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B.C.'s labor code

EARNEST consideration should be given to Mr. E. E. Pearlman's recommendations for the complete overhauling of British Columbia's labor disputes settlement procedures. Mr. Pearlman is one of the province's leading authorities on the subject, and has a breadth of personal experience as a lawyer and as a negotiator in industrial disagreements fully qualifying him to offer advice as to how the B.C. labor code could be improved.

First and foremost he recommends the establishment of labor courts and arbitration boards to achieve a degree of finality in the composure of disputes not attainable under the existing procedures. The impotence in some circumstances of the B.C. conciliation and arbitration (so-called) processes has been exemplified times without number. Mr. Pearlman would have arbitration boards vested with sufficient authority to end disputes a great deal more expeditiously than is possible now.

He would also have vital services which cannot be interrupted without serious consequences to the community, brought under compulsory arbitration where disputes fail to yield to the preliminary processes. In this category would be policemen, firemen, sanitation and public health staffs, teachers and all those responsible for the continuous operation of essential services. Private operations would not be subject to this compulsion, but the facilities of arbitration would be available to them on request.

Another important recommendation is that tribunals responsible for the settlement of labor differences should be headed by judges. This is so eminently sound that it should need little emphasis. If it is deemed proper for civil suits, involving possibly only two persons and relatively small amounts of money, to be heard by permanently appointed judges trained in the law, surely it is much more important that disputes involving the wage scales of hundreds or thousands of employees, the stability of large industries or the tax revenues of public bodies should be taken before impartial judges with the training necessary for the rendering of wise decisions.

—The Victoria Colonist

CUBA AFRAID

Fear replaces jubilance in hearts of rebels

The Castro revolution is at a crisis. To find out the situation today, William L. Ryan, Associated Press news analyst, went into the provinces and interviewed scores of Cubans. This is one of a series.

By WILLIAM L. RYAN

CIEGO de AVILA, Cuba (AP)—"Fidel doesn't know. It can't be he knows what is going on in Cuba. When Fidel knows, he will change things."

So speaks a little man who has been hurt, one who still clings to faith and hope in the Cuban revolution.

But more and more, in educated circles, those who had such faith are being disillusioned.

In the name of a man who once fought with Fidel Castro against the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship, I watched former 26th of July Movement revolutionaries jeer bitterly as their one-time hero and idol shouted and gesticulated before the television cameras.

In the home of a middle-class businessman I heard the curses for Fidel, muttered by one who once sent supplies to mountain hideouts of the embattled Fidelistas.

On a city street corner I had a brief rendezvous with a man who once was a 26th officer. The meeting lasted only until two over-casual characters sauntered toward us. "Informers," whispered the former revolutionary, leaving quickly.

In one town I arranged a meeting with a group of business leaders. The meeting failed to come off. Only one man was at the appointed place. "It's cancelled," he whispered. "We're afraid."

Under the Castro government's rule, Cuba sometimes seemed haunted.

The man who cuts sugar cane and the mill worker still believe in the revolution. So does the white collar worker in the mill or factory office. They make up Castro's mass support. But many have vague fears—they believe Havana's constant anti-American propaganda.

A peasant, despite Havana's bold word about fighting house to house if need be, does not relish the prospect.

"In Guantanamo Bay there are ships with 10,000 marines waiting to come in and kill us," he says echoing a propaganda line. Actually there is barely a platoon of marines at the naval base the United States leases from Cuba under treaty.

The Cuban businessman is afraid. How long can he support his family when laws, regulations and arbitrary seizures are crowding him to the wall?

Even moderate elements are afraid. Some sense bloodshed in the offing. They have been told: "There is no neutrality—either you are all "for us or all against us."

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Hundreds in tense Camaguey province have been grabbed in roundups. Jails are being filled with those who spoke or acted out of turn. American consular authorities are kept busy aiding Americans jailed on the flimsiest of excuses.

Ciego de Avila loves fiestas and gaiety. Now the city of 45,000 is subdued. Six months ago at least 80 per cent of its men would fight anyone anywhere, if Fidel said the word. Today, one hears, it is doubtful if more than 20 per cent would do so willingly.

The town is bullied by 300 picked Communists.

A professional man who was with Castro in the mountains during the revolution says now: "Every possible solution leads to a dead end, and there is hardly a decent man left in the government. The outlook is black."

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Herter thinks Russia "dragging feet"

By HAROLD MORRISON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

State Secretary Herter is convinced the Russians are deliberately dragging their feet at the Geneva 10-power disarmament negotiations.

He believes this stalling is designed to give Soviet Premier Khrushchev an opportunity to air some new disarmament idea at the East-West summit conference which opens at Paris May 16.

