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Old licence plates must be meant to stay on

IT'S that time again, the time when we try to remember to make a trip down to the Court House to acquire our 1959 licence plates. This editorial of course, is strictly for motorists. Pedestrians don't need licence plates, although many of them who wear dark clothing, should wear white bands and reflectors attached to their clothing or they're going to end up in hospital.

This licence plate business always presents a problem. We are warned well in advance that the deadline for buying the plates is February 28 and that they must be on the car by March 1.

That's all very well but who has $25 right after Christmas anyway? And a month after the festive season we are still worrying about what Christmas cost and getting some of it off our shoulders. By that time its February 26 and we still haven't collected our plates. This calls for action. First time to spare we'll get working on those plates, we say. And we do. Only what happens? It is now February 27 and we've discovered that the nuts and bolts that hold the plates on aren't meant to come off. Nothing short of a hack saw or a blow torch seems the answer. So on the last day, with all the other drivers who seem to have the same trouble as us, we're down the Court House with our $25 clutched in our sweaty palm getting our plates. Then we hand the whole matter over to our garageman.

One year we thought we'd circumvent all this trouble by buying a set of "easy-to-get-off" nuts and bolts. They were chrome, worked like a charm. So we placed licence plates and new nuts and bolts on the front seat of the car to make it easy for the garagman to fix everything up. The new plates gleamed proudly when we went to pick up our car after work. We were really happy until we got into the car. The new bolts were still on the front seat. The garageman had used his own, the old type. Took dynamite to get them off the following year. So beware of this last-minute crisis we always encounter. February 28 is a Saturday this year. Don't be in the line-up with us. Get yours now while you've got a week or two to spare to get those old plates off. Personally we're in favor of leaving the plates on and attaching a new tiny date plate every year.

Made-in-Canada trucks

IT has been our contention, frequently repeated, that many products imported into Canada could be made here if sufficient initiative and enterprise were shown. Confirmation is given by an announcement of the International Harvester Company, operating in Chatham and Hamilton.

Seven types of heavy-duty trucks, previously imported into Canada or assembled here, are to be made. The Chatham plant will manufacture the sheet metal work and other components, with the remainder being done in Hamilton. They will be powered by Rolls-Royce engines. It will mean increased employment in both Chatham and Hamilton and will lessen, to a degree, our trade inbalance with the United States.

The decision to make these huge trucks here implies a confidence it can be done economically and competitively. It also implies what now is admitted to be feasible might have been equally feasible in the past.

If these big trucks can be made here, instead of imported, there are plenty of other products which also can be made here instead of imported from the United States.

—Windsor Star.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

de Gaulle begins hardest part of adventure

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

President Charles de Gaulle now begins the second stage of his adventure in grandeur for France—the hardest stage.

De Gaulle wielded dictatorial powers as he presided over the bloodless revolution that demolished the Fourth Republic and laid the foundation of the Fifth, in which he hopes France will build to new greatness.

The strength of the new structure will be tested now the de Gaulle, 68, has stepped up to the presidency, making his long-time ally, Michel Debre, 46, premier.

It's true that de Gaulle still holds overriding power under the new constitution and it seems certain that this power won't be begrudged by Debre, who is chief author of the constitution.

★ ★ ★

In fact, it's reported that Debre's first draft of the constitution would have given the president even more power, but de Gaulle himself revised the document. A president couldn't ask for a more co-operative premier.

Nevertheless one-man rule has ended and the Socialists have broken the national front that brought de Gaulle to power by refusing to accept representation in the new cabinet.

Perhaps this is fortunate as it gives anti-Gaullist elements an opposition leadership—apart from the Communists—around which to rally. Optimists hope it will be the beginning of a two-party system roughly along the lines of Conservatives and Labor in Britain.

What exactly has happened in France since a revolt in Algeria May 13 started the sequence of events that brought de Gaulle to power June 1.

