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Executive Editor  
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"The strongest member is weaker than the weakest ink"  
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Dief & General Custer

Writing in the Montreal Gazette, Arthur Blakeney predicts that R. Hon. John George Diefenbaker will dominate the proceedings of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada. It won't be the first time. He has toured above several such meetings in the past. But this time, it will be with a difference. Mr. Diefenbaker will be the central figure, because there is no other. The centre will be wherever he happens to be at any given moment.

Had it been otherwise, argues The Gazette commentator, the convention might have developed into a modern version of Custer's last stand. "But how," he asks, "can Custer's last stand be staged at a time when Sitting Bull is on annual leave, Crazy Horse has gone fishing, Red Cloud has joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and the Cheyenne are not yet convinced of the urgent necessity of forming a defensive alliance with the Sioux?"

A pertinent question indeed, as indicated by the preliminaries at the Young Conservatives' meeting over the weekend. In such circumstances, it will be interesting to see how the big event shapes up for which the tomkawks were sharpened in the anti-Diefenbaker camp. Maybe it will be the "redskins" and not the intrepid General Custer that will get scaped this time.

Less We Forget . . .

Successful firing of a giant Saturn rocket last week has been hailed as an encouraging forward step in the United States program to develop rockets capable of sending men to the moon. Not only has this test flight sent a 20,000-pound dummy payload aloft to become the nearest satellite ever orbited by man, but it has shown that the powerful liquid hydrogen second-stage motor can be fired satisfactorily. The spent shell of this second stage and the payload adapter also went into orbit making a total of some 58,000 pounds circling the earth.

This exploit was followed by the launching of an 804-pound spacecraft equipped with television cameras for photographing the moon at close quarters, which performed beautifully up to the final 10 minutes of flight yesterday, when it crashed into the lunar orb without performing its mission. This, it seems, was the sixth straight failure in the Ranger program, which so far has cost \$168 million figured at about \$28 million a shot.

Stupendous indeed is the effort put into these space flights, and no doubt they are of important military as well as scientific significance. Meanwhile, however, we note, from a much less widely publicized report of the United States Department of Agriculture, that the No. 1 world problem in the years immediately ahead is neither military preparedness nor winning a race to the moon.

"This overriding problem is hunger. In the foreseeable future, famine looms as a more serious outlook than even nuclear war, and unless a way is soon found to avoid a worldwide population explosion, starvation may become the only solution.

The department report says the United States and Canada are two areas that will continue to have sufficient food for their own people. But it is that cause for complacency? The surplus in all the "have" coun-

tries will not be enough to meet the wants of the "have nots."  
To only partly meet the situation by the year 2,000—which is only 36 years away—the world will need many more millions of tons of fertilizer and insecticides and huge amounts of agricultural machinery. The population of India, for instance, is nearly 450 million now. In 15 years it will be increased by 187 million, so that the country has only a few years in which to find food for an added population equivalent to the present population of the United States. And the problem facing India also faces other Asiatic countries with population outstripping food.

Giant Saturn rockets and Ranger moonspying equipment will not be of much use in this emergency. Nor are other achievements in our so-called conquest of space. Unless we kick this big No. 1 problem in time, not all the stars in their courses will be able to save our civilization from disaster.

Old Records Galore

For the first time in 40 years, the Public Record Office in London, England, has produced a complete catalogue of its archives, covering the whole field of British civic, ecclesiastical and political history. What lush pastures for a student to be turned loose in!

These records have been accumulating from the time of the Norman Kings, and were originally accounted part of the Royal treasure, being housed in whatever palace the Monarch of the day happened to be using. They range from Domesday Book, completed in the year 1087, right down to the work of modern ministries. They occupy 50 miles of shelving—30 miles in the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, another 20 miles in a repository in Ashbridge Park.

Among the old records are the exchequer accounts from the time of King John to George III, which include "wages for knights, archers and men at arms." There are indentures for the pawning of the Crown jewels for the payment of troops, especially during the reign of Henry V, and the roll of the army which fought at the Battle of Agincourt.

