

Mr. Pearson's Visit

Whatever reasons of political strategy inspired the Hon. Lester Pearson to launch his election campaign as Liberal Party leader in Charlottetown tonight, we like to think that they are all flattering to our self-esteem. We like Mr. Pearson personally, and he showed us on the occasion of his last visit that he returns the sentiment. He has, we hope, a high regard for our intelligence, notwithstanding the way we voted in the last two federal elections; and he is hoping, no doubt, to convince us of the wisdom of changing our course, and veering back into the Liberal fold.

We may expect that he will stress personally the pledges he gave through his party candidates here, with respect to the building of the causeway and the construction of a new icebreaker for the Borden-Tormentine service. The causeway had already been pledged by the party in power, through Prime Minister Diefenbaker; but Mr. Pearson scored first so far as an additional icebreaker is concerned, and that is something for which he knows we stand greatly in need.

Yesterday we quoted a leading Liberal newspaper, the Winnipeg Free Press, as condemning pre-election promises of this kind. "Brazen bidding for votes," it called them; but we endeavored to set our Winnipeg contemporary right in this respect, for we regard them as assurances fully in accord with national interests and particularly the interests of these Atlantic Provinces, in offsetting disadvantages under which we have labored far too long.

Mr. Pearson will no doubt have other good news for us tonight, indicative of his party's interest and concern in our welfare. We shall welcome it. The fact remains, however, that our memories of the treatment we received under the former Liberal regime, of which he was a member, are not pleasant ones. There were surpluses in the federal treasury in those days, and staggering deficits provincially.

One of the first things the Diefenbaker Government did was correct this imbalance, to some extent, by means of substantial adjustment grants; and it has followed through with other measures to our advantage. These are by no means all that we could wish, but they do indicate a new trend in federal responsibility for which we are thankful.

We have no doubt that Mr. Pearson, if elected to power, will endeavor to pursue this trend. But it is not one in which he can claim to be a pioneer; and when it comes to voting, our electors must consider whether a bird in the hand is not worth two in the bush. This applies to the judgment they will pass on Conservative achievements generally. Meanwhile, however, they will warmly welcome the Liberal leader's presence this evening, and accord him a most attentive hearing.

U.S. Representation

Voting inequalities are a problem in the United States as well as in Canada, and a recent ruling by the U.S. supreme court gives point to this fact. The court ruled that the distribution of seats in state legislatures is subject to the scrutiny of federal courts under the American constitution's 14th amendment, which declares that no state may deprive a citizen of "the equal protection of the law." Although the decision does not specifically direct the courts to insist on

equal representation it does open the way for groups of urban citizens to demand relief from arbitrary domination by rural majorities.

The case in which the supreme court made its decision was brought by a group of urban voters in Tennessee who sued for revision of the state's legislative district boundaries, which had remained unchanged since 1901 despite a state constitutional requirement that they be revised every ten years. As a result of the present imbalance a vote in one rural Tennessee county is worth as much in the state House of Representatives as the votes of 200 citizens in the city of Memphis.

Worse than this, a study in California shows it is theoretically possible for 12 per cent of the voters to elect a working majority in the state legislature. In Vermont, where there has been no redistribution since it joined the union 167 years ago, a hamlet of 36 people (Victory, Vt.) has the same legislative representation as a city of 35,000 (Burlington).

Actually, it would appear, there is not a single American state or Canadian province which gives equal representation to city and rural voters, although it would be difficult to find such extreme examples in this country as the ones above cited.

Nuclear Parrying

In a note which the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament committee sent to the British Government, hope was expressed that Prime Minister Macmillan would continue to do all he could to persuade President Kennedy not to resume atmospheric bomb testing. Mr. Macmillan meets the President in Washington on Saturday, presumably for final discussion on the issue, which comes to a head in the next few days.

The British Prime Minister, however, is already on record as having concurred with President Kennedy as to the need for resuming these tests, unless there is a change of Russian attitude in the bargaining that is going on at Geneva on test bans and disarmament.

