

Tomorrow's By-election

Tomorrow's by-election in the First District of Queens will not materially affect the party standing in the Legislature, now 26 to 3, but it will be of interest as showing whether the Government has gained or lost in popular support since the general election of May 25, 1955. On that occasion the late Liberal occupant of the seat, Hon. W. F. A. Stewart, polled 1561 votes against 1413 for his Conservative opponent, Mr. Frank Myers. Mr. Myers is running this time against Mr. Howard Wood, and both contestants have been making a vigorous campaign.

From the standpoint of legislative support, the Government could well afford to lose a seat and the Opposition is certainly in need of replenishing its forces. Top-heavy majorities have disadvantages for both parties. But this is not an issue on which campaigns are usually fought. Since the Government has put up a candidate it will doubtless do its best to insure his election. Apart from the local issues involved, there is interest in the effect, if any, which the recent Conservative sweep in the federal field will have in this contest. Certainly it has aroused Conservative hopes and given added zest to the campaign. It has underlined also the old truth that elections, whatever the prophets may say, are as unsure as horse races.

The voters, it is to be hoped, will turn out in full force tomorrow. If they do that, and vote conscientiously, they will have performed a duty just as important as if the fate of Canada were at stake. Nor is there any more excuse, for apathy in the one case than in the other. Democracy presupposes an alert electorate in every constituency, and on every occasion when the priceless privilege of the ballot is being exercised. First Queens enjoys a good reputation in this respect, and we have no doubt but that it will continue to do so.

The Women's Institutes

From the start the Prince Edward Island Women's Institutes proved a going concern, and the organization has now become a synonym for initiative, public spirit and successful management. The forty-fourth annual convention of the Institutes is being held today and Thursday in the Prince of Wales College hall and the programme is of more than usual interest in view of the list of speakers and subject matters slated for discussion. This morning's opening session will include the presentation of reports by the president, supervisor and others and an address of welcome by His Worship Mayor Stewart. Dr. Doris Boyle, of St. Francis Xavier University, will be among the speakers at the afternoon session, which will conclude with a reception at Government House. This evening's public meeting will be addressed by Major General Hatton, Deputy Civil Defense Co-ordinator, Ottawa, and will include an international exchange program and greetings from the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Cullen. There is also a well-filled agenda for tomorrow morning and afternoon.

The Women's Institutes now have about 320 branch organizations throughout the Province, and a membership of some 5,000, and are participating actively on all levels, particularly in matters affecting education, public health and rural development. They have sparked many other worthwhile movements and have become practically a clearing house for projects of community betterment. Some day we hope to see a fully documented history of Institute activities in this Province, from their beginning nearly half a century ago to the present time. Such a work would make a fine memorial for the 50th anniversary and its preparation—which would involve a great deal of study and research—

might well be given some consideration at an early date. In the meantime, this week's convention is drawing members from all parts of the Province to the city, and their deliberations will be followed with keen interest by all our citizens.

Logical Contention

A fortnight or so ago the United Nations Command in Korea (which, for all practical purposes, means the United States Government) announced that its forces would be augmented by modern fighter planes and improved weapons to offset the arms build-up by the Communists. The decision was said to be "irrevocable".

Immediately, North Korean delegates on the Korean Armistice Commission complained that the move was a flagrant breach of the armistice agreement and could not be tolerated. Following the expression of this view, "Democratic Korea", the official organ of the North Korean Government, editorialized thusly: "The Korean people cannot allow to run free a wolf who is injuring them and plans further injury to them. They cannot permit new weapons to be brought in. The United States must not forget this rigid truth. If it forgets the lessons of the Korean war, ignores the changes in the situation today, destroys the armistice agreement and again starts a war, it is like digging your own grave. We can under no conditions permit any alteration whatsoever in the Korean armistice agreement". Since then, North Korean officials have threatened the United States in similar vein.

What has been the effect of all this on American plans? Well, the latest word from Tokyo, whence the planes and weapons were to be dispatched to South Korea, is that the operation has been delayed for technical reasons and that it might be another two weeks or so before it is put into effect. Meanwhile, the news from Moscow is that North Korea has called the American "bluff". It suggests that the operation was put off not for "technical" reasons but out of fear of the consequences.

United States' Congressmen are perturbed over this and are urging the President to see that the operation is carried out without further delay. They say it would never do for angry words from North Korea to hinder the carrying out of any American policy once it has been decided upon. Anyone can see the logic of that contention.

