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As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Election Day in U.S.A.

BELLINGHAM, Wash.—Even the weather was like the opinion polls as we drove across the international border on U.S. election morning. It didn't seem to be able to make up its mind—rain or shine.

The border crossing points were strangely deserted. The U.S. immigration man was quiet and even more polite than usual.

Just around the corner was the Blaine city hall. There was a long line of voters, extending far outside the doors. Several uniformed U.S. customs men were in line and I asked: "How about me going inside to see how your American voting system works?" They laughed and told me there's no law against it, so in I went. They laughed harder when I came out and said "it's too tough for a Canadian like me."

THE VOTERS have an enormous yellow ballot to study as they approach the two voting machines. The ballot paper is 20 inches deep and 40 inches wide. It lists the candidates running as President, Vice-President, Senator, two Congressmen, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, Commissioner of Public Lands, Insurance Commissioner, State Senator, four State Representatives and two county commissioners.

If you are a good loyal party person, and vote the "straight ticket," it is simple to vote for the candidates above. You simply run your finger across one line on the machine—thereby pushing down 19 little levers which automatically register your vote when the big master handle is finally switched over. But don't run away with the idea your duty as a U.S. citizen is then done. You must also help choose four judges of the state supreme court, two superior court judges, a justice of the peace, a superintendent of public instruction, a constable, and three district commissioners.

You are in shape for the really tough job. You must also pull down little levers to show whether you want colored margarine, standard time or the cow-accused fast time, whether you want a change in the administration of health care for people on "public assistance," whether you want judges retired at age 75, whether the state constitution should be amended in three or four other, very complicated respects—all set forth in small print.

Then if you have got that far—and the people behind haven't shot you—you also vote on three separate propositions to spend money on school buildings, etc.

BETWEEN the border and Bellingham we dropped it at several polling places. Everywhere the pattern was the same. It takes the average U.S. voter about two solid hours to vote—counting waiting time.

They must have far fewer polling stations than we have, for the same number of voters. Democratic headquarters told me there are 23 voting stations in the city of Bellingham, which has a population of some 32,000. The voting machines do not delay the individual voting—but rather speed it up—and the totals are registered automatically. But the catch is only one voter may vote at a time on each machine. Under our system, it is possible for several voters to mark ballots by pencil at the same time, in separate booths.

The American polling stations seemed to me more expertly run than most of ours. I did not find any party scrutineers, or poll watchers, representing the different parties. Apparently they all agree that the machine reduces corruption.

But the stores, hotels, campaign headquarters, and all public places were literally dead on their feet on U.S. election day 1952. There was a tense, strange hush in the air.

ALBERTA SPUDS

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. (CP)—Alberta finds itself with a strong market for potatoes and sufficient supplies to enable shipments to be made outside the province.

The Blackest of Crimes

AS WE turn our thoughts tomorrow to those who died that we might live, we should also pray that wars will end so that there will never be others sacrificed in such a blind and cruel cause.

War has never solved anything and it never will. It is man's greatest crime because those who instigate it are guilty of committing murder which lacks even the justification of killing in a moment of passion. It is the deliberate and calculated slaughter of thousands which has as its purpose the equally criminal seizure of another's property.

Like any other crime, it sooner or later exacts a price from its perpetrator many times greater than the value of what is sought. Yet this lesson has never been heeded and even now the barbaric slaughter continues.

The guilt of warmongers is further darkened by the directing of man's spiritual gifts towards a destructive end. Having been raised above the level of animals by superior endowments, humanity now abuses its skill by employing it to design weapons of death. Maliciously and stupidly it seeks to eradicate the civilization which is the finest testimony of its mental wealth.

To defend oneself, or to help in the defence of others, against acquisitive criminals is the only course to take even when it appears hopeless. To do anything less is a treachery as unforgivable as the act of invasion itself. War is nourished by those willing to betray their country, and the invaders seek them out as eagerly as they marshal their own forces and strengthen their armament.

It is in memory of those who refused to bow to an alien will, and sacrificed their lives in destroying it, that we mourn. In the very act of fighting wars that cost their lives, they were the leading crusaders against war. It may seem that the crusade of those who died in World War I was unsuccessful, but this is not necessarily so.

Like the blood of men and women who perished in the last conflict, their was bought dearly and it, too, will smear the hands of anyone who is again guilty of this blackest of crimes.

In Korea right now more lives are being offered to contain a new danger. We also honor them tomorrow. As we do homage to the valiance of all those who died, we should individually make a pledge that our strongest living efforts will be made to ensure that history never records World War III. If we, and the generations after us, are successful, those wonderful words may be added to their epitaph:

"They did not die in vain."

Scripture Passage for Today

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."—Gal. 3:26.

Freshman MLAs to Attend Special Procedure School

VICTORIA (CP)—British Columbia's freshman MLAs will attend a special school during the early part of the spring session to familiarize themselves in the ways of parliamentary procedure.

The school will be conducted by E. K. De Beck, clerk of the Legislature, who has consented to teach the new members the somewhat complicated house procedure.

