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The People's Will

IN DEMOCRATIC theory, governments exist to execute the will of the people who elect them. In practice, they seem to delight in frustrating the will of the majority, executing, when it seems to suit their whims or prejudices, the will of small minorities or pressure groups.

For example, there is the Colombo Plan, on which Canada has been spending $25,000,000 annually up to this year and to which she is now contributing $33,000,000 a year. The total contribution to date represents more than eight dollars apiece from every man, woman and child in the country. In spite of this expense, and in spite of the fact that the plan was organized more than six years ago, the majority of Canadians have no idea of what it is.

Results of a Gallup Poll questionnaire made public recently showed that 59 per cent of those questioned said "No" when asked whether they had heard or read of the Colombo Plan. Only six per cent of all those questioned could give a correct or partially correct answer when asked to describe the plan. Some of the wrong guessers thought it had something to do with the Knights of Columbus.

Now the Colombo Plan may be good, bad or indifferent. It may be that it would be supported by a majority of Canadian voters if they were told what it was about and what it was costing them. But the point is that the voters have never been given a chance to express their will on being taxed for the benefit of foreigners, or on a number of other costly schemes that governments devise to keep people from having more money than is good for them, at least in the opinion of the ministers of finance and national revenue.

A further question asked on the Gallup questionnaire was: "Do you think Canada is doing enough to help countries with a lower standard of living than our own, doing too much for them, or too little?" Fifty-four per cent thought Canada was doing enough, 12 per cent thought that she was doing too much and 12 per cent had no opinion. When these answers are combined with those showing complete or partial ignorance of the Colombo Plan, it can hardly be contended that the recent increase in Canada's contribution was in any way an expression of the will of the taxpayers who have to pay it.

Jasper To Coast

SPEAKING of roads. Alberta's capital city is to have a shortcut highway to the Pacific coast. The province of British Columbia has given assurance that it plans to build a first class highway from the Alberta boundary of Jasper National park to the coast, a dream of residents of the northern part of the province for many years.

The highway will be through the Yellowhead Pass, the B.C. Minister of Highways Hon. P. A. Gagliardi, being on record as stating the project will be pushed to completion.

—Lethbridge Herald.

MARRIAGE AT PEAK POPULARITY FOR MEN IN UNITED STATES

Marriage as a way of life is at peak popularity among American men, according to a release received by the Health League of Canada from the Metropolitan Information Service. In number, American husbands have reached a record high, totalling nearly 39,000,000 in the civilian population alone.

The typical American nowadays marries at a relatively early age, establishes his own household soon after marriage, and keeps his nose to the grindstone to the extent that he bears responsibility for raising a family throughout most of his working life. About 95 per cent of all married men under age 65 are gainfully employed.

More than one-quarter of the present-day husbands are under 35 years of age, and an additional fourth are in the 35 to 44 age bracket. At the same time, however, the number at age 65 and over is close to 4,400,000—about 11 per cent of the total—and is growing rapidly.

Four-fifths of the families where the husband is in the age range of 25 to 34 have at least one child, and nearly one-quarter have three or more children. The relatively large families are even more common where the husband is in the 35-44 age group.

Although in most families the husband is the sole breadwinner, in about one-fourth of the families both husband and wife are employed.

As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Premier's Gamble

PREMIER Bennett is certainly the biggest political gambler that has so far come on the scene in Canada.

He has, in effect, bet his own political future on the outcome of an election in another province.

Almost the whole B.C. cabinet has been thrown into the fight to enable Social Credit to overthrow the CCF government of Saskatchewan. Never before in history has such an invasion taken place on such a scale and magnitude.

It is an old story that nothing succeeds like success and nothing fails like failure. Premier Bennett has been telling the people of Saskatchewan that a sweeping Social Credit victory is a "certainly." If he should turn out to be an accurate prophet, then indeed we would see the Social Credit star rise rapidly in the Canadian national firmament. The cry "On to Ottawa" would certainly take on reality. But if, on the other hand, the Social Credit invasion fails to unseat the CCF government, and fails even to establish itself even as the official opposition, most observers will think that Social Credit will have "had it" in western Canada.

ONE curious aftermath of the historic pipeline battle in parliament is that Dr. Eugene Forsey is attempting to make permanent the alliance between the CCF and the Conservatives. There is nothing surprising about Dr. Forsey's personal attitude. The former McGill professor has always been a Conservative, at least by inheritance.

After the famous constitutional crisis of 1926, Dr. Forsey wrote a book to prove that the Governor-General was right and Prime Minister Mackenzie King was wrong in that historic clash. It is unnecessary to recall the fact that the vast majority of the people of Canada did not agree with Dr. Forsey on that occasion. The Liberal party, which had been at its lowest ebb of the century only a few months before, won an overwhelming victory. Whatever the constitutional hair-splitting may have thought, the Canadian people voted emphatically to make the crown in Canada conduct itself in relation to the government exactly the same as the crown in Britain conducts itself to the government of the day in the mother country.