One of the contributing sections of the collection is found in the notorious Star Chamber from 1485 until its abolition by Charles I. And there must be material for untold sea stories in the trials for piracy and other crimes on the high seas in the High Court of Admiralty, in the three centuries up to 1834.

But they are not all available for one's perusal. Access to the records is normally governed by the rule that this is allowed only after 50 years have elapsed since the events were recorded. Sometimes a longer period is ordered should it be felt that the official documents might affect national security or just embarrass people, or the families of people named in them.

The Royal Visit

Commenting on the forthcoming visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to Charlottetown and Quebec City, the Moncton Transcript notes that this will be the third occasion on which the royal visit will coincide with the festivities of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, which falls on Monday, October 12, the final day of their stay in the Quebec capital. The festive staff of the province made at a special meeting of the local school board. Mr. Bennett accepted a position on the teaching staff of Prince of Wales College.

The Black Watch Club of the Prince Edward Island Highlanders will be presented with a picture. The "Thin Red Line" group of a painting depicting the charge of the Light Brigade on the Battle of Balaklava in the Crimea.

EDITORIAL NOTES  
The Canadian National Exhibition and Ed Sullivan are reported to be running into tough opposition from Russian talent scouts in signing up for the performers. Which prompts the Ottawa Journal to comment drily that this is "one bit of peaceful competition we don't mind if the Russians win."

"Readers may rest assured," said a Toronto Telegram writer in advance of the event, "that coverage of the Taylor-Burton visit will be a clinical study of its sociological implications rather than a frenzied explanation of its concomitant vulgarity." That's a good alibi, at any rate.

Housing conditions released in a preliminary survey made by a social group, headed by Brenda O'Grady, of Saint Dunns University show that many families in this city are living in conditions which are far from conducive to healthful and moral living. Mr. O'Grady submitted his report at the annual meeting of the Catholic Welfare League held in the Community Centre February 3, 1964.

One of the findings of the announcements in a civic election in several years was taken today by the Housing Commission in preparation for the election Feb. 10. Mayor J. David Stewart O'Grady, of Saint Dunns, succeeded himself. He will be opposed by Mr. M. Alban Farmer, Q.C. present chairman of the Police Committee.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 3, 1939)  
Mr. William W. Reid, B.A. Charlottetown, was appointed to the vacant position of principal of a Fort William household over the weekend. On impulse Thursday afternoon the lady decided to take a trip to the city which has housed cartons of food for the homeless and collected in most houses for a number of years.

Digging into one box she pulled out a photograph of a recent album. There were two records in the album and she carefully looked at the titles, she gasped. Rushing to the living room where her husband sat, she cried "look at what I've found! Gigli!"  
The man of the house shared his wife's delight. The Benigno Gigli singing Panis Anglicus, accompanied by the Bergamo vocalists of the pre-war production. It had been their favorite record 25 years ago. Time and time again they had wished they could hear voice that incomparable tenor voice of the great Italian singer. They had thought the record had been thrown out or taken away by one of the boys.

The lady was stepping over to the stereo set, when the husband said "Wait a minute! Maybe we shouldn't play it. We're used to hearing reproductions of stereo records. We played that so often it must be scratchy and in a way sound like a wax record. It's full of memory of his wonderful voice." "Let's take a chance," replied

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New Cancer Treatments NOTES BY THE WAY

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen  
Two new cancer techniques were reported in December and the first is the most promising. One utilizes energy from a ruby laser light that emits intense heat rays of infra-red type. The other consists of giving X-ray treatments to a person sitting or lying in a tank of amber containing oxygen under three atmospheres of pressure (hybaric oxygenation).  
Cancer cells are 70 per cent more sensitive to the destructive action of X-rays when the tissues are under three atmospheres of pressure than when they are at normal sea level pressure. This is not true of normal cells and herein lies the value of this new therapy. Malignant tumours can be attacked without demonstrable damage to the surrounding tissues. The dose needed to kill cancer cells of the pancreas, for example, will not have an adverse effect upon the cells of the nearby stomach and other organs.

