The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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PAGE 4 TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1964

What Price Conscience?

The Person Government's proposed maple leaf flag design is looming as a major subject of political controversy. Many Canadians will wonder why there should be urgency in deciding a matter of this kind, especially when there is so much other business of importance to be dealt with. But Mr. Pearson's ..address before the Royal Canadian Legion at Winnipeg over the weekend—which provoked quite a storm of protest—would seem to imply that it is high on his priority list of policies to be implemented.

On Friday "sources close to the government" were quoted as saying that if Parliament doesn't accept the new flag design, the Liberal administration will offer its resignation. This notwithstanding the hope expressed in the Commons by Mr. Pearson that when the bill is introduced, every member would vote "according to his conscience." This was construed as assurance that there would be a free vote on the issue.

Now it is claimed that the vote would still be "free", inasmuch as party whips wouldn't be employed to work up support for party positions. But this view is hard to reconcile with the threat to Liberal supporters that an adverse vote would be regarded as a vote of non-confidence, necessitating another election.

As Edmund Burke reminded his British constituents a long time ago, a Member's enlightened conscience is not something that should be sacrificed "to you, to any man, or to any set of men living." It was "a gift from Providence" for which he was "deeply answerable." To suggest that it could be exercised freely in the manner indicated above is mere quibbling.

Looking At The Figures

Is Canada's "brain drain" just a myth? The expression is generally taken to mean the loss of highly-skilled and educated persons trained in Canada to other countries, mainly the United States, and the problem is one to which politicians (and newspaper editors) frequently point with alarm. But according to a Financial Times correspondent at Ottawa, some experts doubt the relevance of the figures cited, and some even doubt that there is actually any brain drain at all. They contend that the supply of educated brainpower in Canada has remained fairly constant over the last few years.

Figures based on the 1961 census show that the majority of people who left this country between 1951 and 1961 and stayed away were not born here anyway. They were immigrants on the move who stopped over long enough to get Canadian citizenship and then drifted on. The same figure reveal that most Canadians who leave Canada for the U.S. come back within 10 years.

One reason for this is the growing number of temporary transfers of Canadian personnel by U.S. parent companies to head office to learn new techniques. In any case, the actual figures show that between the 1951 census and the 1961 census, 399,542 Canadian residents left Canada, of whom 282,355 were born here. But about 227,000 came back.

At the same time, there has been a slow steady drain of U.S. citizens to Canada which, it is claimed, is more of a real "brain drain" in terms of educational quality than the reverse movement. American immigration to Canada has been steadily creeping up over the past few years to the point where it reached around 12,000 last year. And only about half as many U.S.-born immigrants to Canada per capita return home as Canadian immigrants to the U.S.

Net emigration—the gross outflow minus those who returned—of Canadian-born persons to the U.S. for the decade between the censuses was about 55,000, but Canada permanently gained about 40,000 U.S.-born persons over the same period. Thus the net loss to Canada for 10 full years was only 15,000—1,500 a year.

Add to this the fact that practically none of the Americans coming to Canada were unskilled while 13 per cent were unskilled on the other side of the scale, and the "brain drain" begins to look much less frightening. Then toss in the fact that 22 per cent of last year's total immigration to Canada was made up of professional people, who overall account for only 9.7 per cent of the Canadian work force, and one begins to wonder whether the brain drain is not actually directed into Canada, rather than out!

Kept Under Wraps

As announced by Defense Minister Hellyer in the House of Commons, members of the armed forces who wish to appear before the royal commission on biculturalism and bilingualism will be permitted to do so; but their testimony will be given in camera, their views not made public.

This is better than forbidding soldiers, sailors and airmen to appear at all—which would place them in a different category to other Canadians. But—as the Winnipeg Free Press notes drily—inasmuch as the reason for the government's desire to keep these views secret is anything but a secret itself, the compromise seems pretty useless.

The fear apparently is that French-speaking members of the services may wish to complain that because they are French-speaking they are discriminated against in the matter of promotions. This is because English is the working language of the armed services, and a good knowledge of English is necessary if one wishes to get ahead whereas a knowledge of French is not.

It may also be claimed that there are more English-speaking Canadians in senior ranks than there are French-speaking Canadians; and no French-speaking Canadian has ever risen to the top of either the army, navy or air force. But these complaints, as our Winnipeg contemporary points out, are common knowledge; and keeping them under wraps is not going to make the grievances disappear.

