

Today's Byelections

With the party standing in the Legislature now 17 Conservatives against 11 Liberals, today's byelections in Fifth Prince and First Kings could not, in any case, mean a government upset. The campaigning has been keen, nevertheless, and there is reason to expect a large turnout of voters. This is as it should be, in justice to the candidates and in the interests of all concerned.

The contest in Prince may be the last in which the vote will be confined to property owners under the existing Election Act. The new Act, passed at the 1963 legislative session, does away with the distinction between councillor and assemblyman and will in all likelihood be proclaimed before the next general provincial election.

It is said that today's results may have a bearing on whether or not a general election will be called in the province this year. This reasoning is based on the supposition that if Conservative candidates are returned, the Government may find it opportune to take the plunge. If not, it will bide its time, hoping to do so under more favorable auspices. This kind of political thinking is not uncommon, but there are other factors, surely, which should be taken into account.

In this case we trust that a more responsible view of its stewardship will be taken by the administration if its candidates are endorsed, and that it will go to the country when the public interests warrant it, and not before. The last general provincial election was called in December, 1962. There seems no reason why a fresh mandate should be required this year, whichever way the cards fall in today's contest.

That Union Question

A mainland paper notes that Premier Robichaud, who sparked the revival of the idea of a political union of the Atlantic Provinces at a conference in Charlottetown last year, isn't going further at this time than to imagine the union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He isn't as much as prodding Prince Edward Island. He may be waiting, it suggests, to confront us with a fait accompli, after which this Province could apply if it pleased for admission.

That's the way we'd want it, without any screws being applied. Meantime there has been an academic discussion of the matter at Sackville, and Dr. Hugh Thorburn, of the political science staff of Queen's University and an authority on the politics of New Brunswick, had some pertinent things to say on the subject.

Dr. Thorburn conceded that such a move might help to stimulate regional economic development. But on the basis of the two most frequently used reasons for union—economy in government and more effective representation—he would consider such a union "a retrograde step." Of the four Atlantic Provinces, two are "over-represented" now in the House of Commons on the basis of population. We shouldn't have to give any reader of this newspaper more than one guess as to where we fit in this description.

In years gone by, a Prince Edward Island government fought hard to get our Commons representation pegged at a minimum of four members, the statutory number of our senators. It succeeded, and that is the only reason why we have the privilege of electing four spokesmen in the Commons today, instead of one and a fraction. It's the first thing we'd have to sacrifice in a union deal, and it would be a pretty stiff price to pay for its advantages. By all means, however, let our

sister provinces unite if they wish, and let them leave the door open for us, and a candle in the window, in case we change our mind. That would be real friendly of them.

Temper, Mr. Pearson!

Prime Minister Pearson blames the Conservative for much of the bad publicity his government is getting these days. That is what he told the Canadian University Liberal Federation at its annual meeting in Ottawa on Saturday. He warned his hearers not to be deceived by "the headlines of inquiries and alleged misdemeanors and all that kind of thing."

Tory propaganda, he charged. "They're so bitterly divided among themselves you can be sure they will do everything they possibly can to take the public mind off their difficulties by directing their charges however unfounded they may be, against us."

A sad state of affairs, isn't it? Worse still, it seems the Tories have been able to induce such staunch Liberal newspapers as the Winnipeg Free Press, and such outstanding Liberal journalists as Bruce Hutchison, to say snooty things about Mr. Pearson and his government.

Only the other day, the Free Press warned the Prime Minister that he'd have to mend his ways and start cleaning up his cabinet. And this man Hutchison, how is he talking in his widely read column? "The Liberal government," he says in his latest to hand, "terribly damaged, pretends to march ahead as if nothing had happened to it, like a man who limps on a broken leg, with a glazed smile, and refuses to call a doctor."

And he compounds his offense by comparing Mr. Pearson to "an uncertain Hamlet when he ought to be playing the King or, better, the Ace which prime ministers alone possess." The fact is that both the major parties, and their leaders, are coming in for a lot of justifiable criticism these days. If they paid more attention to it they would likely improve their batting average considerably. Trying to blame opponents, or the press, for the bad odor in which they stand is not getting them or their followers anywhere.

