

Commonwealth Relations

There is talk now that a Canadian may be named the first Commonwealth secretary-general—the man to run the Commonwealth secretariat agreed on at the prime ministers' conference last week.

According to the London Observer, several African states have hinted that their choice would be Arnold Smith, assistant undersecretary in Canada's external affairs department.

"It certainly would be a wise choice," comments the London paper. Mr. Smith, who attended last week's conference and represented Canada at the secretarial discussions, has served as Canadian ambassador in Moscow and Cairo.

Taken in conjunction with the favorable impression Prime Minister Pearson made on the African representatives at the conference, this report, if it materializes, could be interpreted as lowering the prestige Canada enjoys in the Commonwealth partnership today.

In any case, the decision to establish a permanent Commonwealth secretariat, to which Canada agreed in principle, marks a noteworthy change in Canadian policy in this regard. Heretofore, Canadian Prime Ministers have consistently opposed the idea.

This opposition goes back to time of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when a proposal was advanced at the Fifth Colonial Conference in 1907 that a permanent "council" be set up. It was the opinion of the Canadian delegation that the term council suggested a permanent institution which might eventually come to be regarded as an encroachment upon the full measure of autonomy enjoyed by the self-governing colonies.

With the growth and change of the Commonwealth, the autonomy of its members in relation to the United Kingdom is no longer in question. As the Montreal Gazette points out in this connection, the United Kingdom is more concerned with divesting herself of burdens than with assuming still greater ones.

The initiative for the secretariat proposal came last week from the new members of the Commonwealth. They wish for a better means of pooling and distributing information, and there is much to be said in its favor. Such an institution, once looked upon with misgivings as a sign of retrogression, would now be regarded as a sign of maturity.

For the appointment to go to top-ranking Canadian civil servant would indeed be to write a new chapter in our Commonwealth relations.

Masters At The Game

Many a politician's success has been credited to his ability to keep track of his constituents through the local press, and to share in their joys and sorrows by timely letters of congratulation or condolence, as the case may be. Few of them, however, are as conscientious in their attendance as these duties as External Affairs Minister Paul Martin is reputed to be.

Over his 29 years in the House of Commons, Mr. Martin has built up a file of names and addresses of just everybody in his metropolitan Windsor constituency of Essex East, where better than 45,000 voted in the last election.

Up comes the date on this file, and with it the name, address and special personal connection of every man, woman and child in Essex East, who has a birthday or an anniversary that day.

Additionally, the minister has a personal office staff of three watching the local press for such items as who has a new baby, a new job, who is newly married and has been bereaved. Out then goes a little personal note signed not by the Secretary of State for External Affairs but by "your friend, Paul Martin."

The retention of the human touch in politics is well worth while, and we think the more of Mr. Martin for cultivating it so assiduously. But it seems that his claims to being champion of the Parliamentary mail league have been threatened. A new aspirant to the title has arisen in the person of Mr. Louis Joseph Pigeon, Conservative MP for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, which is an urban riding some 40 miles out of Metro Montreal and which last election polled some 50,000 votes—a shade more than cast ballots in Mr. Martin's populous constituency.

It is said that this gentleman wrote a personal note of congratulation to every youngster in every class in every school and high-school across his three counties of Quebec who got a promotion this year. From kindergarten up to collegiate grade, they all got a letter expressing cheers from their representative for a year's work well done.

That's a mailing list to impress even the blase Mr. Martin, not to speak of the thousands of proud recipients and their families! Mr. Pigeon, we venture to say, will be watching. Whenever the next election comes along, and on whatever issues it is called, he's going to be a mighty hard man to beat.

An Anxious Wait

"Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. Moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue." This is not a quotation from Hitler, Mussolini, or Stalin—though they, too, dedicated their extremism to "liberty." It is from the speech by Senator Goldwater in accepting the Republican nomination for President of the United States. It has given joy to the Birches and Ku Klux Klan and all who hold the views of others in contempt, and has caused profound misgivings among thinking people everywhere.

As the Globe and Mail points out in this connection, the President of the United States leads not only his own country but the free world. It is not surprising that the world views with horror the thought of where a President Goldwater might lead it. But it is the thought that a substantial part of the American people are behind him that is most disturbing. Such a streak of fanaticism in the world's most powerful nation puts us all in danger.

It is said, of course, that Goldwater cannot be elected. But six months ago it was said, with equal assurance, that he could not possibly win the Republican nomination. The ground between now and November 3 is far too full of pitfalls for certainty. President Johnson has had one serious heart attack suppose he should have another? Suppose there were a resounding U.S. defeat in Vietnam; would it so wound national pride as to make the Arizona senator's proposals for "liberating" the Communist satellite states sound almost sensible? One U.S. President has been assassinated by an extremist; how safe is his successor?

In the world as it is constituted today, the election of a U.S. President cannot be a private U.S. affair and the United States cannot blame friends for harboring such fears. It will be an anxious wait for all concerned, until this fateful election passes into history.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An important change has been made in the Canada Council's scholarship program for the 1965-66 academic year. Unlike previous years, a determined attempt will be made to encourage postgraduate students to do their research at Canadian universities, rather than at institutions abroad.

Quietly, without fanfare and apparently without any local difficulties, Calgary is doing what most other urban centres merely argue about. On Aug. 15, with the annexation of its metropolitan area in North America administered entirely by a single municipal council.



NOT EXACTLY A LOVE SALT

OTTAWA REPORT

Patrick Nicholson's guest columnist today is John Fisher, Minister of the National Centennial Commission.