Herter's aids say this conviction remains although there is evidence of embarrassing inconsistencies and basic conflict of view between the secretary and his chief disarmament negotiator as to the reasons behind the agreed-upon six-week recess in disarmament negotiations.

The conflict and inconsistencies may raise grave misgivings among the small Western powers which look to the U.S. for Western leadership in strengthening prospects for world peace. Is there in fact any strong central U.S. policy on disarmament and how positive is Herter's control over administration of U.S. foreign policy?

PLATFORM FOR MR. K.

Last Friday Herter told a press conference the Russians were seeking a long recess from the Geneva negotiations which opened last March 15. He suggested a Soviet stall at Geneva was designed to give Khrushchev his disarmament platform at Paris. He made clear also that while he wouldn't mind a short recess he was opposed to a long one.

The next day Herter found himself in an embarrassing position, for his chief disarmament negotiator at Geneva, New York lawyer Frederick M. Eaton, had in the meantime agreed to a six-week recess, from April 29 to June 7. Herter criticized the action of his negotiator but had to accept the recess "since the deed is done."

More than that, Eaton suggested at Geneva that the recess was not primarily insisted upon by Russia alone but was agreed upon by all parties because some of the delegates would have to leave Geneva to work on the summit talks. They couldn't be in two places at one time.

Some U.S. diplomats side with Herter's view that the recess was a Russian stall and some support Eaton's interpretation that the recess was a general East-West idea among the 10 negotiators.

Those in the state department watching the Geneva developments on a day-to-day basis suggest the pre-summit talks are merely designed as probing operations, each side feeling the other out. They look for decisions flowing from the summit to provide a sense of serious direction in post-summit resumption of negotiations.

Meanwhile, there seems to be unanimous view in the state department that Eaton had been too fast on his feet; that there had been a temporary breakdown in teamwork between Herter and Eaton, and that the resulting embarrassment did U.S. diplomacy no good.

A Bible Thought for Today

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it and the place thereof shall know it no more. Psalm 103:14, 15.

Man is physically related to the lower animals, sharing their physical limitations, but he also is a son of God with eternity before him. We are God's children and we inherit his eternal character.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

There are many door-to-door salesmen — some honest, some shady.

A plea for the honest ones has come to me from Gwenn K. Davidson, Toronto, public relations director for the Direct Sellers' Association.

Miss Davidson harked back to a column here, in which I told of the experiences of my friends Dave and Peggy with a high-pressure vacuum cleaner salesman.

"I assume from the general sales presentation recorded in your column," Miss Davidson writes, "that your friends were visited by a salesman who represents an organization located here in Toronto which is not a member of this association.

"I, too, am a householder, and I have been visited by a salesman with a similar sales presentation."

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She sends a pamphlet in which it is pointed out that "Bona Fide direct sellers" will carry identification; will have the manufacturer's literature on products; have samples of merchandise on which the manufacturer's name is stamped; never demand full payment without issuing a receipt; never high-pressure you to buy things you don't want or don't need; will accept "No" courteously; likely will call again.

Householders should ask to see credentials; examine the products for manufacturer's name; read catalogues and contracts thoroughly before signing anything; question dealers about guarantees; if in doubt, check with chamber of commerce.

Beware hard luck or sympathy stories, and "bargains" (although monthly "specials' are all right); beware salesmen who spend a lot of time quizzing you about goods you already have, under the guise of "taking a survey"; carefully check home repair contractors and door-to-door photograph salesmen.

Letterbox

SETTLERS DISCOURAGED

The Editor,
The Daily News:

For your information, it is almost impossible for a prospective settler to secure a pre-emption or make a purchase of land on these islands before they become discouraged at the prospect anyway.

Mr. Robert Leach has been here over a year steadily making injuries about one lot or another and still hasn't located a place.

It isn't that the province hasn't lots of land accessible to the highway but that either for the reason that the land is on the "foreshore"—(any foreshore) or that it proves to have too much timber on it or is reserved for some other reason each lot proves to be "not available."

Civil defence is going to find these islands NO refuge in case of war for either the people of Prince Rupert or Kitimat.

The "why" of that is that the cultivated land of the islands have never been able to supply more than an infinitesimal portion of the agricultural products that the residents need. Not mind you, that there isn't a huge potential of agricultural land, but that it is not in use.

As you may have observed if you have resided at any time in an area being pioneered it takes about three waves of settlers to finally develop the land to a point where they remain "put."

So far the islands have had but one wave of "pioneers," the rainbow chasing wave which is composed of a very unstable element and that was back 50 years ago.

We, who want neighbors, would like to see a soil survey made and all potentially agricultural lands, to be so designated and the timber cruised and the availability of these lands for settlement made known—or their unavailability determined so that potential settlers would not be obliged to wait around for YEARS and their means were exhausted and then have to leave without having at least determined their ability as pioneers and their adaptability as settlers.

