

not China. Here is the curious chain of events:

First, on Dec. 25, the Chinese announced that they would hold a meeting of the Chinese Peoples Congress on March 5. This announcement coincided with a two-week high-level meeting in Moscow on what should be true Communist doctrine. Beginning on Jan. 6, Moscow began beaming a series of broadcasts to China which amounted to sermons of instruction on the true faith. Peking continued during January to agitate for its own and very different version of what should be Communist policy and purpose.

On Jan. 27 Moscow announced a special meeting of the Central Committee of the Soviet Party—also for March 5. The coincidence of dates—if it was a coincidence—will bring the supreme political authority of the Soviet state in session from the moment the Chinese congress begins and make it possible for Moscow to handle promptly whatever may happen in Peking.

On Feb. 8 Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Macmillan proposed that the foreign ministers of Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union, meet in Geneva in advance of the March 14 opening of the disarmament conference—March 10 being indicated as the intended date. This proposal undoubtedly was made in knowledge of the Soviet agreement to release U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers in exchange for Soviet spy Rudolf Abel since the actual exchange of these persons took place two days later and arrangements must have been complete when the foreign ministers conference was proposed. Within 24 hours of the exchange of prisoners, Mr. Khrushchev came out with his Geneva summit proposal.

With the two main Communist powers convening in their respective capitals on March 5, anything that could happen in their relations at this meeting could be expected to have happened by March 10; by which date Mr. Khrushchev would be in Geneva, where he not only could express his personal views on the event but could also talk with the West in whatever manner might then be appropriate.

Until now, Khrushchev has sought "better relations" with the East by words only; his deeds have continued within the limits of fairly strict Communist orthodoxy. But if between March 5 and March 10 events should happen to disentangle Moscow from Peking then he would be free for the first time to deal with the West in a broader framework. Washington and London have shown no enthusiasm for a summit parley at this time, but Khrushchev seems determined to go to Geneva in any case.

Thus runs the speculation. Unfortunately, there is nothing in the existing pattern to prove that a Communist break will occur or that beginning from March 10 Mr. Khrushchev will be any more ready to talk frankly with the West than he was before. But the machinery which could permit such action will be set up and ready for operation by that date. It makes a good story of plots and counterplots, and we give it for what it's worth. It helps, at least, to focus attention on Geneva on the Ides of March.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A careful estimate by a bird watcher indicates that of the millions of birds in America, every one likes a hand-out of bread crumbs in winter.

Royal assent was given yesterday to four government welfare measures, including one to increase the federal old age pension to \$65 a month from \$55 for all Canadians at age 70. The other measures provide for similar increases in blind and disability pensions and pensions for the needy between age 65 and 69. This is one advantage the Conservatives have over rival parties at this time: they can convert their election gestures into actions.

Finance Minister Fleming has given notice of a resolution which will strip federal Crown corporations of their immunity from provincial taxation. This is a recognition that the principle of fair competition should apply to both private and public corporations. But, as the Fredericton Gleaner suggests, why not extend this principle to the municipalities as well as the provinces? They, too, find the present competition unfair.

"I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT" SAID TWEEDLEDON; "BUT IT ISN'T SO, NOHOW."

"CONTRARIWISE," CONTINUED TWEEDLEDIEF, "IF IT WAS SO, IT MIGHT BE; AND IF IT WERE SO, IT WOULD BE; BUT AS IT ISN'T, IT AIN'T. THAT'S LOGIC."



TWEEDLEDON AND TWEEDLEDIEF

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

"Every Elector His Own Tipster"

The occult arts practised by the election-date tipsters may bewilder the uninitiated. But a superficial acquaintance with the "Canada Elections Act," coupled with a working knowledge of the sacred cows of Canadian life, family habits, and our climate will enable every elector to be his own tipster.

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. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

MR. PICKERSGILL REPLIES

Sir,—In a recent issue you carried an Ottawa report by Patrick Nicholson entitled "Changing Colors Over Flag Issue," which contained a complete misrepresentation of something I was supposed to have said at a press conference in Quebec. There was no excuse for his misrepresentation by Mr. Nicholson because I gave a statement to the Press Gallery the next day, February 2, which was long before his column appeared in which I said:

"Judging by press and radio I did not express clearly the position I took on the flag at a press conference yesterday in Quebec.

"What I was seeking to say was that the Liberal party at its National Rally in January 1961, had recommended that a Liberal government should take steps to give Canada a distinctive flag within a year of taking office and that Mr. Pearson, as party leader, had subsequently stated that he would favour a distinctive Canadian flag which could not be mistaken for the flag of any other country," and he had also said "Whatever action Parliament might take in regard to a Canadian flag, I believe that the Union Jack should be accepted by Canada as an emblem to be flown on all occasions which are concerned with our Commonwealth association and our status as a monarchy with the Queen as the head of that Commonwealth."

"When I was asked if this would mean two flags I said, yes, one distinctive of Canada and one containing the Union Jack for our association in the Commonwealth."

I am sure that you will wish to give the same prominence to this letter as was given to Mr. Nicholson's column.

