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JOHN F. MAGOR
President

J. R. AYRES
Editor

G. P. WOODSIDE
General Manager

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Queen Scouts credit to city, leaders, training

FOUR young men from Prince Rupert left today for Victoria to have the highest honor in Boy Scouting bestowed upon them. Before thousands of their fellow Scouts they will receive their Queen Scout's certificates from Her Majesty's esteemed representative Lieutenant-Governor Frank McKennie Ross. In so doing they will receive compensation for years of hard work, industry and perseverence, all attributes of the worthwhile undertaking that is Scouting.

The honors gained by Troop Leader Richard Reekie, and Patrol Leaders Robert Gordon, Wayne Watmough and Thomas Harding bring credit to Prince Rupert, the leaders and their training.

The entire trip and the reason for it point up the rewards of belonging to and working hard for the Scout movement, which like Navy, Army and Air Cadets has good citizenship as its goal. It also shows that the Scout promise of doing one's duty to God and the Queen and helping others at all times, has lost none of its meaning in the 51 years since Scouting began. We commend to parents the example set by Prince Rupert's four Queen Scouts, who have, as other Scouts, laws which require boys to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, obedient, cheerful, thrifty and clean in thought, word and deed. Scouting has a great deal to offer and presents quite a challenge to boys and parents alike.

Automatic fire fighters

Space technologists have opened up a revolutionary new way to detect and to fight forest fires. The technique includes using infrared sensing devices, such as are found in air-to-air missiles, and the missiles themselves, loaded with fire-suppressing chemicals.

An infrared sensing device in fire detection saves precious time. Such a device on a hilltop vantage point can pick up a heat source within a range of 30 miles. It is capable of detecting heat without tell-tale smoke. Once a fire is detected, the infrared mechanism transmits an alarm from a small transistorized radio, powered by a combination of solar and storage batteries.

The infrared sensing device would scan a critical fire area 24 hours a day. Not only would it locate a fire, but the device would then direct and trigger a fire-suppressing missile.

Already the Forest Service has discovered the feasibility of using the Navy's Sidewinder missile to fight fires. In tests, it was launched from a hovering helicopter and, armed with an infrared sensor, it unerringly sought out hot spots of fire. Future use will see the Sidewinder carrying fire-suppressing chemicals to spray over the flames. Some of these chemicals are available now and other more potent ones are being developed.

The changing concept of fighting forest fires is one of automation. The automatic forest fire sentry of the future will be backed up with jet planes and helicopters carrying anti-fire bombs whose payload is made up of powerful chemicals.

—San Bernardino, Calif. Sun-Telegram.

The committee on juvenile delinquency

The legislature's committee on juvenile delinquency has had one meeting in the last year. Another was slated for last Thursday, but it was called off. The legislature decided to give it another year to bring in its report.

MLA Randolph Harding doesn't think that's good enough. Unless the committee can decide that it has a job to do, and then do it, he wants to be taken off the committee.

He has a point.

Many important names die in committee meetings, but they die most thoroughly when committee members can't even work up the interest to meet.

Juvenile delinquency is an important issue. It deserves the best attention of the best minds in the legislature.

But at the rate this committee is proceeding it won't have even a tentative agenda drawn up before 1970.

It would be better to forget the whole thing until a chairman who is interested in juvenile delinquency can be discovered.

—The Vancouver Province.

Jobless man not statistic

The jobless man is a human being who is suffering, who is cold and hungry, and who has in many cases a family to support. It is time we ceased juggling with statistics, interpreting them as low or high in terms of the political party that is in power or in opposition. Nor is it of any use to make optimistic forecasts of a distant future.

It will be said that the Government is not inactive, that it has extended unemployment benefits, that it has poured out more than a million to stimulate the building industry, that the House recently approved a credit of $15,000,000 for winter work—but the season is going to end before winter works get under way.

There are two remedies for unemployment: to cure the evil at its roots and to bring immediate relief. At the stage we have reached, we should concern ourselves with what is immediate. We should not forget what is expedient, and we should mobilize all people of good will in the spirit of the recent pastoral letter of His Eminence Cardinal Leger. Governments, at all levels, should lend a hand and join forces, and find something else besides slogans.

—La Presse, of Montreal.

Poison control centre

The young Lethbridge and District Safety Council has wasted no time justifying its formation. The meeting of its executive last week demonstrated that the organization is imbued with enthusiasm, imagination and a constructive approach to its role in the community.

We are particularly impressed with the plan to establish a poison control centre at the Lethbridge Municipal Hospital — a centre which would provide information regarding poisons, treatment for poison victims and, above all, a quick source of guidance regarding antidotes for first aid treatment. The latter, especially, is something that could literally be a lifesaver, and the Safety Council's initiative is to be warmly commended.

—Lethbridge Herald

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

U.K. Tories to probe reason for Labor win

By ED SIMON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The military electorate of Norfolk South-West, emerging from its hole like a groundhog, has probably assured Britain of another six months without a general election.

Before this week's byelection the constituency's effect came to have a sense from the 1959 election, when it turned out its Conservative member of Parliament in favor of a Labor man while the rest of the country was busy throwing out Labor MP's and putting Tory candidates in.