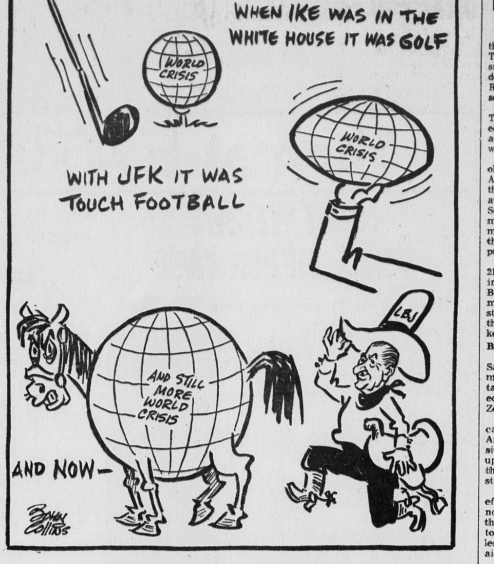
In present circumstances it is unrealistic and impractical to expect the armed forces to be completely bilingual. Unless every member were perfectly bilingual, such a policy would lead only to confusion. It may be, however, that the royal commission will decide that the promotion system should be examined to determine whether there is, in fact, discrimination against French-speaking servicemen. It is noted that since the present discussions on bilingualism began, many more French-speaking Canadians have been appointed to senior positions in Canadian industry than was the case before.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It was around about 650 B.C. or thereabouts that the prophet Nahum foresaw present day traffic dangers and the way modern drivers act, and described it as best he could in these biblical terms: "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches; they shall run like lightnings."

* * *

One of America's greatest judges, the late Learned Hand, once said: "I often wonder whether we do not rest our hopes too much upon constitutions, upon law and upon courts. These are false hopes, believe me, these are false hopes. Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it."



WHITE HOUSE FUN AND GAMES

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Pearson Speeches Make Good Reading

An illogical aspect of the pervasive dialogue about "culture" today is our massive national preference for its less intellectual aspects. For example, we buy in unprecedented numbers the recorded vocalizing of Paul McCartney and his three fellow - Beatles; but the demand for the printed wit and wisdom of our national leaders is—judged by the Printed supply — infinitesimal.

So it is with surprised pleasure that Canada's most adventurous book publisher, Jack McClelland, of Toronto's McClelland and Stewart, is to be congratulated for offering in book form a selection of speeches by the Prime Minister ("The Four Faces of Peace" by Lester B. Pearson).

The 43 speeches, dated between 1949 and 1963, represent Mike Pearson variously as The Man, The World Statesman, The Canadian Political Leader, and The Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

An obvious question is what the title means. The phrase "The Four Faces of Peace" is taken from the lecture he delivered in Oslo when receiving the Peace Prize in 1957. The strong foundation of peace and security, he argued, requires four cornerstones or "faces", these, in his words, are "Peace and prosperity or trade, Peace and power, Peace and policy or diplomacy, Peace and people."

WIT AND WISDOM

Mike Pearson's best friend would not claim that he is a great declamatory or evangelical orator. But his worst enemy would have to admit that his speeches have that rare quality of reading very much better than they sound, even after the lapse of time. In fact they stand up remarkable well through the years, and vintage Pearson loses nothing of its bouquet and authority, nothing of its sincerity and truth, by the passage of time.

Mike Pearson, It could be claimed, is an essay - writer of a class far superior to his oratorical achievements; his speeches are essays, each one studiously composed in long-hand by himself, not ghost-written; and with every sincere thought clearly expounded then lovingly honed, and trimmed of fat but garnished with occasional sprigs of wit before serving.

With some forty honorary degrees, as reported in the biographical note in this book, Mike Pearson obviously has some claim to the title of the living Canadian most honoured by intellectual circles. By personal qualities and by background, he rates as an intellectual in the earthy world of politics. This is shown vividly by his vein of wit, an appropriately dry brittle wit, often glittering to the surface, and neither corny nor mean nor personal. If an individual is the target of a Pearson quip, that individual is never either bitter foe nor dear friend, but Mike Pearson himself.

SERENE AND SIMPLE

The sincerity and honesty of the Manse where he was born and raised, the durable values and praiseworthy characteristics predating the Windfall Slate, keep showing through; only thus can speeches delivered 15 years ago still hold their appeal today.