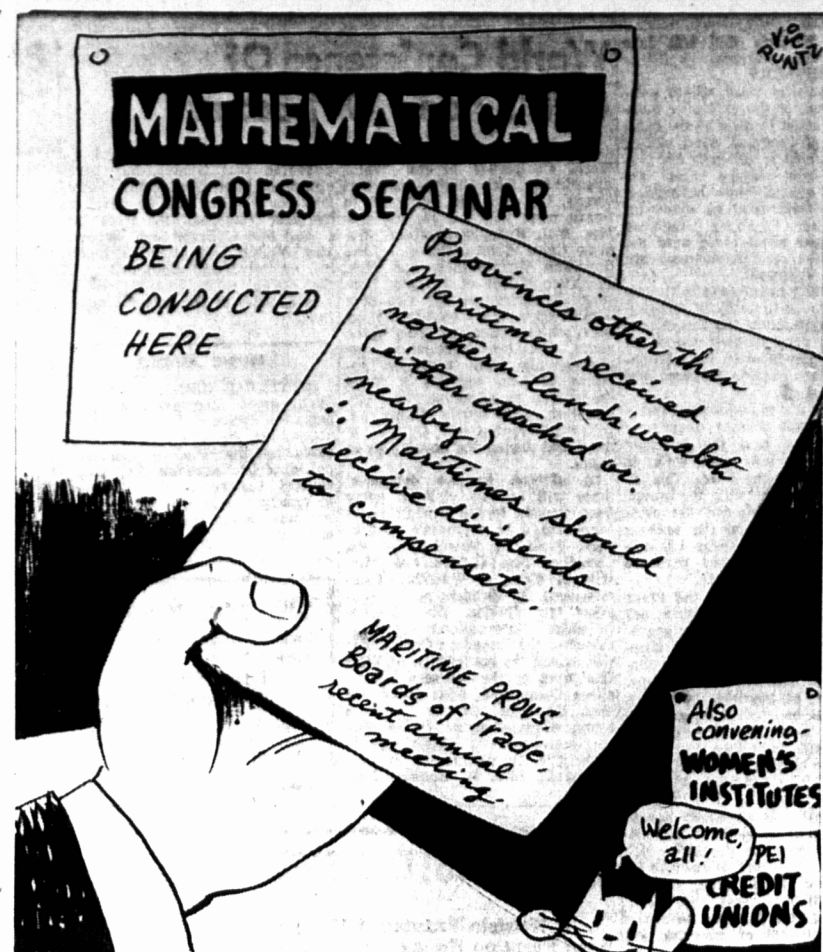
EDITORIAL NOTES

Delegates from across the continent have been invited to attend the 20th annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Credit Union League today. The organization, from a modest beginning, has made phenomenal progress, with sixty Credit Unions in the Province and a membership of 9,750.

O'Leary is to be congratulated upon its fine new 27-bed Community Hospital, which will be opened officially today. This represents enterprise of the highest order, and will pay untold dividends in public health in the years to come. The hospital will serve the needs of West Prince but the whole Province will benefit indirectly from its establishment.

Prominent business men in the United States are urging President Eisenhower to put the country into the Organization for Trade Co-operation, the executive branch of GATT. The reason given is that failure to do so might jeopardize American markets in Western Europe after the proposed European Common Market is set up. It seems likely that this movement will have an adverse effect on American exports in any case.

Earl Nelson, the great-great-nephew of Horatio Nelson, England's most famous sailor-warrior, died recently in London at the age of 66. During an eventful life Lord Nelson had been a rubber planter in Manila, a gold prospector in Australia, New Guinea and Borneo, a soldier in the Australian army in World War One, a pearl fisher in the South Seas, a professional boxer, a writer and an astronomer—almost everything, in fact, except a sailor. He is succeeded by a brother. The Nelsons of Prince Edward Island are distant kinsmen.



SPEAKING OF PROPOSITIONS

OTTAWA REPORT

Low Cost Homes Problem

Ottawa: The appointment of Howard Green, who currently ranks as Number Two in the new Dieffenbaker Cabinet, to the portfolio of Minister of Public Works, is causing interested talks here. His predecessor was Nova Scotia's Bob Winters, who was a junior minister at the time of his appointment. Howard Green's appointment is believed to herald an intensive drive to provide low cost homes for low income families. There are no low cost homes being made available in our larger communities today. Yet the demand is constantly being expanded, partly by Canadians now living dangerously as they raise their families in sub-standard homes, and partly by immigrants who seek their first home in their new country. The tragedy of our failure to produce low cost homes is reflected in the hideous number of small children burned alive in obsolete shacks each winter. The policy has been to make cheap housing available through low interest rate mortgages, under the National Housing Act, and with the blessing and co-operation of the crown corporation, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. But this policy in practice has not worked out.

erage and modest house, father needed an income of \$4,100—provided that he also had the down payment of \$3,811 available in cash. If not, he would have needed a second mortgage, probably obtainable only at a discount and at usurious interest, and then his income would have had to be substantially higher to swing the deal. ARE YOU AVERAGE? Available statistics suggest that there were 3,250,000 fathers of non-farm families in Canada last year. The average father had an income of \$4,700. But 26 per cent of those fathers had an income below the \$4,100 needed to swing that average mortgage.