This time offered a chance to climb aboard the 1959 bandwagon. Norfolk South-West responded by pushing Labor's margin over the government candidate from 191 votes to 1,254.

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Most of the experts had predicted that Labor would emerge through in the byelection, but the overwhelming increase took almost everyone by surprise. It now appears probable that the Conservatives will spend some time in exhaustive research as to what hit them before Prime Minister Macmillan dissolves Parliament and asks for another term.

The vote came 24 hours after Macmillan returned from Washington on the last leg of a round of diplomatic activities that promised to lead to a summit meeting and had brought his personal prestige to its zenith.

The commentators were quick to observe that foreign policy doesn't win elections, particularly in peacetime. But the constituency had no obvious domestic grievance that would account for the result.

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Its farmers had recently benefited from an increase in agricultural subsidies. The light industry in its towns was unaffected by the unemployment which has been severe in other parts of the country. The Labor candidate had struck no noticeable sparks during his campaign.

A former Conservative of extreme right-wing views ran as a third-party candidate, but the 785 votes he received were insufficient to account for the anti-government swing.

The significance of any single by-election always looms considerably larger in the pronouncements of the winning party than in the public post-mortems of the loser. But no juggling of the Norfolk South-West voting figures would conceal the fact that the Conservatives took a beating.

Student drivers

A prominent educationist has informed The Review that in the majority of cases those students provided with automobiles are among the less successful academically. Whether a direct line can be drawn from this statistical information is not entirely clear.

The same educationist suggested that if the minimum age at which a driver could obtain a licence were raised to 18, the problems of schools would be relieved and students would be enabled to fulfil their academic obligations without distraction. Such a proposal would undoubtedly meet with the approval of the insurance companies whose greatest problem is the youthful driver. It would meet with the approval of many teachers, while parents who are concerned today at the manner in which their children ignore considerations in favor of mobility would be relieved of a serious problem.

—The Sidney Review.

Wanted: a New Canadian mother

THE NEW CANADIAN Mother of the Year will stand on Ottawa's Parliament Hill this May with her arms full of flowers. The public can help select her. Interflora, the International flowers-by-wire service, with 11,000 members in 126 countries around the world, wants to pay tribute to an outstanding, truly deserving New Canadian mother. Nominations should be sent to Interflora, 315 Somerset St. W., Ottawa. Winner will receive a gorgeous Mothers' Day "Award" bouquet; an expense-paid holiday tour to Ottawa to see her government in action and the Canadian Tulip festival; a flower-of-the-month bouquet every month for the next 12 months, and other wonderful prizes. Entries must be postmarked by April 20, 1959.

— ALL ABOARD —

By G. E. MORTIMORE

Why shouldn't we have government sweepstakes? I believe that the arguments against them are full of holes.

Some pious people get so excited about protecting the world from evil that they use dishonest methods to support their cause.

A number of churchgoers are firmly convinced that gambling is bad for the character. They oppose sweepstakes. They are entitled to their opinion.

But they are not entitled to mislead the public with inaccurate statements.

Some zealous campaigners against gambling have been saying tat Irish Sweeps return only 15 to 18 per cent of their proceeds to hospitals.

In fact, hospitals take 25 per cent; 50 per cent goes out in prizes; and 25 per cent goes in expenses and promoters' dividends. James Stewart-Gordon tells us in the current Reader's Digest that of the $400,000,000 which the Irish Sweeps have taken in during their 30-year history, $200,000,000 went to prizewinners; $100,000,000 to hospitals; and $100,000,000 in expenses and dividends to promoters.

Sad to say, the Reader's Digest itself is guilty of slanted reporting in the same article.

"While doctors and hospital men are reluctant to assay one country's hospitals against another's, the impression among the International Hospital Federation men appears to be that, although there's nothing wrong with Ireland's hospitals, other countries which have not used lotteries have done just about as well."

What other countries? Were they rich or poor countries? What were their hospitals like 30 years ago? How rapidly have their hospitals been built and improved, in contrast to Ireland's?

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I have heard that Ireland has built and modernized its hospitals at a spectacular rate since the sweepstakes began, and that Ireland's hospitals are hard to match anywhere. I don't know these things for sure.

But in 1956 Irish Hospitals Commission invited representatives of the IHF, an organization that includes some of the world's leading hospital administrators to tour Ireland's hospitals. The commission must have felt that the hospitals were good, or the invitation would never have been issued.

Ireland is a fairly poor nation. It wouldn't have as much money to spend on hospitals as, say, the United States. How do Ireland's hospitals stack up against those of other countries in the same economic bracket? That's what we really want to know. And that is what the Reader's Digest article fails to tell us.

The statement that "other countries which have not used lotteries have done just about as well" is meaningless, and yet misleading.

British Columbia has a hospitalization plan, which takes the load off the individual citizen's back. But many of the hospitals are in trouble, and need money for new buildings and for running expenses.

And in regions where no hospital plan exists, many people just can't afford treatment. As a result, they don't get medical and hospital care when they should, and some of them die as a result.

