

Editorial Page

Electing a President

Continued from Last Week

The rules covering the Republican and Democratic national conventions differ considerably but both now require a simple majority of the delegates' votes to select a presidential candidate. This candidate now assumes the leadership of his party for at least the duration of the election campaign, concentrated in September and October, and serves as its national standard-bearer.

The American voter has an unusually heavy responsibility on Election Day. Not only does he choose the Electors for President and Vice-President, but he also votes for his Representative to Congress, often for a Senator and usually for a number of state officials. The ballot which he uses to record these choices may include over 100 names and may be over 500 square inches in size, or about one and a quarter times the size of this page. The voting machine, which was introduced in New York State in 1892, is now used in a number of states and facilitates the recording and counting of votes. Unlike Canadian ballots, American ballots usually carry political party designations in the form of a symbol or party name. Like most other regulations governing elections in the United States, the type of ballot used is determined by each state.

In summary, the major events which lead to the choice of a Chief Executive begin

with the presidential primary elections, held in certain states during the months of March through June.

During July of a presidential election year, the major political parties hold their national nominating conventions to choose their candidates for President and Vice-President. This year the Democrats met at Los Angeles, starting July 11, and the Republicans convened at Chicago starting July 25.

Active election campaigning usually begins after Labour Day and is concluded just before Election Day, which this year falls on November 8.

The members of the Electoral College will meet in their several state capitals on December 19, 1960, to cast their ballots for President and Vice-President.

On January 6, 1961, the 537 Electoral ballots will be counted before the new Congress and, in compliance with the Constitution, the candidate who receives a simple majority will be legally elected President of the United States of America.

On Inauguration Day, two weeks later, a man chosen, in effect if indirectly, by the people in a year-long sequence of traditional and legal procedures, will be invested with the powers, responsibilities and heavy burdens of one of the most exacting offices in the modern world.

Fire on the Farm

Each year, hundreds of Canadian farmers are brought close to financial ruin by fire. Fire is the farmer's greatest hazard. A farm fire can destroy home, business investment and the work of years in a matter of hours.

The following safety measures are recommended to prevent farm fires.

1. Allow hay and similar produce to dry thoroughly before it is stored in barns. Wet hay can start fires through spontaneous combustion.
2. Lightning arrestor systems should be of a good make and properly installed. They should be inspected at least once a year.
3. Radio and television antennae should be adequately grounded.
4. Electrical wiring should be checked regularly by experts, especially when new machinery or motors are installed.
5. Wire fences attached to buildings should be grounded at the nearest fencepost to the building. This is another protection against lightning.
6. Electric wires for lights should be installed in approved fashion. Extension cords strung over rafters or nails are dangerous.
7. Gasoline, Kerosene and other inflammables should be stored in well-marked safety cans.
8. Stoves or other heating equipment should be cleaned and inspected at least once a year.
9. If possible, a well or pond should be located near buildings to aid in fighting fires.
10. Each building should be equipped with approved fire extinguishers.

Soaring Municipal Taxes

Soaring municipal taxes have aroused Canadians in most parts of the country to the necessity of seeking ways and means of cutting costs at local level. From Mayor W. R. Allen of Yarmouth, N.S., comes the sensible suggestion that consideration be given to the standardization of building plans for schools in his province. What with the boom in pre-fabricated housing and standardized house-building in recent years, it seems like downright common sense to cut out some of the costly frills of school construction, as suggested by Mayor Allen, and to concentrate instead on better schooling.

Strange thing is that Mayor Allen, instead of being praised for his cost-cutting suggestion, should have been taken sternly to task by The Chronicle-Herald of Halifax for what it calls "the shocking aesthetic results of such a programme." The Halifax newspaper also condemns the Yarmouth mayor for suggesting that money could be saved by selecting a site to suit the school rather than desigining a building to suit the location.

Incident illustrates the fact that even large metropolitan newspapers sometimes forget that schools and other public buildings all have to be paid for by the taxpayers, including countless thousands of small home-owners of modest means.

Not So Weak

We have long harboured the suspicion that in Canada at least the weaker sex is not the one most of us like to think it is. Now official statistics under four different heads would seem to put the matter beyond all reasonable doubt, hard as this may be on the male ego.