Nuclear tests represent the latest move in the cold war game of threats and counter-threats, and it is dreadful to contemplate what the results may be. President Kennedy and his advisers are presumed to be ready for any eleventh hour Moscow overture on an inspected test ban, but they will not renounce testing unless an effective treaty is signed.

This raises the question, has the President prepared beforehand his reaction to a last minute Soviet offer of a treaty falling just short of Washington's draft? Would he postpone tests while negotiating over the slight discrepancies, and perhaps risk finding that the Kremlin was only stalling? Or would he go ahead with the tests while negotiating, and open himself to the charge that he wrecked the bargain when only a few details remained to be worked out?

The whole issue is hedged with appalling uncertainties, which accounts for the concern expressed by Canada's External Affairs Minister Green at the prospect of resuming nuclear tests under any conditions. Almost certainly, if the U.S. tests go through, there will be more Soviet tests to follow; and what then? Our whole future may depend upon the answer, yet no human being can claim to have it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Contributors to the Public Forum are reminded that all letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary, and that while controversy is allowable within limits, propaganda is not. Letters should be kept short and to the point, and should deal with matters of public concern, not with personalities.

Here, according to one statistician, is how an average 70-year-old man has spent his life: Three and a half years were spent in eating and drinking, three years in dressing, one and a half years in going to and coming home from work and 25 years in sleeping. His working time covered 22 years. The remainder of the time was spent in resting, travelling, attending sports events and shows and in going to church. Food consumption averaged half a ton a year. Taking the 60 years from 10 to 70, the food consumption would amount to 30 tons.



OTTAWA OSCARS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Snobbish In Our National Sovereignty

Canada does not bestow honours and decorations upon citizens who have given distinguished or gallant service to the state and their fellows. Canada does not do this because Canada, alone among the significant nations of the world, has not yet created this particular mark of national sovereignty.

And, as we have nothing to reward foreigners who perform services for Canada, we have imposed the self-denying ban widely disregarded - that Canadians may not accept any decoration from a foreign country which they benefit.

A peak of Canadian stupidity and rudeness in this matter was recently attained when the head of another state paid an official visit to Canada. Included in his baggage was a small case containing several of his country's decorations, which he wished to award to our Governor General and to other Canadians, as a mark of respect to Canada and to their office, and also to reward certain of them for services which they had performed for his country. He was very offended, I was told, when some lesser bureaucrat in our diplomatic service told him most diplomatically not to unpack that little case, and to take all his babies away out of Canada with him.

Every Privy Councillor accepts and uses the lifetime title of "Honourable." Many Canadians have accepted the honorary title of "Chief" from an Indian tribe. Others proudly use the title of "Doctor," based not

upon their scholastic achievements but upon an honorary degree.

U.S.A. DEMOCRATIC Nobody would accuse the U.S. of being undemocratic. Yet that country has many decorations and medals which it awards perhaps overlavishly to its distinguished citizens. Former President Eisenhower has accepted and wears a British decoration carrying the title of "Sir," which title he does not use. The actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr. was awarded the same decoration for his war services; he wears the order but does not use the title. Yet Canadian soldiers, who cannot be rewarded for their gallantry or fine service by Canada, may accept British medals - but not the one which was awarded to Ike and Douglas Fairbanks.

Our own gallant Governor General, General George Vanier, wears a veritable fruit salad of awards for his courage - but not one of them is Canadian.

It is certainly a national mess. The solution, surely welcomed by most Canadians, would be the creation of Canadian honours and decorations, which our own Governor General could award to our gallant soldiers and our distinguished and dedicated citizens.

PUBLIC FORUM

MR. KICKHAM REPLIES

Sir,—In reply to Mr. C. C. Pratt's letter appearing in The Guardian of April 23 inst., I wish to state my attitude re the causeway. At the time the causeway was proposed by Neil A. Matheson, I suggested that when a survey was made the possibilities of a tunnel should be explored, expressing the belief that a tunnel could resolve our transportation problem, and would insure uninterrupted transport communication with the mainland.