★ ★ ★

The extent of the de Gaulle revolution—although quiet—can hardly be exaggerated. Besides giving France a new constitution, he has reformed the government, the economy, the currency, the defence organization, the judiciary and the educational system.

He has failed to solve France's biggest problem, the war in Algeria, but he outlined a comprehensive—and expensive—economic and land reform program for Algeria that he hopes will be a prelude to peace.

Perhaps de Gaulle's biggest test of the French people comes in his austerity laws—merd taxes, less wages—which will cause a drop in the standard of living estimated at anywhere between five and 10 per cent.

De Gaulle spoke candidly to the French people—something that previous premiers could not bring themselves to do—and told them that to hold and enhance their place in international affairs, diplomacy, defence and trade, they had to make sacrifices, and heavy ones.

★ ★ ★

He led France into the six-nation common market and established new understanding with resurgent West Germany. He devalued the franc and joined 12 other nations in limited convertibility of currencies. He liberalized quotas on imports, throwing French industry open to much sharper competition.

Demanding NATO equality with Britain and the United States, de Gaulle pushed France's program to build atomic weapons of its own and announced plans for an all-powerful defence committee, with himself at the head, to decide military policy.

He added to his constitutional powers the right to enforce national mobilization to ward off both armed attack from the outside and "subversive" war within.

★ ★ ★

De Gaulle moved to encourage the sharing of industrial profits by French workers and management—a device aimed at increasing working-class support for his policies of economic expansion.

The question now is: Can de Gaulle make all this stick? Already there are murmers, especially in Britain, that he is moving too fast, in an economic way, in view of the Algerian war.

France's allies will watch hopefully to see whether de Gaulle has built an edifice that will stand the shock that will come when he himself passes from the scene.

A Bible Thought for Today

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and he shall direct thy path. Proverbs 3:5, 6.

There is none so wise that he cannot profit by listening to the inner voice. Even Socrates was not so wise that he did not welcome the guidance of the inner voice.

All aboard

By G. E. MORTIMORE

"It could only happen in Victoria" is a favorite trite saying, much used by the sort of people who imagine they have made a joke when they speak of Vancouver or Prince Rupert rainfall, or Los Angeles smog.

They are the people who suffer from a curious delusion: That the mere mention of certain beliefs and certain subjects is witty.

They are convinced that, just as Prince Rupert has rain, Victoria has eccentrics. If Prince Rupert goes through a dry year, or if a conventional citizen is found living in Victoria, they ignore the fact, because it does not fit their theory.

I have spent a fair amount of time in the B.C. capital, and have come to identify myself with it, in a way. So I wince when I hear that old cliche—"It could only happen in Victoria."

Next time I hear it, I shall ask: "Which Victoria do you mean? Victoria, British North Borneo? Victoria, Seychelles Islands? Victoria, Texas?"

There are 39 post offices in the world named Victoria. I am indebted for this item of knowledge to a post office executive, who had been thumbing through the alphabetical list of post offices put out by the Universal Postal Union. This contains the name of every post office in the world.

In addition to the 39 Victorias, my friend found seven Reginas—four of them in the United States, one in Italy, one in South Africa. He found only two Calgarys—one in Canada, one in Scotland; and three Edmontons—one of them in Kentucky, another in Australia.

Another Edmonton, a northern suburb of London, was not listed in the post office book—presumably because it comes within Greater London for postal purposes.

The post office man also found 18 Berlins, 17 Parises, 12 Dublins, 10 Londons, eight Belfasts, seven Ottawas, two Vancouvers (one of them in Washington State), two Prince Georges (one of them in Virginia) and **only one Prince Rupert.**

How much confusion would have been saved if the pioneers had called the frontier villages by native names. This would not be a guarantee against duplication. Ottawa is a native name. However, a native name is more likely to be unique than an imported one.

SNARLING SIBERIAN AND MATE—Two Siberian tigers purchased by Quebec City Zoological Gardens arrived in Halifax aboard a freighter from Hamburg. The cats, biggest Siberian tigers ever to enter this country, weighed a total of more than 500 pounds. The male is shown at left snarling at photographer while the female appears more docile. —CP photo.