Granted that the soil may vary quite a lot in fertility even over a single lot the general characteristics could be determined and the prospective settler could make a careful and exhaustive survey before locating.

About three quarters of Graham Island is relatively level but swamps can be drained by gravity over the whole of this area. There are no outcrops of native rock and muskegs are due entirely to restricted natural drainage caused by accumulated vegetable growth. It can be demonstrated that any muskeg that can be drained has available plant food to last for ages and is soon available to forage and most vegetative growths.

Presently, of course, transportation has to be subsidized but that will continue indefinitely unless the islands are occupied and developed.

Now re the "foreshore reserve": that could and should be dropped altogether but the government could check over the foreshore lands and select certain lots for recreation and camp sites and release the rest. With at least a thousand miles of shore line on the Queen Charlottes it should be quite easy to make a suitable and sufficient selection.

If for nothing else, it should be in the interest of the people of Prince Rupert and Kitimat to provide for reasonable and adequate transportation to the islands and even to supply a "playground" for them requires more people here to provide service and accomodation.

Will you add your voice to our plea? The Farmers Institute has petitioned the government along the lines set forth in this letter.

W. N. Giegerich,
Tlell, B.C.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

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Tidy bookshelves are the mark of the collector. Untidy bookshelves are the mark of the reader or the scholar.

There are exceptions, of course. But if you examine the exceptions narrowly, you will find perhaps, as I have, that tidy scholars are really collectors They collect scholarship. They read books as they would read bank statements or insurance policies They want the facts, like Sergeant Friday. Just the facts.

But the true scholars I have encountered want more than the facts. They want the truth. And they know that truth is like the stock market. You always have to have the latest quotations. And the latest quotations are not in books. By the time they are in books, something new has been added. Facts are facts only at the moment.

How, then, can a true scholar be a tidy man, an orderly man? He is in perpetual motion. He is pursuing the most elusive thing in all creation, something that shifts, as we know, with every generation, but more probably with every day and possibly every hour.

It is collectors the world is full of, and we are getting tidier all the time.

A dapper city dude bought an old broken-down horse from a cattleman who was glad to get rid of it for a pittance.

"What in the world are you planning to do with that old nag?" the cattleman asked.

"I'm going to race him," the dude said.

"Well," the cattleman said, "you'll win."

Word to wise

Many a man thinks he is overworked just because it takes him all day to do a three-hour job.

Passing on curves is best left to judges of beauty contests.

Hardening of the heart ages people more quickly than hardening of the arteries.

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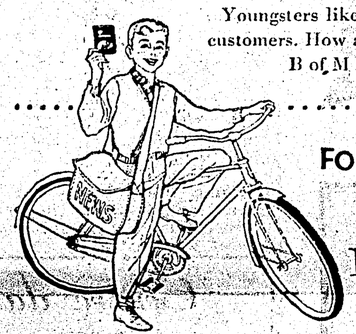

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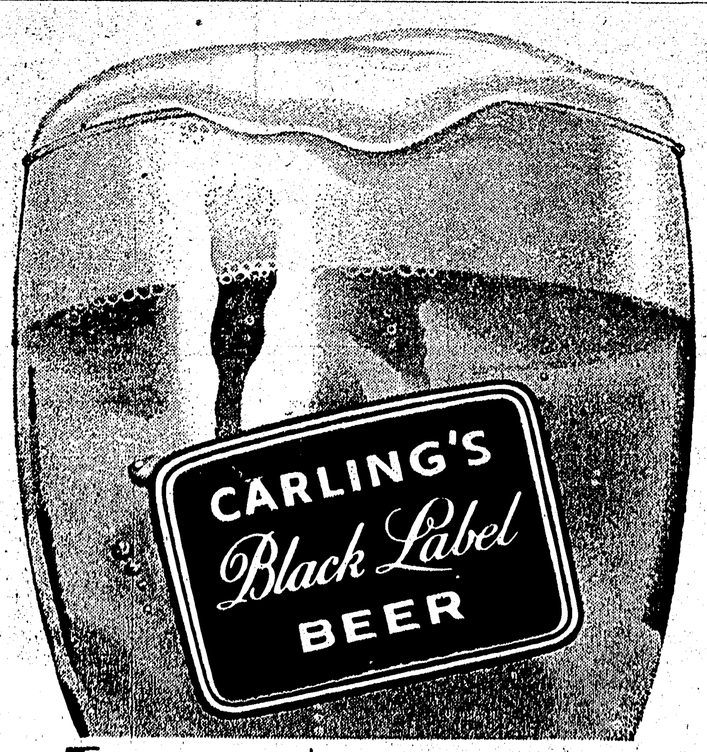

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