"I think the lessons will help the new members overcome their initial fear of the rules of procedure," Mr. De Beck said. Many of the new members have already signified their intention of taking advantage of the course, he added.

NEW TO HOUSE

Of the 48 members in the House, 30 have never set foot inside the assembly before.

There are 15 new Social Credit members, nine new CCF-ers, two new Liberals and two new Progressive Conservatives.

The two members elected in the Columbia and Similkameen by-elections Nov. 24 also will be

new to the ways of the Legislature.
Premier W. A. C. Bennett has given his blessing to the course in legislative procedure.

Independent In Contest

PENTICTON (CP)—Joseph Klein, mineworker, will contest the Nov. 24 Similkameen provincial by-election against Social Credit Finance Minister Einar Gunderson and CCF candidate H. S. Kenyon.

Mr. Klein will run as an independent on a farm-labor platform.

Liberals and Progressive Conservatives will not contest the by-election.



EARLY WINTER—Winter is coming to the "Garden of the Gulf"—Prince Edward Island. The first snowfall of the season lies on the furrows of one of P.E.I.'s famed potato patches. The crop already harvested, the fields are plowed for spring seeding. (CP PHOTO)

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Mayors Call For Municipal Exemption of Federal Tax

MONTREAL (CP)—The Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities wants municipal governments exempted from the federal sales tax on all items purchased as well as on equipment and articles manufactured by municipalities for their own use and not for re-sale.

Federation officers will meet with cabinet members in Ottawa late this month and again ask for this exemption.

The federation makes its position known in the current issue of its publication, "The Listening Post."

"Faced in recent years by mounting wages and rising material costs and the addition of new and onerous responsibilities in such fields as welfare, civil defence, etc., Canadian municipalities have found their limited tax revenue resources barely sufficient to meet their obligations."

"Since 1928 the tax has not been imposed on the purchases of provincial governments or of any railway, commission, board or public utility operated by or under the authority of the provincial governments. Inasmuch as municipalities, under the BNA Act, represent the delegated power of the provincial governments, it would appear logical, from a constitutional viewpoint, to extend the principle of exemption to municipal governments."

The federation says United States municipal governments are exempt from most taxes under the Federal Revenue Act of 1951, although it covers a variety of taxes and is not a uniform tax, the rate varying considerably from item to item.

In the U.S., municipal governments file exemption certificates with the federal government to be free of the tax. The certificates can be reproduced by print or rubber stamps and affixed to every order issued for municipal equipment affected.

On the question of loss of revenue to the federal government in Canada, with possible shifting of the tax burden from one group of taxpayers to another, the association says: "With several years of unprecedented federal surpluses there should be no great concern over

the 'drop-in-the-bucket' decrease in federal revenues that municipal sales tax exemption would create."

"The services performed by local governments are vital to the health, security and well-being of our rapidly increasing urban populations."

Exemption "will not solve the financial problem" but it will "contribute, in some small degree, to the maintenance of a better financial foundation for municipal government."

Mills Busy in Central B.C.

PRINCE GEORGE (CP)—Sawlog production in the Fort George forest district since Jan. 1 is 40 per cent higher than for the same period last year.

A total of 548,565,991 board feet has been cut in the district which includes the Quesnel, Prince George and Peace River area.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

COME AND GET IT

Bill Herbert of the CBC described Kemano, Klittmat and Nechako Friday night. Clear and graphic he overlooked nothing. Incidentally he complimented camp fare and cooks. "If one had to pay for all that," he remarked, "it would be eight dollars a day anyway."

The fellow who never makes a mistake usually draws his salary from the guy who does.

Senator Taft's father spent a day in Prince Rupert years ago. The former U.S.A. president addressed the Canadian Club in the Hotel Prince Rupert, with Judge Young presiding. Taft had

an easy, companionable style, with a gift for putting others at ease.

Clarence Decatur Howe, minister of trade and all-round big man at Ottawa, is away on a visit to South America. He keeps in touch, which helps in more ways than one.

He planned and built Prince Rupert's great elevator which has been a rather long time operating. But who can you blame for that?

There's this much about Mr. Nixon, the General's running mate. No one will ever dream of touching him for loan.

Birthrate Declines in Britain; Foreign Influx Heavy—Census

By SIDNEY WEILAND

LONDON (Reuters)—More than half of Britain's homes have no children under 16, census figures disclosed today. The figures were based on a one-per-cent sample of the national census taken last year.

One of every five married women in the country is childless while only 44 per cent have five or more children. In 1911, census figures showed 21.9 per cent had at least five children.

Officials pointed out that a declining birth rate is common to all industrial countries.

A government report crammed with statistics showed this changed pattern of British family life:

Three million married couples have no children, while 3,100,000 have only one child.

Eight million of the country's 14,500,000 homes have no children of school-age.

The average family size is 1.72 children, but in London it is only 1.56, while in Scotland it is 2.23.