LETTERBOX

RESPONSIBILITY

The Editor,
The Daily News:

Mrs. Ellen Fairclough, minister of Immigration and Citizenship has demonstrated that although she is regarded as the "woman of the year," she is still unable to evaluate those things for which she is responsible.

She has stated that all the immigrants have stimulated the Canadian economy because they had to purchase goods. Such a fatuous statement should degrade any public character because it was known before they arrived through advanced fares, that all their purchasing would be done with our tax money. They had none of their own, being mostly displaced persons. Work had to be found for them also, which could mean displacing Canadians. Quite a few single persons have actually done this and have worked one or two seasons (until all the construction slacked off) sending most of their earnings to the old countries to be followed by themselves in many cases. This is very fine for the Canadian economy.

Newspapers and periodicals from Liberty, Toronto to Vancouver have been featuring the European Nationals, pointing out just how wonderful they are. All of which could be true.

Does Mrs. Fairclough realize what she is responsible for in getting all these good people to come to Canada where their only hope of a living is to take jobs from Canadians through this specialized publicity treatment possibly designed to attone for false enticement?

Has she no responsibility toward a mess of 350,000 unemployed Canadians? A figure of two years' standing.

Ray Baxter,
Terrace.

AUSSIE PLASTICS

Australia's plastics industry, grown 10-fold since 1946, produced $67,500,000 worth of goods in 1958.

JUSTICE MINISTER Fulton, making a New Year's Day call on the RCMP officers' mess at Ottawa, took a sleigh ride with six Mounties to visit a neighboring RCAF officers' mess. He's standing at upper right of the buffalo-coated group, beside RCMP Commissioner L. H. Nicholson, as Air Vice-Marshal C. L. Annis welcomes them. —CP photo.

Stuffy, silly

From The Winnipeg Free Press

U.S. state department's cool reaction to the visit of Deputy Soviet Premier Mikoyan does not impress us. There was no invitation; no expression of pleasure, no recognition that the U.S. Government has any active interest in talks with the deputy-Premier of Soviet Russia. This is stuffy, childish, silly. To realize the harm it does, one has only to contrast such stuffiness with the Soviet welcome to Mr. Pearson, for example, when he visited Russia as Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Tories spent an estimated £44,000,000 in Wales in the 1958 holiday season.

Bundles for Britain

From The Daily (Oklahoma City) Oklahoman

American auto makers wondering whether to retool for small cars will no doubt note with interest that British production is expected to reach one million this year.

That's getting into the big time even by American standards. A five millions year isn't bad even for the American auto makers. A seven millions year is close to the all-time record of 1955.

It shouldn't be hard to figure where the British are getting their new business. They're obviously getting much of it in other foreign countries at the expense of the export sales once enjoyed by the now priced-out American products. The huge American cars are beyond reach of most foreign buyers with the possible exception of oil rich sheiks and satraps.

West Germany's auto makers also are doing all right. Their output increased more than 23 per cent in the first nine months of the year. They're continuing to do a booming business in auto exports with better than a 23 per cent rise over the first nine months of last year.

WESTERN SHEEP

The first shipment of wool from Alberta, 70,000 pounds, went out in 1884.

For their sure support hold on to your life insurance!

Your life insurance policy is extremely valuable property because of its guaranteed benefits to *you* as well as your dependents.

In all policies having guaranteed cash values, you are assured cash savings which increase steadily through the years. These are protected against casual spending yet are immediately available to you in a financial emergency.

The payment of every dollar promised you at retirement is absolutely assured . . . either in cash or as a guaranteed income. This is very important because people in Canada today can reasonably expect to live longer.

If anything *should* happen to you, your dependents are guaranteed all the money you provided for them through your life insurance.

Guaranteed family security and guaranteed savings make life insurance the number one gilt-edged investment for over 7½ million Canadians.

THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

L-758C