With kind regards,
I am, Sir, etc.,
J.W. PICKERSGILL
House of Commons, Ottawa

WHY NOT, INDEED?

Sir,—In yesterday's Evening Patriot, under the heading: "Vacant Senate post stirs speculation," some eight prospects are listed. May we be permitted to suggest a ninth candidate: Honorable Henry Wedge, Minister of Labour and Welfare in the present Provincial Government? Henry Wedge has a long record of successful public service. For many years a member of the town Council of Summerside, he was later elected Mayor of that progressive town, and at the end of his first term was re-elected by acclamation. He is a very successful pharmacist, and is everywhere regarded as one of our finest citizens. As Minister of Labour and Welfare he is noted for his open-mindedness and rare good judgement.

Furthermore, he is the Acadian representative in the Provincial Cabinet. Since Confederation only one Acadian of Prince Edward Island has been appointed to the Canadian Senate. He died in 1897, and since that time no Acadian from this Province has sat in either the Senate or the House of Commons. Since the Acadians make up one-sixth of the population of Prince Edward Island would it not be quite democratic and fair to, on this occasion, Honourable Mr. Diefenbaker

appointed one of their race to the vacant seat? Last year, Mr. Diefenbaker proved that he wishes to recognize all the various elements of our Canadian population by appointing an Indian to the Senate. Why should he not appoint an Acadian this year? I am, Sir, etc.,
ACADIAN

costs money and entails greater fatigue. Thus in every general election we hear party leaders saying that the campaign is too long and should be shortened.

To do this, it would be necessary to eliminate the need to enumerate the electors. Thus we would have to maintain a "permanent" voters list, which would be kept up-to-date at all times. This could only be done by a costly house-to-house canvass at least twice a year; or alternatively and better, by making it compulsory for every elector to notify a permanent returning officer of any change in address or style—for example, a change of name of a woman upon marriage.

This is done in many countries, notably Britain, where elections last normally less than four weeks.

GUMBO AND HOLIDAYS

With our 57-60 day election campaign, a Monday poll calls for Parliament to be dissolved on a Friday, the 59th day before election Monday, or a Thursday or Saturday.

There could not reasonably be an election so timed that Easter Week would fall in the concluding weeks of a campaign. Thus Monday, April 16, six days before Easter Sunday—is the last convenient polling date this year before, say, Monday 14 May.

But by then farm seeding and northern break-up handicap the movement of campaigners and voters, so June is the next suitable election month. July and August find voters on holiday or at their cottages, so October and November are the next practicable months for a poll. Then we are into winter.

But in fact Canadians have voted in federal general elections in every month of the year except April and May, with June the favourite, closely followed by March, September and October.

Demonstration In Paris

By Alan Harvey
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The question many will ask after the big funeral procession in Paris is just where the Communist party fits into the picture.

An impressive demonstration, some say, but does it signify a movement of opinion within France against terror and violence, or is it merely a triumph for the French Communist party?

In London, The Daily Express has no reservations. "It was a considerable triumph for the Communists—no doubt about that at all," says correspondent Rene MacColl.

Other commentators are less clear-cut. The Times, for instance, believes that the French government will find it harder in future to "rattle the skeleton" of communism as a justification for savage repression of demonstrations aimed primarily at the keep-Algeria-French diehards.

Nobody can say for sure exactly how many of those who marched in Tuesday's silent procession to the Pere Lachaise cemetery were Communists. Perhaps they were in the majority—the tight discipline suggests that—but there were certainly plenty of ordinary people who never read a Marxist manifesto in their lives.

Some sections of British opinion were baffled and perturbed about the events of last Thursday, when police repression of anti-Fascist demonstrations caused eight deaths and provoked questions about the government seeming more tender with the killers of the Secret Army Organization than with unarmed citizens who opposed it.

The answer most frequently advanced again involves The Communist Party.

With a peaceful settlement looming in Algeria, president De Gaulle is thought to be scrupulously avoiding any action that would seem to align him with the Communists, however good the cause.

In any settlement, the attitude of the French army officer corps may be decisive. Brooding over past defeats and convinced that presence in North Africa is a bulwark against international communism, they might come out openly against De Gaulle if they see any justification for the reproach that the President is "soft" on Communism.

For some observers, the most significant inference to be drawn from the demonstration is that France is moving toward a "popular front"—the union of Communist and other left-wing elements that came to power briefly in 1936.

The socialists have been fighting shy of the Communist embrace, but their leader Guy Mollet has said in effect that in an emergency he won't ask anybody who is on his side to show a visiting card—in other words he will accept help even from Communists in the event of a coup by the extreme right.

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Being Your Own Doctor Doesn't Pay

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
"A PERSON who takes care of himself has a fool for a doctor" is an adage that applies equally well to physicians, who are expected to know better. They are human, like their patients, and react in the same way to illness, medications, emotions—and to prune pits.

The Case of the Perilous Prune Pit" appeared in a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. A middle-aged physician, while reading at the breakfast table, swallowed the pit of an extra large prune. He decided to let well enough alone and await developments, and promptly forgot the incident.

