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Candied Dates for America

On this coast British Columbia prepares for its centenary next year. On the Atlantic coast, and a little south, the people of New England are preparing to welcome the Mayflower II, replica of the vessel which brought the Pilgrims from Plymouth, England, in 1620.

At Jamestown, festivities have already started marking the arrival there of models of the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery, which carried early settlers across the Atlantic in 1607.

South-south-east, the people of the Dominican Republic have announced plans to greet exact reproductions of the Pinta, the Nina and Santa Maria, under the Duke of Veragua, direct descendant of Columbus, when they arrive from Palos, Spain, in October.

Throughout this hemisphere emphasis will be placed on the intrepid early settlers.

Variations of the proud boast of ancestors who came over in the Mayflower may be expected, and the claims to fame will inevitably invite "toppers."

Do the Susan Constant descendants consider Mayflowerites as Johnny-come-latelies? And if so, how do they stand with the Pinta, the Nina and Santa Maria people?

A little mischievously, we'd like a delegation from all three to ask Mungo Martin how his forebears came to America. We'd enjoy anticipating the answer: "Walked over, Behring land bridge, you know."

—Victoria Daily Times.

Old Age Pensions

Old age pensions were never intended to provide a living for anybody. They are intended to help people who can no longer earn. The old age pension should be considered as a recognition by the country as a whole of the contribution the elderly have made to our welfare in the past and it should be regarded as a useful addition to whatever income people have been able to provide for their retirement.

—Kingston Whig-Standard.



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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• X Marks The Free

In a few weeks millions of Canadians will go to election polling stations.

Each qualified voter will get one precious little piece of paper from the official in charge of the poll.

With that precious little piece of paper in hand, each voter will go into a private little cubby, where he or she will mark on X beside the name of the candidate whom the voter wants chosen as Member of Parliament.

Exactly what is the meaning of that X which every voter is entitled to mark on that precious little piece of paper? Surely it means many things. But above all it is the mark of the free.

It is much more than a device to decide which particular party of statesmen will be called upon to form a government, between one election day and the next, four or five years later.

That X on the ballot paper is what really makes all the difference between true democracy and the others which an ancient song describes as "the nations not so blessed as thou . . .".

IN THOSE dark years when Hitler was on the prowl and I, from my small corner, was trying to warn the people of Canada of the certainty of war that he and his ilk would surely force upon us, I used to rack my own brains to get at the truth.

What was it which made our two parts of the world so literally poles apart, but so certain to clash?

What was it that made the Hitler war an absolute, inescapable certainty—unless the German people could somehow in time rid themselves of the evil monster who was marching them and hence all mankind, toward the clash?

Then, one day, I got the answer from a photograph of one of Hitler's own signs—the billboards which then shrieked the propaganda message at passers-by from along every highway and byway in Germany.

I forgot the exact German words. But Hitler's fierce eyes pierced out at you. Hitler's finger pointed straight at you.

And Hitler's words, in letters two feet high, told you this: "You are nothing. Your race (folk) is everything".

THE solid, rock on which the "free world" builds its faith, and rests its hope for a better future is, that you ARE something, that you and I, and all the millions like us, DO count in the scheme of things.

We may not all be able to believe in our heart of hearts that God Almighty literally has every hair on every human head numbered, or that the Creator personally sees every sparrow fall.

But, bit by bit, line by line and precept by precept, we have groped or felt our way toward the most precious value in our present way of life:

The recognition that every single human being is a creature of immense value—literally a unique creation. There has never been another exactly like you before, and there never will be another exactly like you again—in all the whole infinity of time.

So X Marks the spot where you put your John Henry, or your personal belief that what an eminent poet called "goodness and mercy" should follow every human being all the days of his life, insofar as all his brother humans, with the help of God himself, are able to bring that to pass by good government.

Swedes Sentenced

STOCKHOLM (Reuters)—Two Swedes charged with illegally copying secret submarine blueprints and potential spy activity were sentenced Wednesday. Robert Folke Damstedt, assistant secretary at the Atomic Energy Committee, was sentenced to 4½ years hard labor and Gustaf Arnold Jakobsson received five years hard labor.

COUPLE GIVEN HOUSE ON LOT WHERE NEW HOME TO BE BUILT

SYDNEY, Australia (O)—Desmond Brand, 21, of Sunshine, Victoria, bought a lot, intending to build a home on it.

When he took his girl to see it both rubbed their eyes.

The house was already there.

The explanation was that a builder had made a mistake, and put up another man's house on the wrong lot.

The Victoria Supreme Court has held that the house belongs to Brand, because he knew nothing about it, and because the builder later refused to negotiate with him.

The builder says he will appeal.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The Soviets aren't even disappointed, let alone discouraged, by the failure of their campaign kick-off meeting in Toronto's Massey Hall to be a sell-out. They say that they didn't expect any better showing than the 50 per cent of capacity audience that turned out.

In that statement the Soviets probably are being sincere. For as politicians they are nothing if not completely realistic. And they recognize the folly of hoping to capture the orthodoxy constituencies of Eastern Canada in their first major try.

In brief, the tactics of the Soviets East of the Great Lakes bear a considerable resemblance to the strategy of the PC's in the country as a whole. That is to say, it is a long-range plan of campaign, so long-range that the real pay-off isn't scheduled to be reached until another general election at the earliest.

Few, if any, PC's seriously expect Conservatism to return to office as a result of the balloting on June 10. Most of them will tell you frankly that their maximum hope is a substantial gain which will raise their strength to around 90 seats in the Commons. Then from that improved springboard, they figure they will be in a position to take over power in the 1961 general election. By that time, too, they are counting upon Messrs St. Laurent, Howe, Gardiner, and a few others of the Liberal Old Guard no longer being around.

HAZARD GONE

That hazard has now been eliminated. John H. Watts, Jr.

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Stewart News

By W. SHIELDS ORR
Daily News Correspondent

STEWART—Mezidian Chapter No. 83, Order of the Eastern Star, held a very successful Easter Dance in the Moose Hall Saturday.

Worthy matron Frances Macleod, Associate Matron Agnes Nicoll ably supported by their committee made everyone welcome and saw to it that all had a good time. Sister Edith Behnken assisted on the drums by John Anderson and Lou Behnken supplied the music for the occasion. Supper was served at the conclusion of the dance.

STEWART—The Moose Lodge No. 1218 held an Easter Shuffleboard competition over the week-end. In the "A" section Mrs. Vera Lawrence and Walter Forsberg won over Mrs. Barbara McNeil and Dick Horncastle. In the "B" section Mrs. Illa Kirkpatrick and Al Phillips won over Mr. and Mrs. L. Kirby. The play was close in both sections.

STEWART—J. J. Crowhurst and George Beattie officials of the Grandine Mines Limited left for the south by plane via Ketchikan.

STEWART—Milton W. Kearns and Nicholas Benkovich left by plane on Monday, April 22nd, for Prince Rupert.

STEWART—Fresh snow appeared on the mountain tops this Easter Monday morning followed by a sunny afternoon. The weather has been somewhat chilly for the past few days.

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