His speech on the role of the Parliamentary Opposition, made when he led that opposition, is vidid reading today. He called the members of that opposition "The defenders of democracy" and he remarked: "We tailor personalities and create images of leadership to fit our policies or, if necessary, vice versa. The 'vice versa' is not so good." That perspicacious comment, now four years old, today goes directly to the heart of the matter, with a very barbed speak.

This rare volume of Canadian speeches will deservedly win praise and bring pleasure among its many readers; among the denizens of the intellectual desert which is our 26th Parliament, it would serve as a yardstick by which to measure the pathetic immaturity of their unusually superficial orations.

Our Own Backyard

Globe and Mail, Toronto

Canadians often display a perverseness toward the problems of their Indian and Eskimo minorities. Communities in the Far North are visited occasionally by officials or politicians who report later that conditions are intolerable. But at this point some unseen hand falls upon the development of any effective plan of attack on the problems and the intolerable continues to be tolerated.

Canada's anxious involvement in the troubles of Africa or the East stands in sharp contrast to this laissez-faire attitude. The job under our noses is somehow less pressing than the one which awaits us half way around the world. This was illustrated recently by a report that difficulty was being experienced in the recruitment of a mere 20 university students for summer work among Eskimos and Indians.

The task of the students, some working under federal authority, others under the Province of Ontario, would be to improve the communities to which they were attached and to appraise their educational, social, recreational and health services. Challenging projects of this type, it would seem, confer benefits on the helpers as well as on those they are helping.

The problem of recruitment is that, if students volunteer for this unpaid work, they forfeit the chance to take the kind of job which will help pay their university fees in the year ahead. The University of Toronto has been asked if it will waive fees for students taking part in the scheme, as the University of Alberta now does. No decision has been given yet.

Consider, by way of contrast, the operations last year of the Canadian University Service Overseas, which sent off about 250 Canadians to destinations in Asia, Africa and the West Indies to participate in Canada's expanding foreign aid program. Is a home aid program of much more modest dimensions truly beyond our reach?

Monday Holidays

The Printed Word

After some research it has been learned that when unemployment insurance offices are closed on a Monday holiday, the cash payments made to unemployed persons are handed out on Tuesday, the next day. This is what happened on the occasion when Senator Grattan O'Leary refused to give unanimous consent to a money bill to resuscitate the unemployment insurance fund, which had been forwarded from the House of Commons with the request or demand that the Senate give it all three readings in a matter of minutes.

The wrath that has descended on Senator O'Leary's head might not have been so great if the wrath-seekers had remembered that there are several occasions through the year when the unemployed have to wait an extra day for the cash. Presumably they have accommodated themselves to the recurrent situation.

As a weekly commentator has pointed out, never in the history of the public service has a government office been open on a holiday. In 1964 there will be several such holidays. In other years there would be additional days if Christmas, perhaps Boxing Day, New Year's Day, St. Jean Baptiste Day, one or two other special days in Quebec, and the first of July were to fall on a Monday. Remembrance Day is newly celebrated as a full holiday.

The one great good that is likely to come out of Senator O'Leary's action is that the House of Commons and the Government of the Day will be a little more careful in future to remember that the Senate was set up for a definite constitutional reason and that its useful future depends on the Government of the Day allowing it to do the work it was set up to do.

Senator O'Leary can't be blamed for all those Monday holidays.

"The Age Old Story"

". . . a man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes and said unto me, go to the pool of Siloam, and wash; and I went and washed and received sight." John 9:11.

FARMERS MEET DE GAULLE

PARIS (Reuters) — French farmers representatives Friday discussed their grievances with President de Gaulle in a 30-minute meeting, the first important political encounter for de Gaulle since his prostate operation last month. The farmers protested against the government's refusal to raise milk and meat prices,

Samarkand Is Menaced

National Geographic Society

Samarkand, the golden city of the legendary Scheherazade's Thousand and One Nights, have survived destruction by Alexander the Great and Jenghiz Kan. Recently, the elements themselves sought to destroy it.

The city reached its zenith as Tamerlane's capital. Poets called it the "Rome of the globe" and "Pearl of the Moslem world."

From its prosperous place on old trade routes through central Asia, Samarkand has witnessed the rise and fall of many civilizations, the National Geographic Society says. It has become in modern times, a major economic and educational center of the Soviet Union's southerly republic, Uzbek.

The population has risen to 215,000. A Sputnik is displayed in the Park of Culture and Rest. But tinges of the old flavor remain: In the bazaar there is still a small caravansary where the country folk park their donkeys.