Their Proper Place

As we recall having said before, the Globe and Mail was one of the first Tory papers to go anti-Diefenbaker before the last federal election. It is still deploring his leadership. That hasn't prevented it from blasting the Tory MPs and senators who boycotted the parliamentary caucus which Mr. Diefenbaker called last week, and which gave him a vote of confidence.

The GM maintains that as leader, Mr. Diefenbaker had an unquestionable right to call a caucus at any time he chose. He may have expected the vote he received, with which to confront Saturday's meeting of the party's national executive. But that was no excuse for his critics to stay away; on the contrary, they had a special obligation to be present, to argue their case, and be counted. In failing to do so, says the Toronto paper, they quit the battlefield and discredited themselves.

"Public opinion," it adds, "will not fail to note that, while Mr. Diefenbaker is ready and eager to fight for his position, his enemies appear unwilling or afraid to face him in the proper party forum."

It is worth noting, in this connection, that the party's first six leaders—from Sir John A. Macdonald to Sir Robert Borden—were chosen by the caucus with no convention called. And in practical terms, the authority of the caucus is still considerable since the party leader must have the confidence of the men he leads in the Commons. That is where party strength is determined, regardless of what any party organization has to say outside the House.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Only 121 cases of polio were listed in the United States last year. Ten years ago there were as many as 40,000 cases in a year. We haven't seen the corresponding figures for Canada, but they too would doubtless show the striking progress that medical science has achieved in this field.

According to the UN Secretary-General, the increase in population in the less-developed regions is primarily responsible for the estimate that the world's population may nearly double in the next 40 years. During this period the population of the less-developed countries may increase to about two and one-half times its present size.



"WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE, GRANDMA"

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Big Stake In The Undecided Vote

In a recent column I described an analysis recently made of the votes in the 1963 election. This showed that 21 per cent of the registered voters did not use their ballot. Of the approximately four-fifths of electors who did go to the polls, 42 per cent voted for Liberal candidates, 33 per cent voted for Conservative candidates, 13 per cent for New Democrats and 12 per cent for Social Crediters. I mentioned that 1,184,340 Canadians voted for the 97 victorious Conservative candidates; the other 1,407,374 who voted for unsuccessful Conservative candidates are not represented in the caucus of present Conservative MPs. There has been a sharp decline in the Conservative vote in the last two elections. The total Tory vote of 3,911,195 in 1958 dwindled to 2,867,553 in 1962, and down further to 2,591,614 in 1963. WHAT THE POLLS SAY Relevant to the mathematics of the electoral polls—now nearly two years old—is the more recent sampling by the unofficial opinion polls. The latest review by the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion showed that Liberal support

White Ensign Proposal

Parliamentarians have been asked by the government to present themselves in morning-coats and striped trousers at the official ceremonies which will mark the raising of the new Canadian flag. The hope, rather forlorn it would appear, is that it will be remembered as one of the great moments of Canadian history; one, perhaps, which would warrant a composite picture in the Charlottetown tradition, and, naturally, be called "The Fathers of the Flag." The date, February 15. On that day the Red Ensign will be hauled down on land and sea; in its place will appear the maple leaf flag. On the same day, the White Ensign will disappear from Her Majesty's ships of the Royal Canadian Navy. Ironically, the new flag has no association with royalty nor, more's the pity, with the Royal Navy. All is not yet lost, however. The Canadian Naval Association hopes, Sunday, in Toronto, the directors of the CNA, agreed to ask Defence Minister Hellyer to reverse his ensign stand. What they propose, essentially, is that the White Ensign be retained, the only concession to the government's flag policy being the substitution of the maple leaf design for the Union Jack in the upper canton next to the staff. The Canadian Naval Association has twenty-seven member clubs, from coast to coast, with a total membership of about 4,000 veterans of all ranks. Despite the curious stand of a dissenting director, who maintained that any flag with the cross of St. George in it has colonialism in it, too, the Association will have the heartfelt support, not only of the majority of its members, but of the great body of Canadians who deplore the deliberate severance of tangible, hallowed ties with a nation that could produce a Winston Churchill. We expect nothing to come of it, however. The government which summarily rejected the protests of the 266,000 member strong Royal Canadian Legion in the Red Ensign issue, is not likely to do more than acknowledge the views of the Canadian Naval Association on the White Ensign.