How do you put that in a balance sheet

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Until I read Mr. Stewart-Gordon's article, I didn't know that the Irish Sweeps were run by a private company. A major stockholder, Joseph McGrath, one of the co-founders of the sweepstake, has taken enough profits out of the sweep to be a millionaire.

In spite of the vast amount that goes to promoters in the Irish Sweeps, hospitals have gained $100,000,000 from it.

A Canadian state hospital sweep could be run much more cheaply.

Sweepstakes are a painless form of taxation. And they are only a mild sort of gambling. I never yet heard of anyone spending the grocery money on sweepstake tickets.

A person who is unbalanced enough to do that would probably lose the money at poker, dice or racetrack betting, if he couldn't buy sweep tickets.

The anti-gambling people feel that if hospitals are paid for by sweeps, the spirit of charity will die. There is no reason why it should. Plenty of other good causes beside hospitals exist: housing for elderly people; half-starved people in Asia and in refugee camps.

For that matter, sweepstakes can be run to augment general revenue, rather than the hospitals. Sums of money from a general revenue could then be set aside for hospital use.

Puritans predicted trouble when Britain started issuing lottery bonds, with prizes, instead of interest. But the bonds are still raking in pounds and dollars for the treasury, and no thunderbolt has come down from Heaven so far.

Free enterprise

From the Boswell (Pennsylvania) News

Here is how Abraham Lincoln described the free enterprise system in his first annual message to Congress in 1861:

The prudent, penniless beginner labors for wages awhile, saves a surplus with which to buy tools or land for himself, then labors on his own account another while and at length hires another beginner to help him.

"This is the just and generous and prosperous system which opens the way to all, gives hope to all and progress and improvement of conditions to all."

it's a FACT

The custom of men tipping their hats comes from the fact that a warrior, when entering a house, removed his helmet and extended his hand. By reinoving the helmet, he expressed confidence in his host. By extending his hand he showed he was not concealing any weapons, such as a knife.

Education leadership

The resignations and appointments among Trail's education corps d'elite announced this morning did not come as any great surprise. Indeed, it is more than a year since this newspaper was informed by the University of Chicago that it had offered Principal Hartrick a staff associateship and an eventual doctorate in philosophy.

Back in March of 1958, however, Mr. Hartrick declined the honor: it was more important, he said, that plans he and his colleagues had under way for the development of a new look in JLC education methods and academic standards should be given a chance to prove themselves first.

Parents who keep an eye on the situation will agree that there have been—as District 11 board chairman R. E. Walton commented this morning—some remarkable developments in JLC under the Hartrick leadership. Top educationists throughout the west have recognized that something unusual has been going on in JLC, and there is no doubt that Hartrick has inspired an esprit de corps among student body and faculty, and a reevaluation of academic standards, that set aside JLC as an institution of worth in a day when sloppy education methods and adolescent indifference are to be found everywhere.

It is fortunate for Trail that Mr. Hartrick is to be succeeded by a man whose purpose in life is one of equal enthusiasm for high classroom standards.

A man who loves the English language, and one who has a nice feeling for the relationship between good education and good citizenship, between laziness of mind and wasteful dispersal of the taxpayers' money, Andy Soles has declared his intention—to consolidate the program he helped Hartrick to begin, to make certain that the recognition earned for Trail by that program is continued.

Mr. Soles can expect to receive from vice-principal Tom Bates, a noted mathematician, a valuable contribution to JLC's future success. A stern disciplinarian, Mr. Bates has a demonstrated capacity for a solid, conservative approach that will be of great help in continuing the "no nonsense" attitude which has set apart the JLC function in recent years.

Congratulations go out to Mr. Hartrick—not only on his appointment to the Chicago University, but for his ability to draw around him a high school staff and a student enthusiasm that have brought honor to Trail wherever educationists have met and spoken.

The devils

From the Ottawa Journal

Mr. Robert M. Hutchins, a former president of the University of Chicago and now the president of the Fund for the Republic, asks this provocative question: "If we weren't getting ahead of Russia, or falling behind her, how could we tell where we were" Russia, he points out, plays a curious role in American aspirations: she is both "the devil in our world and the standard by which we measure our progress."

If Americans have this devil Canadians have at least two. For it appears to us that the United States, benignly of course, plays almost the same role. How often do we not measure our progress by American standards and at the same time berate the United States as the bete noire to a "pure" Canadian spirit.

Both nations might be the better for putting their devils behind them.

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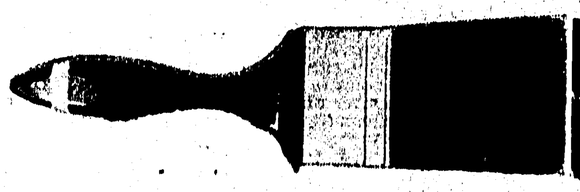

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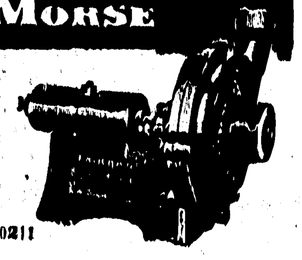

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