How would they have been able to buy a low cost house? The answer of course is simply that they could not. So the loudly-touted National Housing Act, intended to make low cost homes available for low income Canadians, failed in its task. Rental of course is not the answer. To pay rent on a new home costs more than to buy that home under the N.H.A. The answer is, and must be, cheaper construction costs, more mortgage funds, lower mortgage interest, and mortgages covering 90 per cent of the home cost. The government can only advise and encourage steps towards cheap or construction costs. But it can and should meet the other objectives. For example, current N.H.A. interest rate is 6 per cent. But those mortgages are insured by the government, so they are in effect government bonds. As such, their present interest rate is obviously too high, and is higher than on comparable mortgages in the States. Another point: the government should lengthen the period of repayment of these mortgages, from the present 25 years to 30 or even 40 years.

New Stratford Theatre

Canadian Press Staff, Stratford, Ont. The Shakespearean Festival's new permanent home, dedicated during the weekend by Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish dignitaries, is an incredible building, apparently meeting most requirements of players and spectators. Architecturally it is without precedent—an absolutely circular building with a fluted roof rising gently to a coronet in its centre. The festival was born four years ago in a massive tent and that genesis now is perpetuated in the present \$1,500,000 concrete—and steel structure, later to be topped with a copper roof. Its heart is the stage and apron, projected right into the audience and designed for the original tent by British artist Tanya Moiseiwitsch. Her inspiration was the stage in Elizabethan London's Globe Theatre, in which Shakespeare's plays were first produced.

FEW DIFFICULTIES This reviewer, having sat in most sections of both the bowl and the 858-seat balcony afforded by the new permanent structure, has found during actual performance and rehearsal that problems of line-of-sight and sound have been all but conquered. Certain adjustments are in order to overcome a slight echo in one or two balcony areas when an actor speaks with his back to the audience. Some touching up also is needed to one or two door-jams to ensure they are absolutely light-tight, for otherwise they allow shafts of light to penetrate the darkness into which the action demands that the theatre from time to time be pitched. An innovation is the theatre's orchestra pit. Customarily the orchestra is in front of the stage and just below Stratford places it above the stage and just behind. It accommodates 50 musicians, whose music is played right to the acoustical centre of the building, the canopy, throughout the auditorium. An air-circulating system is functioning, part of the air-conditioning equipment eventually to be installed, and even with a capacity audience of 2,190 the theatre should be comfortable on a hot day. From the outside the theatre lends from some approaches a festive character. Its pennant blowing, its 17-pointed coronet gleaming and its fluted cover rising like a fantastic parasol. From others, however, it is ugly, especially from the park and Avon River below, where its western cedar siding gives it a patchwork appearance. That can be remedied. Within, however, its layout continues the intimacy between players and audience that has become a Stratford tradition. Canada has here a theatre that may become the envy of the world.

Back To The Salt Mine

National Geographic Society The next time someone leaves the lunch table or coffee break muttering, "Back to the salt mine", it might be well to inquire whether he intends to work, to look at paintings, to eat, to carve statues, to mail a letter to improve his health, or to pray. For salt mines have many uses besides mining salt and symbolizing drudgery. Where vast diggings deep in the earth produce one of man's vital minerals, myriad side activities go on. LOOTED MASTERPIECES Constant temperature and humidity made salt mines good places for the Nazis to hide looted art treasures. Titians, Rembrandts, and works of other masters were placed deep underground, out of reach of bombs and atmospheric changes. One mine at Merkers, Germany, held art, gold, and currency valued at \$200,000,000 when Allied troops arrived during the closing days of World War II. At the opposite end of the spectrum from dictatorial thieves are the devout miners of Zipaquirá, Columbia. In a mine already old when Spaniards brought Christianity to Latin America, a great cathedral of solid salt has taken shape. Reputed to be as large as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, the underground church is formed from galleries left when the salt was dynamited and removed. As a tourist attraction, the salt cathedral has rivals in the Old World. Some salt mines there have been worked—and ornamented—since the early 19th century. PREHISTORIC GLITTER Hundreds of feet below the surface, I Wietlicka, Poland, for example, salt miners carved out roads, houses, restaurants, church-

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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.