Our Yesterdays

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 9, 1940) Destruction of two German submarines—one of which was believed to have sunk the Canadian Pacific freighter Beaverburn—by a single destroyer of His Majesty's Navy was proudly announced by the Admiralty in London tonight.

TEN YEARS AGO (February 9, 1955) Basil Phillips, now a student at Acadia College, Wolfville, received one of the highest marks yet given in the instrumental classes at the Halifax Musical Festival.

A Royal Dutch airliner headed across the Atlantic with 2,200 passengers aboard. That's right—2,200—all ages headed for Indianapolis. They travelled from New Delhi, India, to Ell Lilly, Indianapolis pharmaceutical firm.

Iron Supply Of The Body

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A 40-year-old New York City woman writes: "I'm always tired, nervous, and short of breath. In addition, my hands and feet tingle and feel numb. Our physician says I am healthy except for a borderline anemia. I feel better when he gives me iron tablets but it doesn't make sense. How can borderline anemia cause all this trouble?" In the past, most physicians would agree with this woman, provided she had iron deficiency anemia. This is understandable because in other types of anemia, the blood count and hemoglobin (iron content of blood) are very low before symptoms develop.

Why is iron deficiency anemia so different? We now know that the blood count does not tell the whole story. Considerable iron is stored in bone marrow in a form easily converted into hemoglobin in the blood.

Let us assume that our New Yorker loses a certain amount of iron in her menstrual flow. In addition, her diet lacks iron because she prefers salads and dainty sandwiches to meat. In time, the percentage of iron in her system wanes but this deficiency is not detected in the blood until the reserve supply in the bone marrow is depleted. Special studies have shown that when the quantity of iron in these deposits is exhausted, the response to iron tablets is excellent. Victims of anemia become peppy and are relieved of headache, dizziness, and nervousness.

A Dallas physician recently calculated that the iron deposits of normal men average 819 mg., whereas those of women are only 254 mg. He conducted tests on several volunteers in which the iron stores were completely depleted and an obvious anemia existed. Iron tablets were given when this stage was reached and the hemoglobin content of the blood returned to normal in a short time. But the medicine had to be continued for four to six months before iron deposits in the bone marrow returned to normal. These people took 110 mg. of iron per day but only 3 to 6 mg. were absorbed to make up the deficit.

SOLE WART Mrs. W. writes: What will happen if I disregard treatment of plantar warts?

REPLY Nothing, if you refer to the usual wart on the sole. The majority are so painful most victims want them and the cause corrected.

NERVE DEAFNESS F. S. writes: Can anything be done to retard deafness caused by deterioration of the hearing nerve?

REPLY Possibly. Vitamin B complex or niacin is worth trying. Meanwhile consult an ear specialist for a hearing aid or advice on lip reading.

SALT WATER BATHS M. T. writes: If a person is on a reducing diet, will weight be lost faster if she bathes in epsom salts every night?

REPLY No, because epsom salts are not absorbed through the skin and the solution is no more efficient than ordinary water.

DeGaulle's New Proposals

By Carman Cumming Canadian Press Staff Writer

Once again, Charles de Gaulle has jolted world diplomacy to the bottom of its striped pants. The bombshell this time is the French president's suggestion that the world's five nuclear powers sit down at Geneva and talk about how to restore the equilibrium of the United Nations.