The Minister of Public Works, at that time, Robert Winters, directed that the survey include both causeway and tunnel which was later carried on by the succeeding Conservative Government. However, the survey found the cost of ventilating a tunnel ruled it out in favor of a causeway.

In closing may I say that I am as deeply interested in the construction of a causeway as any Islander can be, since it has now been found to be feasible.

Our Liberal Leader has committed himself and the Liberal Party to the construction of a causeway when found feasible. Since it has now been found by the engineers to be feasible I shall give the project my full support.

Thanking you for your valuable space,

I am, Sir, etc., TOM KICKHAM Liberal Candidate for Kings.

"HONEST CONVICTIONS" Sir,—In your Public Forum of April 23 Mr. C.C. Pratt proposes first, that every true Islander should be a Tory, and support Tory policy; second, that faith has not been lost in this "historic leader" who has kept all his promises; and third, that members of the New Democratic Party are frantic for attention at the cost of decency, at which he is not surprised because of their inexperience.

I believe there are some who do have honest convictions regarding political parties, and many whom I think do not - and that includes all three major parties in Canada. If the present national administration were as

open as in this age. But many Canadians would no doubt be delighted to accept some official recognition of their own outstanding services to this country, whether it be a lifetime title or distinction, or a medal.

In a spirit of considerable hypocrisy, the former Prime Minister Mackenzie King effectively squashed the system of British honours and decorations being awarded to Canadians after he had accepted one himself. And he subsequently accepted another. He had a point in suggesting that for Canadians to accept British honours was a perpetuation of our colonial status. But he created a mess and an anomaly by failing to institute Canadian honours and awards to take their place.

Despite this ban, many Canadians today proudly accept and wear honours awarded by other countries. A substantial number of Catholics have accepted decorations and honorary titles from the head of the Vatican State. Many French-Canadians, and some others, have accepted and wear the Legion of Honour awarded by the President of France. A number are proud to accept honours in the Maltese order of St. John.

Every Privy Councillor accepts and uses the lifetime title of "Honourable." Many Canadians have accepted the honorary title of "Chief" from an Indian tribe. Others proudly use the title of "Doctor," based not

upon their scholastic achievements but upon an honorary degree.

At the same time, the circumstances do not alter this fact: that the Prime Minister, before Parliament has made a solemn undertaking to proceed with the work of building a causeway, it "will be built," he said - and that should be enough for anyone who feels that the unequivocal statements of Prime Ministers cannot be trusted, the word of an ordinary MP is much less to be respected.

As for the rest of his statement, Mr. Regier is quite entitled in his opinion that the estimate of cost is too low and that, in any case, the money could be better spent in other ways within the Atlantic Provinces.

There is certainly an urgent need for a farmers' marketing system, and I guess it is up to us farmers to get organized and do the job.

I am, Sir, etc., ELDON DRUMMOND Freshford, P.E.I.

Research Probes Process Of Aging

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen AGING is a complicated process and there is no magic formula to assure longevity. Most of us can expect to live a normal life span by practicing moderation. Forget about the fountain of youth - it will create more problems than it is worth.

This doesn't mean we should neglect research on the aging process. There is much to learn about the mechanisms that lead us ultimately to the tomb. Research in this field is being conducted now at the microscopic and the chemical levels.

If you think your skin and hair betray your age, you should look through a microscope and compare the body cells of a young and an old person. They accumulate fat and pigment, the nuclei shrink, and the water content is reduced.

Cellular energy is lost and many of the cells go into retirement and cease to function. These changes vary from organ to organ.

The structures that grow for the longest time are the lungs, heart, and arteries—organs that supply the body with food and oxygen. This may explain why organs other than the heart, lungs, and brain weigh less in old age.

The heart and blood vessels undergo other profound changes and are responsible (by reducing circulation) for changes in other parts like the brain.

This basic research on cells has led to many logical theories on aging. Dr. B.L. Streher of the University of Chicago believes the breakdown stems from built-in hereditary faults which undermine the body's capacity to withstand stress. Apparently, the years extract their toll on the weaker cell units of important organs.