In mental mortality rate for females, we note, is 25 per cent lower than that for males. On the other hand, the male suicide rate is 118 per 100,000 of population compared with only 30.4 for females.

In mental institutions, males outnumber females by 15 per cent. Finally, the life expectancy of the female of the species in this country is a good five years greater than that of mere males (71 years against 66).

To sum up: The Canadian male is more likely than the female to die at birth, enter a mental home, commit suicide, and fall short of three score years and ten.

All of which should cause us to revise our ideas about which of the sexes is basically the stronger, at any rate, in terms of capacity for survival.

More tender (we will not say more deadly) than the male the Canadian female may be, weaker she obviously is not.

A Small Item

Road maintenance is a costly item to Townships and the taxpayer can thank their council for the excellent condition of the roads.

One small but important item which seems to have been overlooked however at a number of crossings can result in someone being killed or badly maimed while driving in the country to enjoy the scenery.

At many crossings weeds and undergrowth is so high, approaching motorists cannot see if another vehicle is approaching a line or not.

Stop signs are few and far between at these intersections and unless each driver comes to a halt at these points, someday, somewhere, a serious accident will snuff out a life.

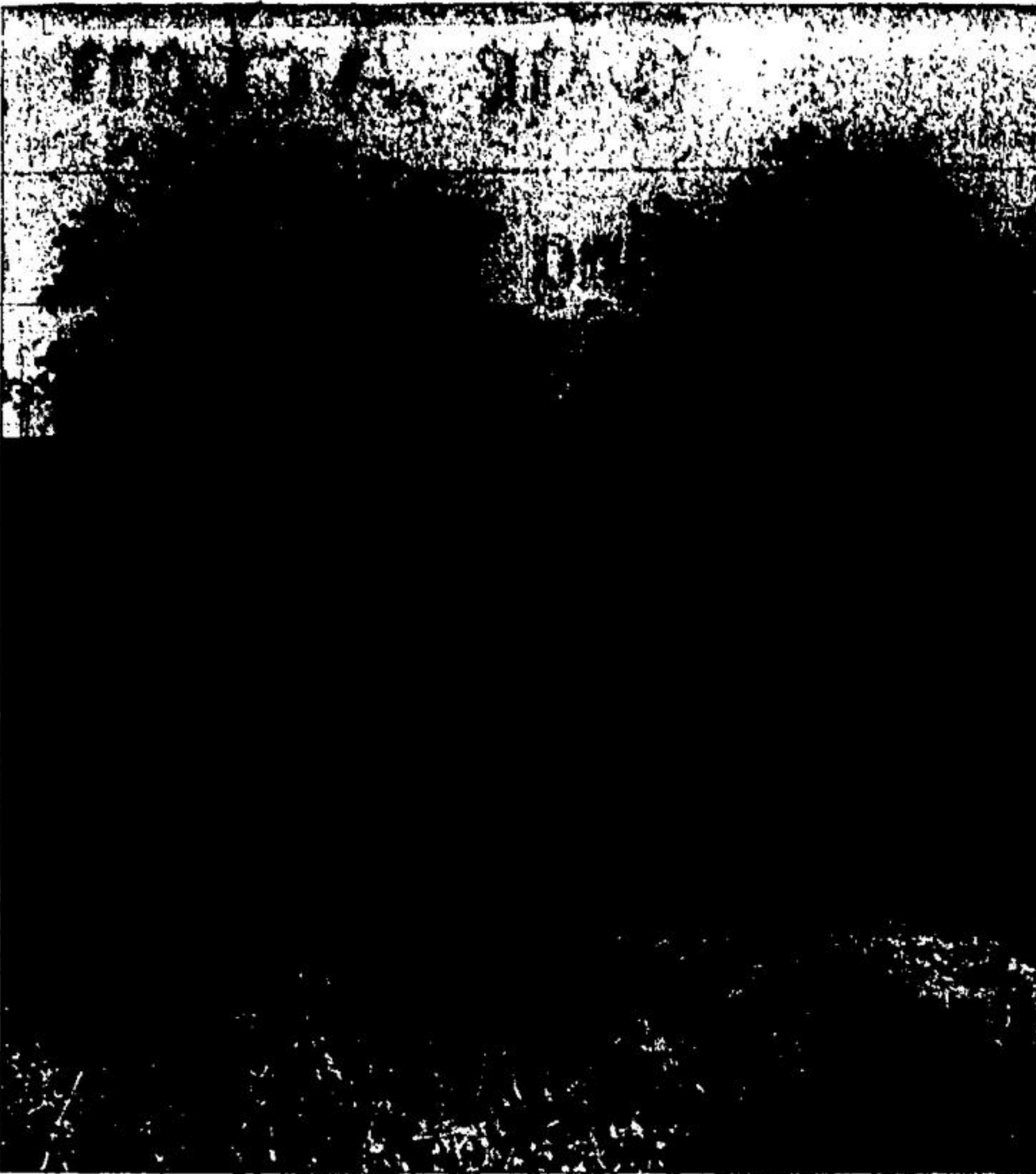
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"Golden Sheaves"

