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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1955

The Liberal Victory

The Matheson Government received a sweeping vote of confidence from the electorate yesterday, the slim Conservative representation of late years being further reduced, with the leader, Mr. Bell, having a close fight in his own constituency and with the veteran former leader and former Premier, Dr. MacMillan, and the former Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Shaw, among the casualties.

For the Liberals, who are celebrating their sixth consecutive victory in a general election, it was a day of triumph which we trust will not develop into complacency, but will serve as a spur to greater effort and vigilance in the interests of good government for all.

The Conservatives must now do a thorough job of rebuilding their organization; and the confidence we expressed in Premier Matheson's attitude applies also to the zeal and devotion of outstanding Conservative candidates and party workers who will not take this defeat lying down but will work patiently and confidently for the future.

In a pre-election statement Mr. Bell, on behalf of the Opposition, declared: "I am sure that we are divided now into two opposing camps only to make our unity greater for the months and years ahead in the life of the next government, be it Conservative or Liberal. Once the votes are counted, we shall all close ranks again and go on doing our best as neighbours, associates and friends to make this grand Province of ours a more progressive, prosperous and happier land."

British Electoral System

Broadly speaking, every British citizen, male and female of the age of 21 and over, is entitled to vote for one candidate, and one only, in today's election. The basis of qualification for voting is the electoral register, which for the election of May 26 came into force in February 1955 and remains in force until February 1956.

The election of a candidate is simply by a clear majority, no matter whether two, three, four or more candidates have been nominated. In practice, this works well, and does give a fairly accurate result of political feeling in the nation.

The deposit fee for nominating in the British election is \$150. At the last general election 96 candidates forfeited their deposits. The highest rate of losses was among the Liberals; of their 109 candidates, 66 forfeited their deposits. Others who did so included ten Communists.

Since 1950, for the first time for nearly 350 years no university members have been returned to the House of Commons. The university seats were abolished under the Representation of the People Act, 1948, and their passing ended a distinctive feature of the British electoral system.

many prominent figures. University representation began in 1603, and by the time it was abolished no fewer than 12 members were returned for seven universities. In one respect, indeed, this institution was outside the British tradition. These members were elected by proportional representation, but all that is now a thing of the past.

Since the end of the First World War there have been ten general elections in the United Kingdom; and in only two—1923 and 1929—has either of the great political parties failed to obtain a clear majority. Even so, the King's Government—as it then was—was carried on without difficulty. In 1923, although the Conservatives were returned as the largest party—258—Labour, Liberals and independents formed more than half of the House of Commons—357 seats out of the then total of 615.

Today, the two great main parties contending for the mastery are Conservatives and Labour. The Liberals have almost ceased to play a decisive part in British political life—a fact which many people, remembering the great traditions of the past, regret profoundly. After the last general election the state of parties in the House of Commons—where the number of seats had increased to 625—was: Conservatives and their allies (the National Liberals) 321; Labour 295; Liberal six; Irish Nationalist two; and Irish Labour one.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There are still 50,000 children in West Germany looking for their parents, from whom they were separated by postwar chaos. For ten years the Red Cross has maintained a search service, and has united more than 90,000 lost children with their parents or relatives.

