

Washington Spotlight



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BOYCOTT THEATRES
SACKVILLE, N.B. — Students of Mount Allison University are going to "boycott" the two movie houses in Sackville until requests for reduced student admission prices are met. The move was decided on at a meeting of the Students' Union.

WASHINGTON, (AP) — One of the democratic world's most complex and cumbersome electoral systems is grinding into motion to select a president and vice-president of the United States.

There are 48 states and almost as many variations in the system of getting a president elected. There is the electoral college which Senator William Langer (Rep-N.D.) calls "a relic of the stagecoach era."

PROCEDURE IN A NUT-SHELL

Here is an attempt to put the procedure in capsule form.

Presidential elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each Leap Year. Candidates are selected at party nominating conventions.

The national committees early in the election year, select the date and place for their nominating convention. This year the Republicans meet in June, the Democrats and Wallace's Third Party in July, all in Philadelphia.

Delegates to the conventions are selected by state organizations but the national committee decides how many each can send. The number is decided on a general basis of representation in Congress and on the performance of the party in the last election.

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES

This year the Republicans will have about 1,100 and the Democrats something over 1,200. These delegates are chosen at state party conventions in some states, at primary elections in other states.

In the case of states selecting by primary elections each aspiring candidate or his agent submits a slate of delegates he knows will vote for him. In the primary election the outcome is some degree of indication of the popularity of that candidate.

However few of the states sent delegates pledged to any one candidate, so the result of the nominating convention may be different from the indication given in the primary.

At the nominating convention any delegate can nominate any qualified citizen. Qualification is to be a native-born citizen 35 years or older who has lived in the United States 14 years.

Ballotting continues until one candidate has a majority over all others. Each state delegation votes in a block. The same procedure applies in selecting a vice-presidential candidate.

The ensuing campaign is conducted almost exactly as in Canada or Great Britain.

ELECTION DAY

On election day the voters are confronted with forms of ballots different in almost every state. In some cases the names of the president and vice-presidential candidates appear. In others the names are those of the electoral college members selected by each party in each state. In others, especially where voting machines are used, only the party tag appears.

Then the electoral college comes into the picture. There are 531 members, one for every member of Congress according to representation by states. Thus New York, which has 45 members in the House and two in the Senate, has 47 electoral college votes.

The task of this mysterious and almost mythical body is to elect a president and vice-president and they could do it without regard to what happened in the November elections.

POPULAR VOTE FOLLOVED

But traditionally for more than 100 years they have followed the popular vote in each state. Thus if New York gave one candidate a bare majority the whole 47 electoral college votes from that state would go to him.

If a candidate won a bare majority in the 12 states with the largest electoral vote, he could become president even if he lost in all the other 36 states.

However, with one or two exceptions, the candidate winning the electoral vote had the popular majority.



FOND FRIENDSHIP—Winston Churchill shakes hands with Eleanor Roosevelt as she leaves his home at 28 Hyde Park Gate, London, after having lunch with Winston and his wife, Mrs. Roosevelt was in London for the unveiling of the memorial statue to her husband, the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

It was not until after a friend, last week, started wearing a fresh suit and feeling properly uncomfortable that he admitted understanding the "new look." Old duds might be short on fit, style, creases and dignity but they were sure easy on the body, if not on the eyes.

Speaking of Klondike Nights have you heard of the one staged in Chilliwack's Agricultural Hall, some time back? A huge block of ice, colder than anything the far away Yukon ever produced, was made fast, just under the roof. This was connected with a steel rail floor by means of a winding circuitous sort of loop the loop. Into the ice had been frozen \$500 in silver coins, anywhere from a dime to a dollar. With signal given, away would go the silver studded block, streaking around corners like a bat out of Hell-fax and breaking up with a prodigious crash that shook the hall. The stampede for \$500 in loose change was a good natured riot.

Prince Rupert's school board, in April, 1912, had less to ponder over, than in 1948. That long ago, according to an Empire file, Miss Beatty was named additional teacher at \$90 and the decision to build a new school for \$25,000 could no longer be deferred.

Yale University at New Haven, Conn., was named after Elihu Yale who gave about \$3,500 worth of books to the school when it was first opened in the early 18th century.