THE importance of Dr. Forsey's present campaign to consolidate a permanent CCF-Conservative tie-up is that he is a paid official of the Canadian Labor Congress.

The Canadian Labor Congress has not yet taken a solid position in regard to politics in Canada. But, whatever else it has done, or not done, it has certainly not decided to back a Conservative-CCF alliance.

As a citizen of Canada, Dr. Forsey has every right to advocate anything he chooses in the way of political line-ups. But as a paid official of the new amalgamated, gigantic Labor body in Canada, Dr. Forsey is raising some explosive issues—quite apart from the future of Labor as a result of the pipeline bill. In parliament, or now out in Canadian system of closure in parliament compares with the practice in Britain.

DR. FORSEY figured in a rather sensational episode which preceded the rowdy demonstration on Friday, June 1.

Because of the nature of a letter written by Dr. Eugene Forsey to certain Canadian newspapers, Mr. Colin Cameron, MP, had formally moved that Dr. Forsey be "censured" by parliament.

Everyone in the House knew that Mr. Cameron had done so with his "tongue in his cheek,"—that is, that the motion of "censure" was a mere trick to delay the proceedings of parliament.

The press of Canada almost entirely overlooked the dangerous precedent involved in such a motion—had it been allowed.

But in this later proposal, for a CCF-Conservative alliance, Dr. Forsey has raised a very big issue, for hundreds of thousands of people, like myself and mechanical employees of The Daily News, who for many years have been paying union dues which go, in part, to pay Dr. Forsey's salary.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The one thing nobody on Parliament Hill knows for certain is how close—if at all—to a general election the PC's pushed the government by their fillibustering tactics on the recent pipelines bill.

There is only one person competent to lift the veil on that highly intriguing mystery. That one person is the P.M. himself. But right at the present time Mr. St. Laurent just isn't talking.

Some day the PM may write his memoirs. When and if he does, one of the most interesting chapters will be the disclosure of how near the PC's came to success in their stormy, determined campaign to drive the government to the country.

Meanwhile, the Parliament Hill grapevine is buzzing with three versions. The most common claims to stem from authentic Cabinet sources. According to it, the PC's just didn't make any yards at all. The Ministers' story is that throughout the turbulent crisis of Parliament the calling of a general election as a solution of the impasse was never seriously considered by the Cabinet. That statement on its very surface is cryptic. It doesn't say that a general election wasn't discussed. It just says that it wasn't "considered seriously." The way is left open, therefore, for one of the two alternate versions—or even for both of them together—to be true.

The first of these versions is that when the Parliamentary disorder was at its heighth, the PM discussed the advisability of a general election very tentatively with his Cabinet, but that "calmer councils prevailed." There is some circumstantial evidence in favor of the accuracy of this story. It would explain a flurry of high excitement and agitation which was noticeable in the Liberal ranks at one stage in the battle.

The final version is that on the very eve of the deadline which the government had set for the passage of the bill the Prime Minister had made up his mind that if his timetable was defeated, he would dissolve Parliament and go to the country. Obviously no one but the P.M. can confirm whether or not this story is true. But it is true the PC's failed by a margin of only a few hours to gain the general election they wanted.

What is common to all three reports is their agreement that the PC's weren't too far from their goal when the battle ended, and that the government emerged the winner by almost a photo finish. To Parliament Hill circles that fact makes the recent surprise decision of the PC's against continuing the battle on the interim supply bill all the more difficult to understand—and all the more disappointing to their supporters.

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WHEN REPRESENTATIVES from 50 foreign countries descended on tiny Fort Madison Iowa, (pop. 15,000) to attend Shaeffer Pen Company's week-long export convention, the Evening Democrat greeted them with this headline welcome in nine languages. Unlike most visiting conventioneers, the foreigners got a close-up view of small-town Americana—instead of Big City canyons—in the Mississippi River town. Newsboy is Mike Reed.

YOUTH KNOWS TALENTS

Memorable Experience Teen-Agers First Job

Special to The Daily News

MONTREAL — With commencement over and graduation just around the corner, there's a new crop of job hunters coming up. There is also an eager group of potential bosses ready and willing to accept them into the ranks.

The teen-agers who are just graduating from commercial or high school—without previous knowledge of, or experience with, business—have a rather special problem when they first go job hunting. The combination of lack of experience and first-hand knowledge, coupled usually with shyness and some trepidation, makes looking for that first job a memorable experience.

PARENTS CAN HELP

Parents can help to make their teen-age children feel less worried about the outcome. Perhaps of even greater help is a first-hand report from someone who deals frequently with this particular group of job hunters.

For example, Miss M. McLaggan, women's employment supervisor of Du Pont of Canada in Montreal, reports that in comparison with five years ago, the teen-ager of today knows more about business and her own possible place in it. Most of her money ideas come from her parents, from talking to last year's graduates, from reading want ads. Many teen-agers have some idea of their worth and some knowledge of salaries.