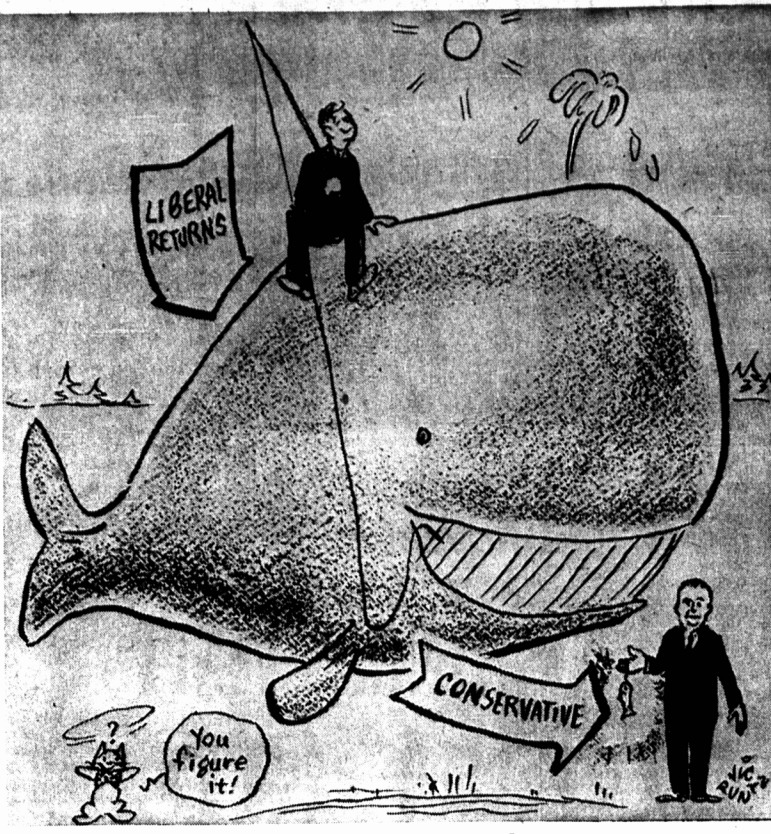
Every now and then something happens that the scientists with all their knowledge do not understand. Recently, for example, lightning struck a large sheepfold in a French village killing all the black sheep and leaving all the white ones unharmed. Experts are now trying to find out the cause of the strange discrimination.

An increase in the wages of New Zealand farm workers has resulted in a rise in that country's guaranteed price paid to producers of butter and cheese. Last September New Zealand cut its guaranteed price on these items in an effort to lower export prices, and gain a bigger slice of the world market.

Marshall Zhukov, the new minister of defence in the Soviet Government, once called President Eisenhower—then Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe—"the greatest military strategist of our times" and referred to his handling of the invasion of Germany as "the most magnificent performance of any general in modern history."

Proof that Churches stress the value of example as well as precept with respect to the Brotherhood of Man is shown in the following report furnished by a religious news service: Church World Service, relief agency of the National Council of Churches (U.S.A.), has sent 750,000 vitamin tablets to the Philippines following a series of earthquakes during the month of April.

Just why it should be so no one seems to know, but a report submitted to the Mayor of New York by a panel of specialists indicates that failure in reading is responsible more than any other single factor for behaviour problems in children. More than 85% of all boys sent to schools of correction for delinquency of one kind and another had special difficulties in reading.



Fishermen's Luck

Mr. Molotov & "Neutrality"

It was notable at the ceremony of the signing of the Austrian Treaty in the Belvedere Palace in Vienna that four of the five Foreign Ministers made short and appropriate speeches but that Mr. Molotov spoke for thirteen minutes. He had the day before declined politely to accept the suggestion that they should all limit the length of their speeches.

The reason was plain enough. The Soviet Foreign Minister had not come to Vienna, as Mr. Dulles, Mr. MacMillan and M. Pinay had, simply to sign the treaty and to congratulate the Austrian people on at last achieving their long promised freedom from foreign occupation. He had come to make propaganda for a new Soviet theory—the thesis that a country could obtain both security and the advantages of Soviet friendship by accepting, as Austria has, the status of "neutrality."

Already the Soviet press had been suggesting that the Austrian treaty might serve as a pattern for a German settlement. And Mr. Molotov referred particularly to Germany in his speech. He went further. "I want to express my conviction that other states too will follow this path," which he had described as that of "honest neutrality."

That has given rise to speculations that the Soviet Government may have in mind the creation and recognition by the Big Powers of a kind of "buffer belt" of neutral states stretching across Europe between the Communist bloc and the original NATO countries. It would consist of Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia. And there has been further speculation that one of the purposes of the self-invited visit to Belgrade of Mr. Khrushchev and Marshal Bulganin may be to try to "sell" this idea to President Tito.

That may be. But if I interpret Mr. Molotov correctly his advocacy of a policy of "neutrality" is not limited to Europe. He and his colleagues are commending it also to countries of the Middle East, and of Southern Asia—to all countries in fact who are neighbours of the Communist bloc.

