

# THIS WEEK AND NEXT

by Ray Argyle



## Crisis in the Commonwealth

Next week's conference of Commonwealth prime ministers comes at an embarrassing time for Mr. Pearson. Beset by problems of labor unrest and inflation at home, he must turn his attention to Commonwealth affairs while Canadians would much rather have him dealing decisively with pressing problems in this country.

There is, moreover, the danger that the conference will result in further shrinking of the Commonwealth and heightened disunity among its member nations. And there is nothing Mr. Pearson can do about it.

The major topic on the agenda will be the seemingly insoluble Rhodesian situation, where Premier Ian Smith remains adamant in his stand that his country will not bow to London's demands for racial equality.

Despite a variety of economic pressures, and despite the very harsh effects these pressures have had on the Rhodesian economy, Mr. Smith's rebel regime appears as firmly entrenched as ever.

Whether Rhodesia is even still a part of the Commonwealth is a good question. It's a question no one, least of all Prime Minister Wilson, cares to face up to. Technically, it might be supposed that it is, in that Smith declared continued loyalty to the Queen when his rebellious colony declared itself out from under the British colonial office. But a rebel regime it is, unrecognized by Her Majesty's ministers and other Commonwealth nations.

Is Rhodesia now to go the way of South Africa, enthusiastically booted out of the Commonwealth? That's one way of solving a "Commonwealth" problem in that it could be argued that by kicking her out of the club, her behavior (like South Africa's) is no longer the responsibility of the club.

But that's unlikely to happen. Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence came nine

months ago, after Ian Smith and his white supremacy followers rejected British insistence that blacks be taken into the government.

Since then, a variety of sanctions have been applied, and with increasing effect. Foreign investment has come to a near standstill, neighboring African countries are imposing trade bans, and there are reports Rhodesia has sold only one quarter of its tobacco crop — its chief source of foreign exchange.

But still Rhodesia survives, and fresh talks are now under way between British and Rhodesian delegations. But as long as Smith knuckles under to his extremist supporters and refuses to take any blacks into his government, other Commonwealth Afro-Asian countries will not allow London to reach any kind of settlement.

Prime Minister Pearson, who finds Smith's racial policies repugnant, will go along with the colored Commonwealth in the general denunciation of Rhodesia. But there is little economic contact between Canada and Rhodesia, and thus little Canada can do to bring Smith into line.

As if Rhodesia wasn't problem enough, the Commonwealth prime ministers meet at a time when another African Commonwealth country — Nigeria — is undergoing severe tests which threaten to split the country among warring tribes.

The second army mutiny within six months installed a new regime in Nigeria a few weeks ago. With 56 million people, Nigeria is the most populous and potentially the most powerful of all west African states.

The tragedy of Nigeria is that despite an "enlightened" British colonial administration, the country never got beyond the stage of tribal loyalties which have split Nigeria into four jealous regions.

Col. Y. Gowon, the new military chief, is said to regard a

loose confederation of the contending regions as the best chance of keeping the country intact.

In varying degrees, it all sounds like an old record played over again. For Mr. Pearson, his

trip to the Commonwealth conference can be little more than a melancholy journey, undertaken against a background of growing divergence within the Commonwealth and unsolved problems at home.

## GOLF TROPHY (Continued from page 9)

here to mention that requests by outside interests to donate trophies for various local golf competitions have been discouraged, preferring local contributors

Present trophy contributors are:- Kimb erly-Clark Company, Costa's Stores, Knights of Columbus and Joe Adamo.

The golf club also appreciates the assistance received by others toward the purchase of a new greens mower.

## LADIES GOLF CLUB NEWS

The club has been buzzing with activity as the season nears its completion and all will surely agree that it has been a most successful summer with favorable weather for all planned events. The match tournament is underway with eight competitors left in the running for the Carling Trophy. The ringer board will be closed off on Sept. 15.

At the invitational tournament held recently in Marathon prizes were won by three local golfers-- Peggy Wellings, Marie Edmunds and Ivy Pattison.

Following are the winners of last Tuesday's two-ball foursome: Low Gross--John Ferrier and Marie Edmunds; Low Net--Joe Shubaly and Liz Burns; Low and High hidden holes, Chas. Koski and Lois Shubaly, Walter MacMicking and Olga Adamo; High Score, Bill Farrell and Isobel Ferrier.

The ladies continue holding weekly tournaments on Thursday afternoons with good turnouts of approximately fourteen each time. Winners in last Thursday's game were--low gross, Peggy Wellings, Low Net, Phyl Kelty, Low and High hidden holes, Kay Stefurak and Ev. Shivas.



Knights of Columbus officer S. Chicoine held Carling Award while Champion R. Hansen holds Knights of Columbus Trophy.