Due to guidance teachers in high schools, most teen-agers have some idea of their own talents, how to adapt to the requirements of the business and where they are most likely to succeed. It is only the minority who misjudge their abilities against the requirements of the job they seek. Most teen-agers are reported to be well aware of the benefits of working for a large company, but they put "job interest" before either benefits or money.

CAREER NOW TARGET

Another interesting comparison between the young job hunter of today and her counterpart of five years ago, is her interest in going ahead, rather than marking time until "the right man comes along." A career rather than a stop-gap, is the target of today's young job hunter.

ATTITUDE VITAL

The personal appearance of the girl looking for a job has been stressed so often that it would seem to be the sole interest of the interviewer. Employers report this is not so. Personal appearance is important to the extent of neatness and appropriate dress. But much more important is the attitude of the employee-to-be, her scholastic background and her objectives.

Employment personnel say that in all cases the better the education, the easier it is to place the prospective employee in a job she will like. Some grounding in typing and shorthand, some acquaintance with a commercial course, are definite assets. Many girls who cannot attend commercial courses take them at night school after being placed in a job, thereby earning money and educating themselves at the same time.

In practically all large businesses today, there is a highly skilled and trained personnel staff. Their job is to find the right place for applicants from the triple viewpoint of the company's needs, the applicant's personal wishes and the applicant's potential. Personnel executives agree that a wide variety of jobs in a wide variety of businesses awaits the trained teen-ager of today.

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LETTERBOX

TRIBUTE PAID PRINCIPAL

The Editor,
The Daily News:

It has been suggested to me that because Mr. R. H. Davidson is a personal friend of mine and of my family, what I am about to say will be discounted. I hope this is not so. I write as the mother of three girls, and the foster mother of a fourth, who have attended Booth school during the time of Mr. Davidson's principalship.

Mr. Davidson became a teacher because he loves young people. As a principal his jurisdiction was over all the students of the school. This authority has always been used for the best interests of the students themselves. It has been characterized by kindness and understanding. Scholarship has been of the utmost importance; yet talent for outside pursuits, and participation in community projects has been given encouragement wherever possible. These are generalizations, but true ones.

Speaking more personally, I should like to say that while Mr. Davidson has been principal, I have felt that the girls have spent their school hours in a place where their spiritual values and moral integrity were safeguarded at all times. As is always the case, problems of behavior and punishment arose from time to time. But I always felt that if it were necessary to refer these to the principal, a fair and acceptable solution would be offered.

Lastly—members of the teaching profession today are expected, not only to teach pupils, but to be community leaders. Mr. Davidson spent by far the major part of his waking day at the hight school. And Mrs. Davidson is a very busy person in their home. In spite of this they have both found time to be good citizens, and ardent and loyal supporters of Prince Rupert.

I know that many people feel as I do, truly sorry that Mr. Davidson and his family are leaving our city.

HENDRICA C. PROCKTER.

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

The Editor,
The Daily News:

The national publicity committee of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire extends to you its appreciation and sincere thanks, not only for your co-operation and assistance during the recent 56th National Annual Meeting held in Quebec City, P.Q., but also for the support you have given so generously throughout the year to the work of the order. The generous allotment of space and graphic headings given in your paper to publicize the patriotic and philanthropic work of the IODE has been truly valued.

Again, many thanks.

Mrs. W. R. Walton, Jr.
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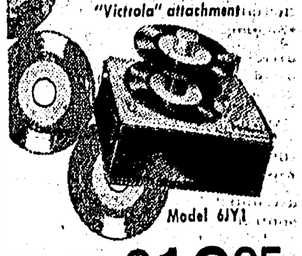
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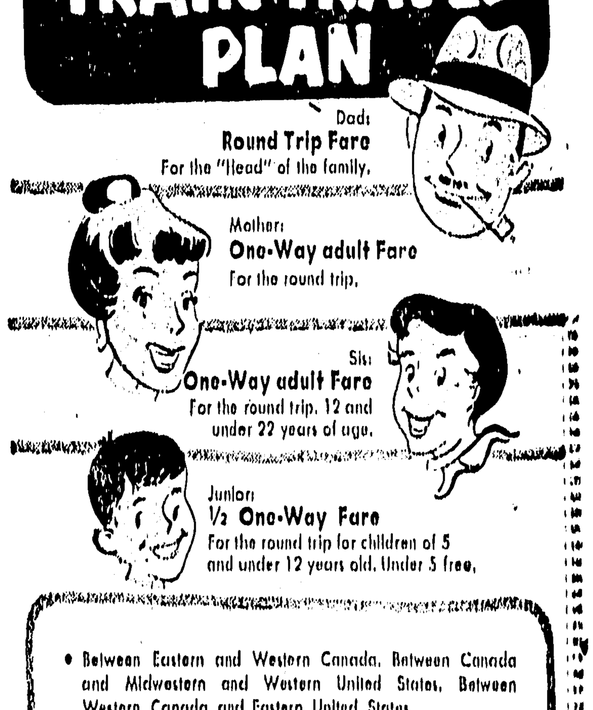
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