The celebration of the Centennial of Confederation is too good a chance to miss. It will be our only opportunity to put one hundred candles on the cake. Let's make certain to light them and keep the flames bright throughout 1967.

Even if the calendar were amiss, I still think that Canada should have a Centennial. We need some excuse to bring back upon our record and to draw strength from it. We need to give the people of this country a sense of occasion and enthusiasm. We should all look down the valley and see the river in the space of a century.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondence of questions of general interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed. All letters published are subject to editing where necessary. The Guardian is unable to accept responsibility for the return of unsolicited material.

TELEVISION SHOWS

Sir—A one who has teenage children who follow the TV shows to a certain extent. I often wonder where are selected "First of all we may see several hundred bucks into a television set for entertainment," as they say, to keep children off the streets, and of course, if you're old folks also, but in practically every show what do we get? News, a hangover, a set whose first act is to start our brains and passing the 11 p.m. around or drinking tea and milk. Many times they are supposed to drink themselves into a drunken stupor and be dragged away. We find others who seem to be hungry all the time. It's eating or sleeping or drinking, or feigning and carrying. Like many others did not buy a television set to watch people drink, eat and eat.

Next is the so-called love parts where young beautiful girls and men are seen around the room. The show is scanty attire that would not be allowed in burning Africa. It is not the show that educated people. Those people are pictured as love birds creeping over each other, hugging and kissing before the eyes of teenagers and the public in general.

What is the feeling of young girls and boys entering adult life? What is the feeling of a man and a woman who are right and wrong when they can say see it on TV every day of their lives? The time has come on our leading members in Ottawa to stop talking about fire and ice and take a long sharp look into what are being fed through the medium of television. In place of a divided country and a divided TV program where those uneducated parts are sent to the dump, stop talking about fire and ice and take a long sharp look into what are being fed through the medium of television. In place of a divided country and a divided TV program where those uneducated parts are sent to the dump, stop talking about fire and ice and take a long sharp look into what are being fed through the medium of television.

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Roland Michener's appointment as minister of the Interior and the fact that India is welcome for two reasons. It brings an able Canadian to the post who is admirably suited; and it disregards party affiliation. The country could do with more such appointments.

Diplomats come in two varieties: the good and the bad. The career men or pro-stay young as second secretaries and hope, after 20 years of service, to be appointed to the post of ambassador. An early difficulty may be the absence of a community development workers. Some Indians will be trained in this field; universities will be asked to establish training courses; and for a time trained personnel may have to be sent to the provinces.

Social and economic conditions in the reserves will where the Government has just received news of nearby white communities. It is impossible for Indians desiring resettlement elsewhere will be helped to do so. The Government's dependence on welfare assistance and increase Indians responsibility in handling their own affairs.

Canada has some 197,000 Indians of whom 140,000 live on 2,300 reserves. Twenty thousand more live on crown lands and 50,000 live on reserve. The program is aimed at reaching at least 60 per cent of them.

Burn Treatment Is Complicated

By Dr. Theodore R.C. Gan Dellen A severe burn injures the largest body of the body. It is also an illness because the charred tissues create a toxic effect on the body.

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Thousands of young ladies in Great Britain and elsewhere are taking the tepid bathing suit. They're from two to six. — Windsor Star

If the average child doesn't get the bathroom towel dry, he hasn't washed his face and hair. — St. Thomas Times-Journal

A low hum can be used to keep away flies and mosquitoes. It seems federal researchers are discovering that amplification of such sounds disturbs the pests and shoots them off. If this idea ever becomes a reality for general use, it may be hard to decide which is more seaworthy: the humming noise or the buzzing and bling. A fly, you may recall, is something to fend off, from time to time, the hum of the refrigerator. — Wall Street Journal

May Favor Tory Chances

By Joseph Maclean Canadian Press Staff Writer

Barry Goldwater may not be the American presidency but his book figure he will win the British general election — for Sir Alec Douglas-Home, that is.

Douglas-Home, the British prime minister, hasn't claimed to be a Tory, but he is one. He is a Tory, but he is one. He is a Tory, but he is one.

And Harold Wilson, his Labor party challenger, certainly isn't saying that Sir Alec's chances are sooming just because the Republican candidate is Douglas-Home, in fact, said as late as Tuesday night it would be foolish for the Conservatives to try to make long-range capital from the American struggle because that would be a two-edged weapon.

It's no accident that in their hair and they should stay out of ours," was the gist of his message.

HOPE JOHNSON WINS Both Wilson and Douglas-Home, it seems sure, honestly hope for a Conservative victory. Douglas-Home, in fact, said as late as Tuesday night it would be foolish for the Conservatives to try to make long-range capital from the American struggle because that would be a two-edged weapon.

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Soviet Secret Weapon

Maniloba Free Press

A few years ago, when a high-flying U-2 jet containing Francis Gary Powers was shot down by the Russians, American defence experts scratched their heads and wondered how the Russian had done it. It was so fast and it was so high that the Russians would be unable to detect it, let alone shoot it down.

Mr. Khrushchev at the time bragged that the mighty U-2 had been brought low by a wonderful new Soviet secret weapon. The exact nature of the Russian secret weapon was never revealed and western military men do not doubt, say many sleepless nights wondering about death rays, long range atomic-powered aircraft missiles, a d hydrogen bomb, or a new type of the Flash Gordon variety.

Now, however, the secret seems to be out. The Russian secret weapon is one Popov, a Communist party big shot in the district of Tambour. Comrade Popov's sole weapon is a well used vodka bottle.

The cat slipped out of the bag a few days ago when Popov and his wife, Olga, were seen in a small plane flew past and dropped some bug-killer into a pot of soap suds was simmering over the stove.

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