WHERE WAS GARDEN Adam's Peak, the highest point in Ceylon, is so called because Mohammedans thought it was here that Adam made his penance after his expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES WHITBY, Ont., — "Travelling" libraries are being sent out by the Whitby Public Library to public school classes. Batches of suitable books are sent out and left for three months to make books readily available to children.

OFFICERS OF THE DRIVE ARE P. H. Linzey, chairman, E. T. Applewhite, publicity director, and G. R. S. Blackaby, treasurer.

THESE NEWS ARE PRESENTED IN THIS NEWSHAPER BY THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. O-18

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A Quiet, Pleasant Place to Live
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GAMBLING GROWS AMONG JAPANESE

TOKYO, (REUTERS) — Baku-chi, or gambling, is rapidly becoming one of the most popular means of making an easy living in post-war Japan whose hungry populace is mainly preoccupied with getting enough to eat and wear.

Gambling here today ranges from openly accepted sweepstakes or lotteries, and mah-jong and card games in secret gaming houses, to "otochokochoi bakuchi" (stupid gambling) in which a group of men standing at street corners will bet, for example on the ill-fated numbers of passing vehicles.

Then there is the cigarette gamble, which is almost a conjuring trick, done simply by marking one of the three or four cigarettes laid on a table and, after they are rearranged, identifying the particular one. It is said that the customers rarely guess the correct one and the "sakuras" (outers) are the only ones who win.

Card playing includes poker and its contrasting Japanese "hana-kuruta" (flower cards), on oft-banned traditional Japanese gambling game. The cards are hard cardboard, colored with floral, herbal and bird designs, with plain black backs, and about 2 by 2½ inches in size.

Gambling is growing in popularity as cash becomes scarce and worthless. Police raids on gambling houses in and around Tokyo have been intensified; but they do not do much to discourage the gambler—presumably because to the majority, the current fine for the offence, about 1,000 yen, is a small loss soon remedied with a little bit of speculation and luck "the next time."

LOW FARES FOR VICTORIA DAY TRAVELLERS
WINNIPEG — Victoria Day marks the opening of the long week-end holidays for the 1948 summer season and special low rail fares for the occasion are announced by R. H. Powers, vice-chairman, Canadian Passenger Association, on behalf of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways.

The special rate of one way fare and one-third for the round trip, between all stations in Canada, goes on sale at noon, Friday, May 21, and will be available until 2 p.m., Monday, May 24, Standard Time.

However, where there is no train service Friday afternoon, tickets will be good on Friday morning trains. Returning, tickets will be good to leave destination up to midnight, Tuesday, May 25.

RED SHIELD DRIVE NEXT SEPTEMBER
Prince Rupert's annual Salvation Army Red Shield campaign will commence this year on September 7 with an objective of \$2,500. Brigadier J. T. Gillingham said today.

Officers of the drive are P. H. Linzey, chairman, E. T. Applewhite, publicity director, and G. R. S. Blackaby, treasurer.

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WHO'S AN OCTOPUS?

You often hear "big business" described as an "octopus." Nothing could be farther from the truth.

"Big business" actually stimulates our economy... encourages small business in a thousand different ways.

Take the automobile industry. One leading manufacturer of cars in the lowest price field buys from 1071 suppliers in 243 towns in the U.S. and Canada.

Many of these firms employ only five or ten people and supply cotter pins, tacks, rivets, clamps, adhesives, spark plugs, lamp bulbs, nails. They thrive by trading with big business.

But that's not supposed to happen when you get too close to an "octopus," is it?

Fact is, of course, that small business, under sound management, appreciates the stable market provided by their larger partners. And the workers, employed by big and small business alike, prosper from the bigger jobs and variety of opportunity the "octopus" and its "victims" provide.

These views are presented in this newspaper by the British Columbia Federation of Trade and Industry. O-18

REVIVES ANCIENT RIGHT

HALIFAX (AP)—Henry D. Hicks (L-Annapolis) walked into the Nova Scotia Legislature one day wearing a beaver-skin hat. Hicks, 38, youngest member of the legislature, explained he was upholding a custom dating back to the 13th century, when a "head covering" was allowed as an act of defiance to the king—except during prayers or when addressing the house.



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