APPRECIATION

Sir.—Two years ago I came to Prince Edward Island as a visitor. Since then I have stayed and shared the life here with you all. And as the time comes for me to leave, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the many friends I have made here. It is not possible for me to meet them all and thank them individually. But I wish to say, through the columns of your newspaper, that wherever my travels may take me, I will always remember with gratitude the many friends and the many kindnesses shown to me. I am, Sir, etc., G. RAJAGOPAL.

es, and monuments in solid salt. Ballrooms glisten with salt crystals undisturbed since prehistoric seas deposited them. Massive pillars, illuminated galleries, brightly lighted chandeliers of salt adorn the man-made cave. At one end of a large ballroom stands a great throne under a sculptured eagle. Here the Emperor of Austria sat on visits to the mine. Near by, visitors can mail letters in an underground post office. Salt carvings are features of the mine, with religious scenes prominent. Throughout can be found representations of one Biblical character—Lot's Wife. The crystalline deposits favored by carvers have become popular in certain places for making ornaments, statues, vases and the like. A family in Pakistan has a tradition of carving artifacts from salt blocks produced at a mine that has been operating since the 1500's.

Best Drinks For Night Driving

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D. Be careful what you drink when you drive. I'm not going to launch a long lecture about the evils of "mixing alcohol with gasoline," as our safety officials say. All of you know the dangers of driving while drunk. WATCH IT! But with summer holidays and vacations at hand, I think you should give a thought to what you should and should not drink when before going to bed. Take milk, for instance—or, rather, don't take it. Now I've preached the values of milk for ages; you've probably bored with the subject. I've pointed out why you need at least a pint a day. This rule still applies even though you're on a vacation. However—and here's the difference—when driving for long hours at a time, take your milk quota in cooked foods, with cereals or just before going to bed. Milk, you see, is soothing. It actually induces sleep. When you've got a lot of driving to do, you'll want to stay awake. Both tea and coffee will be helpful in this respect. Caffein is a natural mild stimulant. Niacin dilates the capillaries and helps to keep a person alert. Both caffein and niacin are found in tea and coffee. Incidentally, using sugar in your coffee or tea helps maintain your blood sugar level and tends to satisfy any feeling of hunger you might develop between meals. Fruit juices, too, have their value to the driver, especially tomato, orange or grapefruit juice. They'll help pep you up should you become drowsy. MILDLY STIMULATING Soft drinks, too, are helpful to a motorist. Many of them—cola drinks in particular—are mildly stimulating. What about water? Well I think most of you will agree that there is nothing as thirst-quenching or satisfying as a good cool glass of water during a long, hot drive. Besides you are apt to perspire freely on the highway at this time of the year. You will need to replace that lost perspiration by drinking your quota of four to six glasses of water each day.

QUESTION AND ANSWER J.B.: What are the symptoms of a mentally retarded child? Answer: Mental retardation in the child usually can be discovered only through examination by the physician. The symptoms will depend upon the type of mental disturbance present and its severity.

The Age Old Story

He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it he shall answer thee.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (July 3, 1932) A substantial grant from the Carnegie Corporation, to be donated over a three year period for the purchase of about 5000 books for the Prince of Wales College library, is likely to be obtained shortly. It is understood that a grant for a similar purpose will be made to St. Dunstan's University. At a meeting of the Summer-side School Board Thursday night, the contract for building the extension to the High School was awarded to Mr. T. D. Morrison. The tender was \$25,000 and will include the east end extension and the enlarging of the assembly hall.

TEN YEARS AGO

(July 3, 1947) By agreement between the Department of Transport and Marine Industries, the strict rule of "no passengers" will be observed when the car ferry Abegweit makes her maiden voyage to Charlottetown. After a few more trials the ship

NOTES BY THE WAY

An egotist might be said to be anyone who brags more than you do.—Toronto Star A cynic suggests that politicians would not have to spend so much time mending their fences if they did not sit on them for so long to begin with.—Kingston Whig-Standard Nothing is more irritating than for an out-of-town visitor to brag that the traffic situation is just as miserable where he comes from.—Winnipeg Tribune In these days of extensive credit buying, merchants are liable to be suspicious of those who attempt to pay cash.—Oshawa Times-Gazette A New York pastor recently spoke in praise of people who make blunders. And right away a lot of his congregation felt better.—Chatham Daily News The new swimsuits this season are of softly draped wool. And those who will wear them will gambol like lambs in the folds.—Kingston Whig-Standard

The Poet's Corner WATER MIRRORS After the confining rain, Children jump the silver looking glasses! Along the tarnished walk, Calling to their reflections, That answer in sprays of laughter, Look centuries deep into the shallows, And see the merry puddle-hoppers Of Byzantium and Babylon... and further, To the first glad innocent, Splashing his berry-brown feet in a fallen piece of sky. —June Martin Findley, In the Christian Science Monitor.

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