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New bill should give Indians equality

The way should be clear for a Native Indian in British Columbia to be treated as a white man so far as liquor privileges are concerned. Final reading has been given by the B.C. Legislature to a bill that would permit Indians equal rights on a basis of plebiscites by licencing area if the federal government will proclaim each approved area exempt from the Indian Act. Under the Indian Act at present it is only possible for Indians to obtain equal rights on the basis of plebiscite by band or reserve.

We are pleased to learn that Attorney-General Bonner is removing the curbs from Indians because of what he terms "an impossible law-enforcement problem." However, we are amazed that the attorney-general has been so long in taking the necessary steps to remedy the situation as it has been "an impossible law enforcement problem" for a good many decades, with little sign of improvement.

If the ruling of Lillooet Magistrate Ed Angman that the Canadian Bill of Rights invalidates Section 94 of the Indian Act, then once the liquor district plebiscites are held, it should give the Native Indian an equality with the white man that he has been seeking for a long time. If Prime Minister Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights is all that it is meant to be, outlawing discrimination of any sort, then there should be no liquor discrimination against the Native Indian at all.

At the same time, providing that the liquor privileges for Indians are broadened, it is up to the Indian himself to show the white man that he is sufficiently responsible to retain these privileges. Even a white man can lose those privileges if he abuses them.

Marxism, revised edition

Two recent items of news from Russia:

"Of course it is possible to lower prices recklessly, but then where would we get the funds to develop the national economy further? Do you think God will send us new factories and power plants?" — Speech by N. S. Krushchov.

"A new procedure of planning agriculture has been adopted . . . with a view to giving the toilers of the countryside an incentive to improve cultivation of land." — Soviet News Bulletin from the Russian Embassy, Ottawa.

Profit and incentive are ideas quite alien to pure Marxism; but Mr. K. evidently finds he can't get on without them. If Soviet enterprises don't show a profit, Soviet industry can't expand. If farmers are not rewarded for extra effort, crops won't expand either.

A maturing Communist economy, such as the Russians have painfully developed in 42 and a half years, is in an increasing number of ways increasingly like the capitalist economies Khrushchev professes to regard as obsolete.

— The Financial Post

Victoria Report by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA — The 1961 session of your Legislature has finally ended — the longest in a good many years.

The last week was, as CCF Mr. Gargrave of Mackenzie put it: "Legislation by exhaustion." There were sittings that lasted until 4 and 5 in the morning. MLA's became so bleary-eyed and groggy they couldn't think straight, and they couldn't remember which day was which, or who said what, and when.

Not for years had opposition been so vocal; they kept the fights going hour after hour, and Premier Bennett, the House leader, sat grimly, refusing to adjourn, being determined that what he had set as his program would go through, even if it took to sun-up.

Thus the closing days of the session became as a marathon tug-of-war; the opposition kept the Premier there, and the Premier kept the opposition. Neither side would give in.

The four Liberals voted now with the CCF, then with the Social Credit side, and later switched back to the CCF. On one occasion, as the Liberals stood with the CCF, Premier Bennett called out to Opposition Leader Strachan: "You've got tthe waltzing Matildas with you, this time."

One night, after the House had been sitting but an hour, CCF Mr. Nimsick of Cranbrook got himself, in the Premier's view, into an ornery mood, and wouldn't be quiet. Suddenly the Premier got up and adjourned the House at 9 p.m. Next night, around midnight, when the opposition wanted the Premier to call it quits the Premier said he couldn't understand the opposition — the night before, he said, they complained because he called it off early, and now they were complaining because he wouldn't call it off. No, the Premier just couldn't understand the workings of the oppositionists' minds.

One of the favorite sayings of MLA's is: "I don't want to take the time of the House." What famous last words, most MLA's, saying they don't want to take the time of the House, proceed, calmly and deliberately, to do just that.

CCF Mrs. Lois Haggen of Grand Forks-Greenwood wanted to know details of $47,500 worth of "incidentals and contingencies" in the Provincial Secretary's department. Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, in reply, mumbled something about this mysterious item covering "a multiplicity of needs." Thus did Mr. Black answer Mrs. Haggen by saying nothing. Mrs. Haggen looking none the wiser, naturally, and judging the situation hopeless, didn't press the point — a victory by default for Mr. Black.

Liberal Alan Macfarlane of Oak Bay has, among his constituents, the Premier, because Mr. Bennett, when he's in the capital, lives in an Oak Bay waterfront apartment. Mr. Macfarlane, of a sudden, challenged the Premier, next election, to run in Oak Bay, Mr. Macfarlane considering the Premier wouldn't have a chance in so enlightened a riding. Up got the Premier to invite Mr. Macfarlane to run in South Okanagan — and, ah-ha- — just see what would happen to him there, in that very heart and home of Social Credit. The Premier and Mr. Macfarlane argued a little, and the Premier told Mr. Macfarlane not to be always yelling and hollerin' so much.

The government had its way all session — which is right; a three cents a gallon increase in the gasoline tax, and no more contributions to political parties from union dues.

The opposition put up a valiant fight throughout, but lost round after round, naturally, because the public willed it that way in the polling booths last September.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Canadian stand on Laos runs full circle

By JACK BEST
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Canada's policy toward Laos has been shaped by circumstances and events in which it has had precious little say.

There could be no better illustration of the fact that Canada's fiddle is being played to somebody else's tune than the statement made in the Commons Thursday by Prime Minister Diefenbaker:

"Canada is prepared to serve on a reconvened international supervisory commission should the governments concerned agree that conditions exist which would permit the commission to play a worthwhile and effective role."