Doctors, lawyers and other professional men have the smallest families.

Government statisticians, who worked out the birth-rate decline, also spotlighted the habits, home life and origin of the 48,000,000 inhabitants of Britain.

Buried in the mass of figures was the statement that nearly 1,400,000 British residents were born in other countries and that Britain had an influx of 500,000 foreigners in the last 20 years of political turmoil in Europe.

From Poland came 120,000, from Germany 82,000, and from Russia 38,000.

Sixty-eight thousand persons born in the United States are resident in Britain.

Most children leave school by the age of 15, only one in every 30 staying after 16.

A new generation is growing up in Scotland and Wales without troubling to learn the ancient languages of its fathers, the report showed. Twenty years of radio and newspapers in the Welsh valleys and the Scottish glens have blunted youthful fascination for the lilting tones of Welsh and Gaelic.

The report showed 3,978,000 British homes lack baths, 96,900 are without lavatories, and 37,500 had no stove on which to cook.

Row Likely If Anscomb Enters Contest

VICTORIA (CP)—Proton Conservative leader Herbert Anscomb declines to comment on mainland reports that he may try to retain his party's ship at the Nov. 29 contest in Vancouver.

It is known some Tories been approaching Mr. Anscomb and asking him to stay in the fight, but the former minister has not committed himself.

If there is a big vote in the contest, Mr. Anscomb will try and win it. However, such a move probably create a terrible rift in the party.

Davie Fulton, Kamloops, is considered a strong possibility for leadership although hasn't indicated as yet interested. Other possibilities are house leader, A. R. MacLean, Vancouver Point-Grey M.P., and Dean Finlayson, first president of the B.C. Political Association, Nanaimo.

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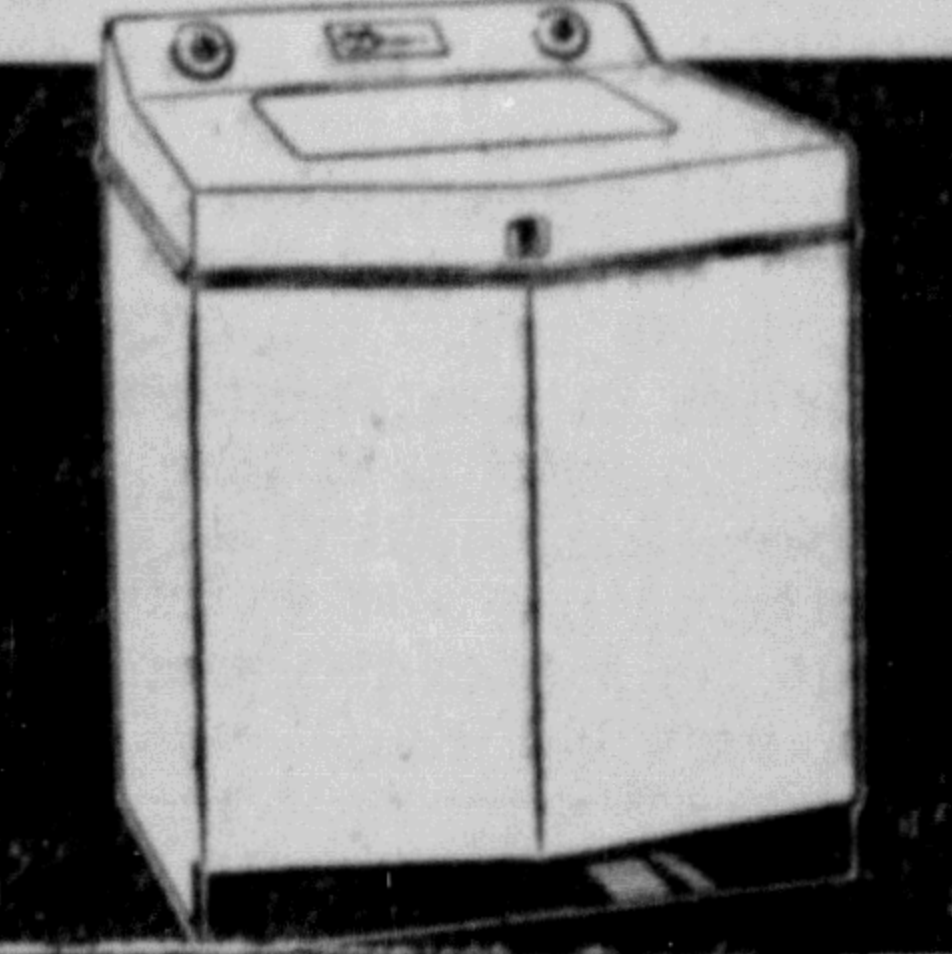
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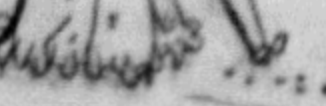
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"During the time he was here, we found him to be a very valuable citizen. He always took a deep interest in our community, so we feel we have lost a valuable asset. However, we feel sure that his replacement will be made with a man of similar calibre."

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