Sugar and Spice... BY BILL SMILEY

This has been quite a summer in our family. For years I was certain that our domestic life was hectic to the ultimate degree. Now I know better. I have realized that our normal home life was as placid as a millpond. Perhaps a pond into which somebody was always hurling boulders. But nevertheless, a veritable millpond, compared to the rolling flood waters of this summer.

My own part in it makes the celebrated Dr. Jekyll - Mr. Hyde look as well-adjusted as a Sunday School superintendent. In the city, I am the keen student, the dedicated teacher. With other student-teachers, I spend hours gravely discussing the vital aspects of education, like "how much they gonna pay you?" and "guess we'll hafta sneak our beer in after dark, when we start teaching."

On weekends, I rush home and am transformed into ardent husband, devoted father, editorial writer, social butterfly, and big-time real estate operator. The theory is that I go home every weekend to get away from the arduous studies, to refresh myself in the cool, clean, northern air. The reality is that I climb on the train Sunday night for the trip back to the city, looking as though a cross word would make me burst into tears, and feeling as though I had been keel-hauled.

At the other end, things aren't much better. When I get home, the Old Girl has just been through a grueling week in the editorial chair. She is firmly convinced that nobody appreciates her. The kids have been getting lippy. There have been 16 long-distance calls for me, and none of them would tell her what it was all about, which infuriates her. A subscriber has bawled her out. She has bawled out a good ad-

vertiser. She's just had about all she can stand. And so on.

So we sit up until 4 a.m., drinking coffee and stuff, and trying to outdo each other with details of the ordeal we've been through. According to me, I study until two o'clock in the morning, and am at the end of my resources. According to her, she's doing the work of three women, running a house and a business and bringing up a family. I haul out all my school-books to show her how much work I have to cover. She drags me out to the laundry room and makes me look carefully at the heap of washing she has to do. Neither of us will give an inch. All this gets the weekend off to a refreshing start.

The rest of the weekend maintains the pace. The kids appear on the scene early, brown, healthy and just squirming with energy. They don't care whether I'm down from sheer exhaustion, as long as I go swimming with them. There are 64 things to do at the office. Somebody invites us to the cottage for a quiet supper and a pleasant evening around the fireplace, and it turns out there are 18 other people there who have no intention of spending a quiet evening.

About 10 minutes to train time Sunday evening, we realize we have hundreds of important things to discuss. My wife has another surge of self-pity. The kids wail: "Hey Dad, you just got here!" And I wear my pack my untouched books back into the suitcase, forget my shaving brush and toothpaste, and we head for the train. There is a great cry of waving as the train pulls out and another refreshing weekend is down the drain.

...Dodging 'Round the District

BY ROY DOWNS

MILTON—Council found a large enough surplus in the water account to begin a test drilling program for a new town water source.

GEORGETOWN—Carolyn Bechin daughter of Editor Walter and Mrs. Bechin was top student at Georgetown District High. She scored an average of 81.3% on her nine papers. Taxes coming due on the first of the month and rentals due on the 15th don't work too well for her, a resident complained to council. Due tax dates are the first of June, August and October, and her request to have payments extended to mid-month was given no consideration. The volume of health on Highway 7 through town is expected to drop considerably when Highway 401 opens to Highway 6 near Guelph later this year. It will give Toronto-Guelph access easier than the Highway 7 route.