How long we live depend upon genetic factors (heredity) and environment (infections, accidents, and stress). We come in to the world, according to Selye, with so much adaptive energy and our years of life depend upon the rate at which it is used up.

Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.

ORIGIN OF MOLES R. J. writes: What causes moles?

REPLY These lesions have their inception long before birth when the skin is being developed. Some of the cells go astray, leaving pigmented areas. Some moles are not noticeable at birth but come to the surface at a later date. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on moles.

BONE CANCER IN YOUNG J. R. writes: Does bone cancer afflict older people as well as the young?

REPLY Most victims of bone tumors are between 10 and 30 years of age. These lesions are not common after age 30.

Mr. Regier's Faux Pas

Halifax Chronicle-Herald

Imputing motives is bad manners at any time; in Erhart Regier's case, it is also a bad habit.

Mr. Regier, the outspoken CCF-NDP member of Parliament from British Columbia, has greeted Prime Minister Diefenbaker's announcement to build the Prince Edward Island causeway with the retort that no such intention exists.

Not only does this extraordinary statement ignore the basic rule that, especially in public affairs, the assumption must be that everyone is honest unless conclusive evidence to the contrary is produced; it also casts a reflection upon wisdom of all Maritimers, who observing this rule as all gentlemen should, accept without question the undertaking as it was set out last week by the Prime Minister.

So doing, of course, we run the risk of being regarded as "stupid" by the Munt Mr. Regier - a development which, if far from traumatic for us, may result in a CCF-NDP candidate or any other CCF-NDP candidate who might wish to campaign in the Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick constituencies which border the Northumberland Strait.

There, we dare say, the accusation that the voters have little aptitude will do nothing to enhance local regard for the party or its spokesmen.

Mr. Regier may not know it, but we were not born yesterday. The propitious timing of the Prime Minister's announcement from the Progressive Conservative point of view escapes no person who realizes that there will be a federal election on June 18.

At the same time, the circumstances do not alter this fact: that the Prime Minister, before Parliament has made a solemn undertaking to proceed with the work of building a causeway, it "will be built," he said - and that should be enough for anyone who feels that the unequivocal statements of Prime Ministers cannot be trusted, the word of an ordinary MP is much less to be respected.

As for the rest of his statement, Mr. Regier is quite entitled in his opinion that the estimate of cost is too low and that, in any case, the money could be better spent in other ways within the Atlantic Provinces.

NOTES BY THE WAY

For the weary motorist, the best looking car in town is the one pulling out of the place where he wants to park. — Chatham News.

Maybe the world situation isn't so threatening after all. Some construction firms will give you 10 years to pay for a fallout shelter. — Calgary Herald.

This is the time of the year when the boys in the Income Tax Department prove that if you squeeze hard enough, you CAN get blood out of a stone. — Ottawa Journal.

From Newburgh, N.Y. comes news about a 13-year-old boy who didn't let the big one get away on the opening day of the New York state trout season. Fully clothed, the boy dived into a brook and grabbed an 18-inch trout with his hands after the fish had squirmed from his hook. — Cape Breton Post.

Any suggestion that they are custodial institutions for the senile or incapable is bound to meet with resistance. — Peterborough Examiner.

The last time we were in a record store, we asked the man if he stocked a record that taught English. "Nah," he replied, "and there ain't no call for it, either." — Wall Street Journal.

Snakes are feared more than any other living creatures as killers of men and yet the stings of bees, wasps, hornets and yellow-jackets take more lives than the bites of all the poisonous snakes put together. In a period of a few years surveyed by the U.S. National Office of Vital Statistics, 85 people died from the effects of insect stings and 71 from the stings of poisonous snakes. Bees take about as many lives as rattlesnakes. — B. C. Wildlife Review.

Still A Strange World

National Geographic Society

The broad, brown waters of the Congo River flow through one of the least-known parts of Africa.

The Middle Congo is still primarily the "strange world" of plants, and water, and silence" that Joseph Conrad found 70 years ago.