What he is proposing is Washington and Peking take part in negotiations on the power structure of the UN—and this at a time when the United States won't even concede Peking's right to a seat and the Chinese are insisting they aren't interested in one. De Gaulle also suggests the nuclear powers decide how the UN should be run while the other 110 members sit outside in the cold, waiting and wondering.

HIDDEN MOTIVES? On the fact of it, the audacity of the idea tops anything that has come out of Paris since Napoleon decided to take on the Russians.

But with de Gaulle, as with icebergs, a good deal lies below the surface. In this case, the sub-surface motivations already are the subject of intense speculation at the UN itself.

It is conceded de Gaulle is fully aware of the attitudes of both Peking and Washington; that he doesn't expect quick acceptance of his proposal any more than he did in the case of his 1963 idea of neutralizing Southeast Asia. Rather, the president is seen

as talking about the shape of things to come—and possibly shaking up international patterns that appear to him to be hardening in an unsatisfactory way.

DOUBLE WARNING De Gaulle's proposal seemed to some at the UN to be a sort of double-barrelled warning. First, he was telling the UN it couldn't expect much French support until the restoration of big-power supremacy in peace-keeping operations.

Second, he was saying the big powers can't settle anything among themselves—such as disarmament—until Peking and Paris are given a full say. De Gaulle doesn't like to see problems settled over his head by Washington and Moscow.

The French president also seemed to be accentuating the idea his country should act as a bridge or a balance between East and West.

This would fit with France's earlier recognition of Peking and with the disclosure Wednesday formal talks are going on in Paris between the Communist North Vietnamese and the American-backed South Vietnamese.

To some, de Gaulle will appear to be rushing in where angels fear to tread. But no one in the West disputes things are going badly at the UN, in South Viet Nam and on the question of rapprochement with China. Some fresh ideas may be welcomed.

Burned Libraries

Hamilton Spectator The recent incident in Saigon when Buddhist rioters looted and burned the United States Information Agency library makes one wonder why buildings of this particular agency have been the target for 40 attacks in the last 11 years.

According to authorities of the USA, the reason is because the libraries and cultural centres represent symbols of the United States and are usually located near the centre of a city, a convenient spot to which agitators can direct rioting mobs.

As part of its foreign aid program the United States government maintains 172 libraries and 59 reading rooms in 87 countries all over the world. Many books in these libraries are printed in both the local lan-

guage and in English and they are considered to be one of the most powerful influences abroad established by the United States.

In many of these underdeveloped countries the USA library is the only one where a basic reference information can be found.

Destructive and discouraging as these attacks have been the USA is determined to rebuild and restock the libraries. The mere fact that its buildings have been attacked and the contents destroyed should be an encouragement to the project's backers.

Recognition of the danger, from agitators, is a sure sign the libraries are doing the job intended for them.

Downright Revolutionary

Financial Post That all Quebec children, French and English, should be taught the same version of Canadian history is recommended in the second report of the Parent Commission on Education.

It was the same able and epoch-making commission that proposed, in an earlier report, the creation, for the first time, of a Quebec Department of Education. This was done.

Of all subjects of study, not excluding literature, political science and economics, history does most to mold the student's attitudes to the community he will live in. It would be a triumph for goodwill and national unity if all Quebec children, not to mention the children of other provinces, absorbed the same amount of, let us say, the Bal-

tie of Quebec or the Confederation debates. But at first blush this looks like a Utopian scheme.

Even the English and the Scots, who have lived side by side on reasonably good terms for many centuries, get different slants on some famous events. And as for the English and the Irish—well, compare what their historians say about Oliver Cromwell!

MALAYAN CURFEW LIFTED

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) Dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed on sections of the Malayan coast as precautions against possible Indonesian raids were lifted Monday.

travel bargains
Charlottetown to:
Sackville \$2.20
Moncton \$2.90
Truro \$3.70
Saint John \$4.30
Halifax \$4.80
Antigonish \$5.20
Sydney \$9.50
Quebec \$12.15
Montreal \$13.00
Ottawa \$15.70
Winnipeg \$35.00
Edmonton \$47.00