OAKVILLE—Present firemen volunteers will have first chance at permanent firemen's jobs. Rev. Alex Phillips states. The first two permanent officers are due to be hired, and public advertising will be held off until the local volunteers have had a chance at the jobs.

BURLINGTON—A local historical society is being formed to collect historical data relating to Burlington. A chairman and committee members have been named, and the first public meeting will be held in mid-September.

BRAMPTON—Certain areas of conflict are hindering the development of both Châteauguay Township and Brampton so a special steering committee has been named to study the conflicts between the two. "Cooperation with a capital C" is what is needed," said Brampton councillor Fred Beckitt.

STREETSVILLE—The long struggle to get kindergartens established in this village has finally come to an end. Council approved a \$2,400 grant on kindergartens, and each of the two groups now being formed will split the money.

ERIN—When six more roads are completely paved, the entire village streets system will be hardtopped. Council has approved the paving, with work scheduled to begin this week by Peel Construction.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1940 Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 29, 1940

Following a successful demonstration in Woodstock on Friday, the new fire pumper and truck were delivered Monday. The Buckle-Seagrave machine has a triple combination—pumper, booster, hose truck, ladders and booster tank etc. It has a Stud-chaker chassis. Pressure at the time of a fire will not be boosted on the mains any more. This will be the means of saving weak pipes or plumbing in domestic water services. The pressure to fight a fire is exerted and regulated at the hydrant nearest the fire.

An unusual accident occurred during Saturday's final inter-county senior baseball game between Galt and Guelph in Exhibition Park, Guelph. Norm Morton of Acton, ace hurler of the Guelph squad, was at bat and on the third ball pitched to him, he clicked a lead ball off the tip of the bat. The ball, travelling like a bullet, landed in the grandstand, hitting one of the spectators, Mrs. Norm Morton, the batter's wife. The stand was filled with people at the time. Mrs. Morton was knocked unconscious momentarily but was soon brought around again.

The Acton Y.M.C.A. girls presented Mrs. George Elliott with a coffee dipulator in appreciation of her services at the summer camp recently held at Eden Mills. The presentation was made by their leader, Miss Helen Ostrander.

The Condon's Committee of Acton and vicinity send parcels regularly to the boys from Acton and district who are overseas. The group in charge of this work are the Duke of Devonshire and Lakeside chapters of the I.O.D.E. and the Canadian Legion.

Three grand prizes are being offered to high school girls in Halton county who will devote their time after school hours to the sale of War Savings Certificates. Prizes are \$25, \$15 and \$10. The contest continues for the month of September.

BACK IN 1910 Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 25, 1910

Messrs. R. J. McNabb, C. C. Splight and J. Bauer returned on Wednesday after a week's fishing at Washago Beach, Georgian Bay. They report good sport and big catches of bass, pike and junge. Incidentally, some good fish stories are floating round town this week.

The Boston people may talk about their beans and the colored folks about their "watermill-pan" but what is there to compare with a well developed cob of green corn just pulled from the stalk!

Municipal officer Harvey has been doing some drain work and grading on the streets during the week which will have good results when the winter floods arrive.

The rural schools opened on the 15th, another sign that summer is rapidly passing.

Rather surprising, isn't it, how well the Acton and Georgetown bowlers play away from home, and on strange greens too. A couple of weeks ago, a Georgetown bowler got away with a good majority over the local enthusiasts on the Acton green, and then again on Tuesday two Acton licks drove down to Georgetown, winning the game there. And they certainly did give those four Georgetown skips a tanning. Skips for Acton were Gould and McKinnon.

This is another proof of the old adage "All things come to those who wait." (The Herald with creditable joy chronicled the Acton defeat of a couple of weeks ago. This time it's our turn.

What do you think of this? Is this not a record? A letter posted in London, England, at 2 p.m. on Saturday the 11th was received at Acton by the first mail on the 18th. It would likely be despatched by the mail train leaving London, England, at 3.45 p.m. It travelled to Holyhead, thence by express steamer to Queenstown, south of Ireland, where it arrived about 10 a.m. Sunday. From there it travelled via New York.

Photo by Esther Taylor

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