Six or seven weeks later he was conscious of a mild but steady ache in the upper abdomen. It seemed to be aggravated by coffee so he gave up this beverage. After all, he had been drinking too much coffee lately and he reasoned it was stimulating his spastic bowel or he was about to develop an ulcer.

But the anticipated good results did not materialize. He examined his abdomen with his hands and concluded he must have peptic ulcer. He resorted to milk, antacids, and a bland diet. But pain persisted.

He told his wife about his distress after she complained about his restlessness and inability to sit quietly. They compromised and arrangements were made for X-rays. The contours of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum were normal. Ulcer was not present.

The barium continued into the small intestine and approximately one foot from the stomach, the material hit a snag and was forced to flow around a mass about the size of a prune pit. Lesions in this part of the intestine usually are cancerous so a second X-ray was suggested as a double check before surgery. This time, the X-ray specialist massaged the area thoroughly, to get a better view. Suddenly the "tumor" was dislodged and began moving. It proved to be the prune pit and the physician lived happily—and wiser—ever after.

CANT SLEEP

C. D. writes: I have had an emotional upset that destroyed my sleep. I work hard all day and some nights average five or six hours but most nights I lie awake except for a few hours. My doctor just tells me many people can't sleep. How much sleep does the system really require?

REPLY

This varies. You must be getting enough sleep because you are able to work hard. Insomnia is a common among neurotics. It is worry mostly about what lack of sleep will do to them.

FALSIES AND CANCER

C. S. writes: Could breast cancer be caused by wearing a foam rubber padded bra?

REPLY

We don't know the cause of breast cancer but I doubt if wearing falsies is responsible. After all, the disease occurred long before brassieres were invented. In addition, many women who use foam rubber padding never develop this type of tumor.

WINTER ITCH

P. S. writes: My 73 year old mother is bothered with itching of the skin of the legs all winter. How can relief be obtained?

REPLY

The application of a cream or lotion should help. For further suggestions, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on chapping and winter itch.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Feb. 16, 1937)
An enjoyable skating party, given by the Provincial Executive of the Girl Guide Association was held last night on the rink at Government House. Mrs. George DeBlois, Honorary President, and Mrs. John Reay, Provincial Commissioner, received the guests numbering about one hundred. Music was provided for the out-of-doors skating by a sound system, loaned by McNeill's Radio Service.

In the eligible list announced by the Civil Service Commission for Graduate Nurses, Camp Hill Hospital, department of pensions and national health, appears the following—Helea Mary Solomon, Georgetown; Grace Elizabeth Harper, Charlottetown; and Ethel Clare MacLeod of Summerside.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Feb. 16, 1952)
A vast expansion of services was noted by the Vocational School during the past year. It was reported by Mr. C. Ralph MacLean, supervisor of the Agriculture Council. Mr. MacLean states that graduates of the Vocational School have proven themselves to be good tradesmen, and many complimentary remarks have been received from employers, regarding the excellent training they have had.

Joining in prayer with thousands of other Canadians, the congregation attending the Salvation Army on Sunday evening likewise remembered Her Majesty's grief and that of the Royal Family, at the passing of our Sovereign, King George Sixth.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Experience is the name a man gives to all his mistakes.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.
Then there's the definition of a delegate-at-large as a man who goes to a convention without taking his wife along.—Brantford Expositor.
The New York Times quotes Radio Moscow: "Siberia has more sunny days than Italy." That may be true, but the Italian tourist industry needn't worry about the competition.—Ottawa Journal.
The teen-ager wanted to borrow the family car on a foggy night to take his girl to a drive-in theatre. "In this fog?" his father asked. "Oh," explained the son, "we've already seen the movie."—Montreal Star.
When a person says, "Let's be realistic about this," prepare to dodge a curved ball.—Sarnia Observer.
Strange but true—the money you put away for the gas bill often pays the phone bill just when the light bill is due.—Chatham News.
Maybe it's a bit odd, and maybe it isn't, that the girls with curves are usually on the lookout for boys with angles.—Weldland Tribune.

The Age Old Story

He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Long-Range Power

Experiments now going on will have a big bearing on the transmission of electric energy over long-distances, notably the development of the Peace River power in Northern British Columbia on which Premier Bennett has set his heart. The work has indeed passed the purely experimental stage for Ontario Hydro propose a 460,000 volt line between Abitibi canyon and Sudbury 230 miles away. This is shorter than the distance from the proposed Peace River generators to the B.C. market, but it is a long high voltage line at that.
Meanwhile, in the United States, both General Electric and Westinghouse short experimental lines have been energized at 770,000 volts. Both companies are confident that they can equal long range transmission results in both Britain and the Soviet Union. These would in turn make feasible transmission of Peace River power and perhaps even help in the creation of the national power grid of which Prime Minister Diefenbaker has spoken as a national Canadian objective.
The problem is of course to cut down losses in transmission. If too much of the energy is spent in getting what is left to its destination, costs can run too high, and competing sources of energy become economic.

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