What is the Austrian pattern which he so impressively commended? First, the state concerned is given a solemn guarantee of its own neutrality in any international conflict. It is to abstain from all alliances. It is to allow no foreign troops or foreign bases on its territory. It is to rely for its security on its own forces and on a pledge by the great powers that they will "respect and observe" its neutrality and its territorial integrity.

The Age Old Story

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Churchill On Patience

Christian Science Monitor The most renowned Briton of this century is not famous for his patience. But President Eisenhower's persistent endeavor to maintain peace by having "the courage to be patient" receives impressive support from words set down by Sir Winston Churchill as "a guide in the future."

The Churchill statement as a general rule of action has no less validity for having been made in reference to the Munich agreements of 1933. He vigorously opposed the Munich deal with Adolf Hitler. But in his book "The Gathering Storm" he took pains to say that in a majority of cases the patient course may be right "not only morally but from a practical standpoint."

TOP TYPIST Margaret Hamma at Chicago in 1941 set a world's record for speed typing for 60 minutes—149 words a minute.

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Medically Speaking

REASONS FEET HURT My feet hurt! How often have you heard someone voice this complaint? You've probably done it yourself; for aching feet is a very common ailment. We all know that shoes that don't fit can cause aching feet. But, did you know that infection of the foot bones—especially on the inner side of the long arch. This might only cause a slight ache at first, but before long it will develop into severe pain.

Posture Posture also plays an important part in foot comfort. Always stand with your feet pointing forward in their natural position. If your feet point outward instead, they put undue strain on the ligaments connecting the foot bones—especially on the inner side of the long arch. This might only cause a slight ache at first, but before long it will develop into severe pain.

QUESTION AND ANSWER J. N.: Are vegetable fats as digestible as animal fats? Answer: Yes, they are.

The Poets Corner

CHILDREN AT A POOL Soft bar legs press the fountain's wetted rim; Ten-fingered galleys plow the shallow sea; Lilliputian tempests splash the rival's knee, Then, challenging, they race to the other brim. Rose-colored garments, light as air, Swing as they run. Oh! magic is this pool. Vindictive a moment, water is their school. N atoms breed, is it for them to care? So when the mob cried out, "Great Caesar's dead!" Perhaps young Chloe in her atrium played, Or, dreaming by the fount, Pompeian maid, Felt the cool spray the while the lava spread. —Virginia Watson in the New York Times.



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NOTES BY THE WAY

This do-it-yourself stuff is being made so simple that a man these days can accomplish more mischief around the house with a hammer and screwdriver than he used to be able to with a \$200 tool chest. —Winnipeg Tribune.

There used to be an old saying that a chain was only as strong as its weakest link. We might as well write that one, to match the lean conditions, and say that a road is only as good as its deepest pothole. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

A new swim suit, conceived in Great Britain, keeps the wearer warm. Made of polished rubber on a stockinette base, the suit impregnates a layer of water next to the skin which warms up and insulates the body against the outside cold. —Fort William Times-Journal.

A picture from an American point shows a railway line's last water tank coming down. With the tank cold at the same time increasing buoyancy. That sounds fine. But considering the scantiness of the modern bathing suit would not the buoyancy and the warmth be almost negligible? —Fort William Times-Journal.

We cannot condemn too strongly this rising tendency for policemen to use their guns instead of their legs or heads. This is not meant as an indictment of police constables or their officers, but is a suggestion to police officials that the time has come when they must take steps to more strongly impress on their men that guns are for protection, not for the purpose of passing judgment. We must not have, and cannot have, protectors of the public who lack in stability and good judgment, for then they become not protectors, but a danger to democracy. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Business executives in the United States are having trouble in finding secretaries. Oddly enough, the low birth rate of the 1930's is blamed for the lack of supply. The Women's Bureau of the Labor Department states: "In 1930, there were about 19,000 fewer young women 20 to 24 years of age than there were in 1940, and approximately one million fewer girls 15 to 19 years of age. This means the supply of young women workers will continue to decrease in the near future. And if that were not enough to explain the current situation, it is to be noticed that the high marriage and birth-rate of recent years has further cut into the supply of women who want office work. —Fort William Times-Journal.

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