The Lualaba, principal head-stream of the Congo, rises in the highlands of Katanga, the mining province of the troubled new Republic of the Congo.

The little stream tumbles down mountains and flows through broad plains where papyrus fields alternate with head-high elephant grass.

When the Lualaba reaches Stanley Falls near Stanleyville, a few miles south of the Equator, it becomes the Congo. The river races through seven cataracts to begin a great, arching western swing.

Between Stanleyville and Leopoldville, a distance of 1,075 miles, the Congo's flow is serene. This long stretch is the Congo's romance.

After Conrad sailed up this brooding, mysterious reach, he wrote in his famous tale, "Heart of Darkness," that it was "like travelling back to the earliest beginnings of the world, when a vegetation rioted on the earth and the big trees were kings."

Conrad later recalled in a National Geographic article that he "smoked a pipe of peace at midnight in the very heart of the African Continent and felt very lonely there."

The trees still grow so closely along the banks that the foliage mats itself into a dank wall. Vines and brightly flowered creepers wind through the green barriers. Standing out are tremendous baobab trees with bulbous trunks, rootlike branches and pale green fruit. The air is warm and heavy.

Alligators and hippos swim themselves on sandbanks. From the forest come the screams of lemurs, the chattering of monkeys and roars of lion-like baboons.

More than 4,000 islands clog the Congo between Stanleyville and Leopoldville. Through the river is sometimes 15 miles broad, the channels are narrow, and captains who don't know the river have become lost among the wooded islands.

CANALS AND DIESELS Graceful log canoes, wood-burning stern-wheelers, and modern diesel towboats ply the Congo and its tributaries. The river system is the major transportation artery in the Republic and provides more than 8,000 miles of navigable waters. As it bends southward, the Congo again crosses the Equator; it is the only major river that twice crosses the line.

The Congo rarely floods because rainy seasons occur in different months in the North and Southern Hemispheres. Consequently, when the river's northern tributaries are high, its southern branches are low.

At Leopoldville, the Congo spreads into the Stanley pool, some 20 miles wide and 14 long, before plunging into 200 seething miles of cataracts and rapids. The rapids end at Matadi, the head of navigation for ocean-going vessels. Sweeping past the port, the Congo enters its 2,700-mile journey at the Atlantic, where it pours 1,200,000 cubic feet of water per second into the sea. Only the Amazon discharges more. The surging brown stream stains the ocean 30 miles from shore.

Justice Or Vengeance

Globe and Mail, Toronto

The dignity and judicial fairness of the Adolf Eichmann trial, which has impressed even those who were most critical of its legal basis, slipped distressingly last week during the appeal proceedings.

Attorney-General Gideon Hausner climaxed a passionate denunciation of the defendant by suggesting that, if his conviction is affirmed, he should not be put to death in the ordinary manner but subjected to one or more of the traditional punishments of Old Testament times: stoning, burning, beheading and strangling.

Outsiders can understand, though perhaps only faintly, the intense feeling of Israelis against the man who has been convicted of the massacre of millions of their people. Yet even allowing for this, Mr. Hausner's proposal - whether or not seriously meant - is horrifying.

There is much argument today over the question whether capital punishment is ever justified, but it is universally agreed among civilized people that

when a sentence of death is pronounced it should be carried out in as humane and instantaneous a fashion as possible.

For a prosecutor to demand that a condemned man be killed by slow torture is a return to barbarism. It cannot be justified no matter how appalling the victim's crimes may have been.

The best feature of the Eichmann trial, and the thing most likely to have a genuinely deterrent effect on other race fanatics, was the feeling throughout that Adolf Eichmann, once so powerful and so feared, was being tried by exactly the same procedure as any other man accused of the massacre. It cannot be justified if he faced the same penalty as other murderers. Law and justice, it seemed, had at last overtaken the Nazi horrors.

All this will be lost if the proceedings are to end, not in an ordinary execution, but in some grisly ceremonial of vengeance from the distant past.

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