dug out, and what is going to be done about it? This river has deep water at low tide as far up as the island where sailing ships were constructed in the days of shipbuilding and loaded with oats for England.

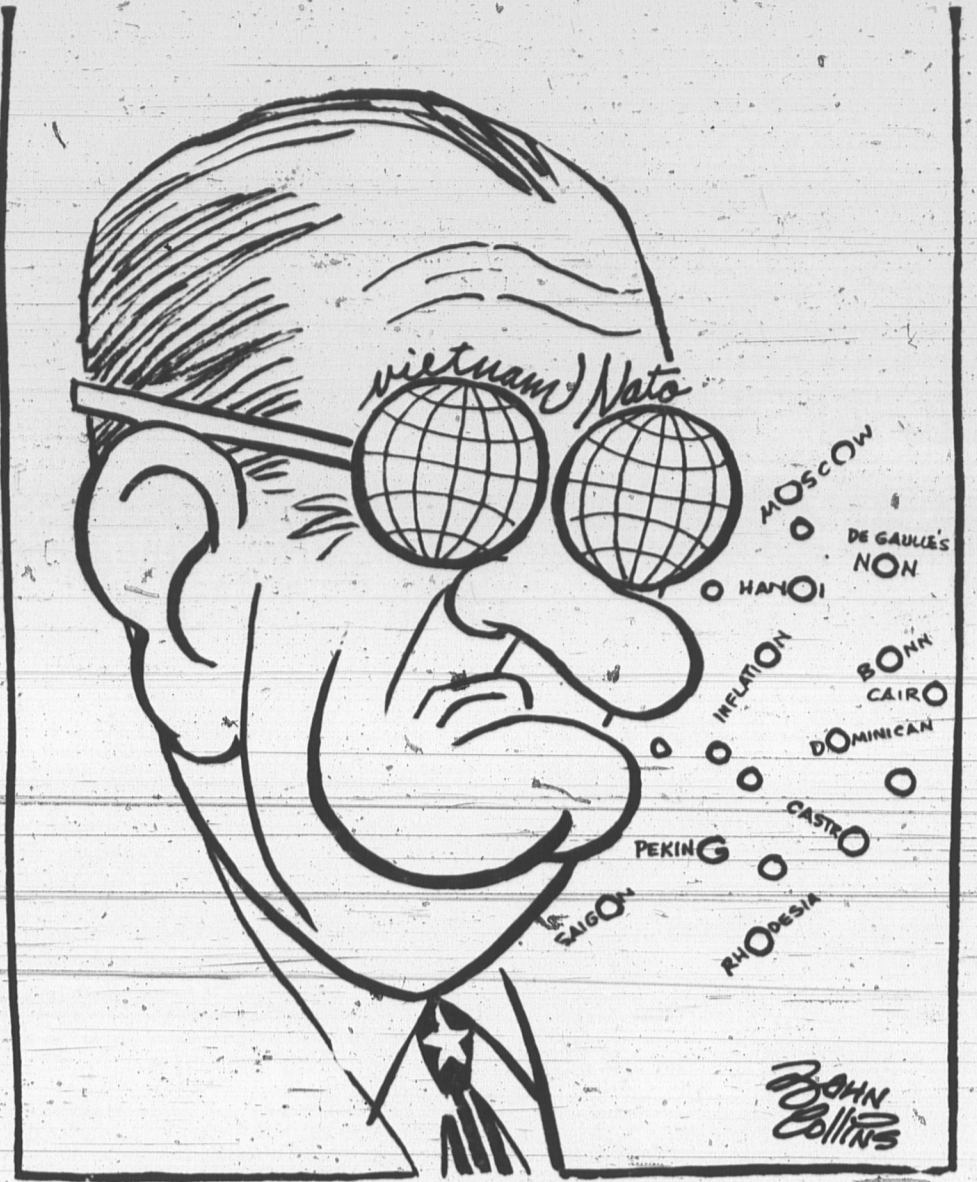
Closing this branch of Stanley River to pleasure craft and lobster fishermen is a bad thing for this area. The causeway has taken away the 320 foot bridge, every inch of which was loved by ardent trout fishermen.

This is in Premier Shaw's district. We would like to know if he will do anything to correct this mistake.

I am, Sir, etc. RESIDENT Stanley Bridge

Although ultimately driven from the Holy Land, this and similar orders made new homes in Europe. Such were St. John of Jerusalem, the Knight of Malta, the Templars and the Teutonic Knights.

Care for the sick, and the unity of all Christian faiths, were the worthy objectives dominating a conference of Canada's oldest Order recently held in Canada's oldest white settlement.



TROUBLE SPOTS BEFORE HIS EYE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Ancient Order Well Rooted In Canada

Although ultimately driven from the Holy Land, this and similar orders made new homes in Europe. Such were St. John of Jerusalem, the Knight of Malta, the Templars and the Teutonic Knights.

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FOR CHURCH AND THE SICK Saint Lazarus is historically dedicated to the care of the sick, especially those suffering from skin diseases which in earlier times were collectively but inaccurately described as leprosy.

2,000 YEARS CHARITY The Military and Hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, to give it its full historic name, stems from a hospital founded by Hyrcan Maccabeus at Jerusalem before the birth of Christ.