BLOCKED RIVER

The gardens and vineyards of Samarkand, which is about 350 miles north of Kabul, Afghanistan, have always been nourished by the swift waters of the Zeravshan River.

This life-giving stream became a portent of death late in April, 1964, however, when massive landslides about 90 miles upstream formed a lake that threatened to burst from its unstable barriers.

Soviet engineers made every effort to relieve the danger, but not only to save lives and farms throughout the fertile valley but to safeguard Samarkand's priceless 14th and 15th-century mosaic architecture.

Few of the world's living museums would be more vulnerable to rampaging water. The master builders of Samarkand's mosques, religious schools, and mausoleums lacked stone. They achieved their intricately detailed works of architectural art in friable baked clay.

Samarkand's present beauty is largely due to Tamerlane (1336-1405). Through the lame Mongol conqueror roared through western Asia like a bulldozer, cruelly grinding hundreds of towns into dust, he had a father's affection for his own. He resolved that it would eclipse all other cities in glory.

Tamerlane was borne by litter to building sites to supervise work. He imported 95 elephants from India to carry materials.

To his period belong the great cathedral mosque of Bibi-Khanum, named for a Chinese wife, and melon-domed Gur Amir where Tamerlane was buried beneath a jade tomb. Three huge madrasahs, or Moslem colleges, were built later nearby on the city's main square, the Rigistan.

ASTRONOMICAL YEAR

Most remarkable of Samarkand's buildings was the observatory erected just outside town by Tamerlane's grandson, Ulugbeg, who was passionately interested only one minute from calculations made by four centested in the sciences and arts. The young ruler made measurements of the astronomical year turies later.

OUTDOOR SPENDING

Residents and nonresidents of Ontario spend $330,000,000 annually in the province on fish and game sports.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Evidence is lacking that President Johnson hurt a beagle at the White House when he picked the animal up by the ears. The only reliable witness is the beagle and apparently he won't squeal. — Fort William Times-Journal.

A new ray gun is said to be humane because it "causes no bodily harm but blinds the enemy soldier and sets his cloth. ing on fire." Anything more humane than that would be positively pacifistic. — Calgary Herald.

Long History Of Hostility

By Joseph MacSween
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Even such innocent words as "mediation" take on a bombs like meaning between those two not-to-chummy NATO partners, Greece and Turkey.

That was never clearer than at the NATO ministrial meeting in The Hague this week when one could provoke glassy stares and trembling indignation by unwary use of the terms mediator or mediation.

The problem went deeper than semantics, of course, but it points up how easily differences in the alliance can be magnified and how difficult it is to keep 15 countries working as a team.

There is a long history of hostility between Greece and Turkey but the Russian threat following the Second World War was frightening enough to drive them to co - operation within NATO.

Now that the main Communist pressures are being applied elsewhere than in their region, those two countries find it easier to quarrel openly over Cyprus.

In the case of Greece, this feeling of independence is so strong that Foreign Minister Stavros Kostopoulos at first rejected the idea that the quarrel was any of NATO's business.

SOME FEARED WAR

Secretary - General Dirk Stikker of NATO says he refuses even to contemplate the possibility of war between two sister countries of the alliance but it was apparent at The Hague that some foreign ministers did not share his confidence.

Even apart from open warfare, the feeling was strong that the countries—particularly Greece—fall short in their efforts to exert a moderating influence on the warring Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus.

This seems strange in the eyes of such far-off countries as Canada, making sacrifices and taking risks on behalf of the suffering Cypriots.

Much was in the background of the bitter debate that led to Stikker being commissioned to maintain a "watching brief" with Greece and Turkey over Cyprus, which is not a NATO member.

In one sense, this surely is what Stikker has been doing all the time. It's obvious that the alliance secretary-general would be watching the possibility of war between two members.

HAVE AGREED

Any mention of mediation was eschewed lest it be thought NATO was shouldering its way into a field solely the responsibility of the United Nations—the restoration of peace in Cyprus itself.

But NATO sources feel it is no small matter that both Greece and Turkey have formally agreed to the "watch"—that they have, in fact, agreed on something in connection with Cyprus.

It would be a diplomatic coup for Stikker, whose term of office is coming to an end, if he managed to bring Kostopoulos and Turkey's Cemal Erkin together for talks as suggested by Canada's Paul Martin.

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