The objection to hydrocarbon cancer radiation is the ill effect on the esophagus and pancreas, which are notoriously resistant to radiation therapy.  
Laser light has great potential as a weapon against malignant tumours. Human cancers of the breast, lung, and skin (melanomas) were transplanted into the cheek pouches of hamsters. In high concentrations, the untreated control hamsters died.  
We do not know why the laser beams destroy cancer cells. They do not penetrate the skin, but they do penetrate the tumour growths through surgery before turning on the machine. Only when vapour arises when the dissolved area is irradiated.

KIDNEY DISEASE  
B. J. M. writes: My son, a student at the University of Toronto, for which he is being treated, do you think he will be able to return to college?  
REPLY  
There is a good chance that he will be able to do so. He is a victim of acute nephritis set up and those with the chronic type improve enough to carry on their usual activities.  
BLOOD VESSELS AFFECTED  
F. writes: I have been told that betes cause poor circulation of the legs?  
REPLY  
Diabetes hastens hardening of the arteries. This is one of the reasons why the disease should be under control at all times with diet and insulin or at times with the antidiabetic pills.  
SALT IS SAFE  
Mr. L. writes: I'm 66 years old and like to be active. I've had this happen hardening of the arteries.  
No. The intake of salt should be limited if high blood pressure or drowsy is present, but not if you are otherwise healthy.

NONMALIGNANT TUMORS  
F. L. writes: Are fatty tumours cancerous?  
REPLY  
This would be most unusual. Lipomas are removed surgically for cosmetic reasons.  
TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—  
Quackery is as old as time.

PRODUCE PLATINUM  
Canada, the Soviet Union and South Africa produce most of the million or so ounces of platinum mined annually.

INTERESTED IN AN EXTRA REDUCTION ON YOUR INCOME TAX?  
I then make a note that contributions to Montreal Trust's CONSOLIDATED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN are deductible. So start now—provide for your own retirement, and secure your income tax advantages by taking advantage of this government-registered plan.  
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317 Kent  
Distributors "Dads"

Most people get an enormous kick out of doing something they can't afford. That's why so many people are enjoying living more than before—without a stroke of luck.  
A fat person is a colorful fighter who spends too much in the store. We'll find a deal at Evening Tribune.

The trouble with contradicting one's wife is that it's not only a waste of time, but it's also a waste of money. You'll find a deal at Evening Tribune.  
Landlady: "Young man, do you entertain girls in your apartment?" Young man: "I don't know, but I'm sure they're enjoying my invitations."—Galt Reporter.

It is not enough to learn the tricks of the trade—you must also learn the trade.—Irish D. gest.  
A person who minds no one's business but his own is probably a millionaire.—Hamilton a Novelist.

Doctors must be aware of the potential effect on their patients of what they do not say, what they do say, how they say it, when they say it. In the absence of more specific information, one poor fellow "Hiram" has had his condition—T. or Toronto Telegram.

Coalition In Italy  
By Alan Harver  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
Italy's centre-left experiment is a hopeful development in European politics, and the extreme left with its revolutionary war aims and its opposition to any half-house between capitalism and moderate parties found little common ground between the frequently-contracting limits and made things harder for themselves by a multitude of quarrels, especially over the long-standing religious issue of whether the state should support Roman Catholic schools. Village priest was at odds with local schoolteacher, socialist with the Catholic party representative.

In Italy's case, the dilemma of the reforming centre and left is complicated by the fact that the nation lacks a long period of national unity. It is hard to attain social cohesiveness, based on the kind of agreement on fundamentals that a country like Britain has built up over centuries.  
Despite these handicaps, the Moro coalition seems to have a better chance of constructing legislation than most post-war regimes.

Mr. Harver  
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