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. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary.

MORRIS BRIDGE Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the contestants of First Queens to the closing of Navigation and Fishing on the Upper Branch of Stanley River.

Peace In Space Milwaukee Journal The French have a saying that "God guards the moon from the wolves." In this new era that is no longer true.

Will Visit Ottawa TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Etsusaburo Shima is expected to visit Ottawa and London this fall to attend annual cabinet-level consultations with Canada and Britain.

Attention ULCER PAIN Mrs. S. writes: What kind of pain do you get from stomach ulcer?

REPEY The most common type is a burning or gnawing sensation, which is most noticeable an inch to the right and slightly above the navel.

REPEY Yes, but keep your fingers crossed. Now and then many years elapse between convulsions, and it is unwise to be dogmatic at this time.

SLEEP POSITION L. writes: Please tell me if it is better to sleep on the stomach or the back?

REPEY Take your choice. It's the sleep and not the position that counts. On the other hand, sleep on the side if you awaken with vague backache or other pains.

Human Viral Hepatitis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Most of our information about human viral hepatitis has been compiled within the last three decades.

Approximately 40,000 cases are reported to our health departments annually. The exact number varies from year to year and it is estimated that many cases escape detection because the disease is so mild.

As a rule, viral hepatitis follows the ingestion of contaminated water, milk, or food. The early manifestations are fatigue, loss of appetite, headache, fever, nausea, and abdominal distress.

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JOINT FUSION V. A. writes: What is sacroiliac fusion?

REPEY Stiffness of the sacroiliac joint due to previous infection or injury. Occasionally the fusion is made via surgery.

Our Yesterdays (From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 16, 1941)

TEN YEARS AGO (May 16, 1956) It was announced that Robert E. Platts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Platts of Charlottetown, would receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

ALLIES PARADE BERLIN (AP)—Five thousand soldiers of the U.S., British and French garrisons marched before thousands of West Berliners Saturday in the annual Allied forces parade.

Red China In Transition

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer The fact humans don't live forever suggests China is edging towards a difficult and perhaps critical transitional period involving her leadership at home and strategy abroad.

At 72, Mao Tse-tung still is the fountain-head of China's political structure but he shows evidence of waning physical strength and stamina. Voices of opposition are heard and stilled, only to be raised again, questioning the path the leader has chosen for his 650,000,000 people.

There is no evidence of rebellion. Many more years may pass before China's political leaders feel the pressures of rising consumer appetites, such as those now spreading in the Soviet Union for automobiles, better housing and clothing and a greater sense of individual fulfillment.

But there is evidence, in the criticism of Mao, that some of the rigidity in the Chinese political system is dissolving. No one at this stage can predict what the end of the Mao dynasty may bring.

China appears half-fearful of half-emboldened by events just beyond her tightly-guarded borders. The big buildup of American forces in South Viet Nam has heightened Chinese concern that the U.S. may be interested in finding excuses for invading China.

China seems ready to invite the U.S. to a final test but draws back. China said this week that U.S. planes penetrated Chinese air space and shot down a Chinese plane, but there was no immediate retaliation.

China is, in fact, vulnerable at home and abroad. Despite the accumulation of nuclear knowledge, she is likely to continue to hesitate at the brink, perhaps because of some uncertainty about her own political transition and Communist party ability to retain full control over 650,000,000 people in time of deep crisis.

WORDS ONLY China seems ready to invite the U.S. to a final test but draws back. China said this week that U.S. planes penetrated Chinese air space and shot down a Chinese plane, but there was no immediate retaliation.

U.S. Cows In Decline National Geographic Society There is no waste such as a fruit husk or eggshell. Milk is produced solely for nourishment, and every drop can be used.

On most American farms, it has long been as difficult to find a churn as a spinning wheel. But there have always been ample cows since colonial days to produce the milk, butter, and cheese that Americans consume in such quantities.

COLONISTS BROUGHT COWS The first cows were introduced to this country by Virginia colonists. Strangely, the pilgrims did not bring cows on the Mayflower's first voyage to Massachusetts—an oversight that may have contributed to the settlers' hunger during their first winter in the New World.

MAYOR KEPT UP DIGNITY LONDON (AP)—A silver chamber pot was among objects to be sold by Sotheby's auction house. Dated 1818, it was a fitting memento of the mayor of Leeds' official coach.

ORDER CLEAN UPPER LIP BOGOTA (AP)—Police in the Colombian capital are losing their traditional long pointed moustaches. The city traffic commissioner ordered them trimmed short or shaved for sanitary reasons.

ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE P. E. I. TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS INTERESTED An expert in food and beverage service will be speaking and demonstrating from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Monday, May 16th, and will be available for consultation during the remainder of the afternoon and evening, at the Charlottetown Hotel.

An illustrated lecture also will be given at the Hotel on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. to the Waitress Training Course of the Provincial Vocational Institute.

Those interested are urged to avail themselves of either or both of these unique opportunities, which are being made available at no cost.

A. W. Gaudet Secretary-Treasurer

Advertisement for Honda motorcycles. Text: "Yo Mee The Nicest People on a HONDA Sold and Serviced at KEITH CARMICHAEL Limited Brackley Pt. Road Dial 4-6423". Includes an image of a Honda motorcycle.