✦ ✦ ✦

For a long time after the Canada-India-Poland commission adjourned sine die in July, 1958 — at the instigation of the Laotian government — Canada appeared to resist all efforts to have it reconvened.

It stuck to its guns even after the national government, which was supposed to bring unity-in-neutrality to the southeast Asia kingdom, had come apart. Neutrality was enjoined on Laos under terms of the 1954 Geneva agreements which ended the Indochina war.

In steadfastly opposing the reconvening of the armistice commission despite recurring flareups in the Laotian civil war, the Canadian government found itself at loggerheads with India, which along with Poland wanted the commission reconstituted.

Canada stood on the technicality that it would be useless to recall the commission as long as the government of Laos — which by this time had become strictly pro-American and was openly accepting huge quantities of American arms — refused to invite it back.

In those halcyon days the Laotian government thought it had the military situation in hand. Now the picture has changed, with the pro-Communist rebels evidently winning some important victories.

Also changed is the Canadian government's policy. Last fall, as the civil war in Laos warmed up, Mr. Diefenbaker let it be known that Canada would be willing to consider on its merits the question of reconvening the armistice group.

Early this year, as things got still warmer in the jungle kingdom, the Canadian government announced it would agree to have the commission reconvened if formally requested by Britain and Russia, co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva conference.

Now the government has withdrawn even that nominal condition. In fact it seems almost eager to have the armistice commission reconvened.

Again Friday Mr. Diefenbaker stated Canada's willingness to serve, adding that the commission would have "an important function to perform" in implementing proposals to conclude a permanent settlement in Laos.

Thus Canada has come full circle from the position it adhered to until last year. This reflects the government's anxiety that the situation in strategic Laos has come very close to getting out of hand.

A Bible Thought for Today

Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord. Psalm 1:1-2

BONNY BABY BHUDDIST, 18-month-old Erica Nishimura of Vancouver, is the youngest member of a group of 102 Japanese-Canadians who left last week for Kyoto, Japan, site of one of the world's largest Bhuddist shrines. The group, which flew from Vancouver to Tokyo via Canadian Pacific Airlines last week, is the vanguard of some 550 Canadian and U.S. pilgrims who will fly to their homeland within the next few months aboard CPA aircraft. This is the largest airlift of Bhuddist pilgrims in Canadian aviation history. Little Erica is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shigeru Nishimura of Vancouver.

— CPA Photo

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

Twenty big cities of the United States are now cursed with "substantial and persistent" unemployment—meaning unemployment that doesn't go away.

The United States department of labor says so. And eighty other cities of smaller size have the same problem.

Sar A. Levitan records these disturbing facts in the current Reporter magazine.

Poverty still exists in the United States. In some areas, children often come to school without breakfast because there is no food at home. Some children stay away because they lack adequate clothing and shoes.

Why? One reason is that too many towns are dependent upon a single industry. The switch from coal to oil in the furnaces of America was a blow to coal mining communities.

Hit by hard times

In cities like Scranton, Pa., the "anthracite capital" of the U.S., numbers of miners were thrown out of work.

When the railways turned to diesel locomotives, hard times hit Altoona, Pa., where many of the town's breadwinners worked making and repairing steam locomotives.

Some rural areas are in trouble, too.

The depressed regions are trying to make jobs by offering bait to attract new industry. They are achieving some success. But they haven't done much more than nibble at unemployment.

Hazelton, Pa., a coal town, raised $6,000,000 and made 3,000 new jobs. Yet, "one out of every seven workers in Hazelton is still jobless."

Since 1955, Senator Paul Douglas has been trying to persuade Congress to extend federal aid to depressed areas — in the shape of advice, money and training. But the Douglas program has been going through rough weather. Its enemies have managed to cripple it and prevent it from becoming law.

Kennedy likes it

President Eisenhower vetoed one version of the Douglas bill. President Kennedy is in favor of it. Perhaps it will pass.

Canada's position may not be exactly the same as that of the United States. But similar economic forces are at work all over the continent.

Because of the advances of science, and rapid changes in the market, whole industries can be thrown out of date. New machines can—and do—replace thousands of workers.

It just is not good enough to say: "Let them go where the work is," and "let them find jobs in the factories that make the new machines."

These changes are too complex and too fast-moving for the individual—or for the small groups of individuals—to handle.

Automation, and out-dating of industries, are not problems that can be wished away. Only strong action by governments can solve these problems.

Let's hope our governments — provincial and federal — will tackle them before they get out of hand. And let's hope the governments can do the job without pushing people around too much, or sapping their self-reliance.

Holding the wage-cost line

From The Vancouver Province

Burnaby civic employees and Vancouver outside workers have agreed to no-wage-increase contracts.

The president of the Burnaby union realistically appraised the need for organized labor to play its part in restoring economic health when he said: "We did not press for an across-the-board increase because of the present economic situation and the tax burden on the home-owner."

This is the kind of leadership which recognizes that there are limits beyond which the wage spiral cannot be maintained safely; that to demand a bigger share of the economic pie when the pie itself can be made no bigger works to the disadvantage of labor; that without self-discipline we are courting economic disaster.

This applies to industrial workers as much—if not more—as it does to government employees. The margin between making Canadian products competitive in world and domestic markets and pricing our goods out of those markets has become so narrow that costs — which include wages—must be kept to a minimum. Any shrinkage of those markets would be just as disastrous to labor as to everyone else.

The civic and municipal employees have shown that they recognize some basic economic truths. Other trade unions preparing new contracts might note.

The lighter side

Young farmer Smith went over to neighbor Jones' place to look over a horse he wanted to buy. Jones took him into the barn and showed him the handsome, powerful - looking beast.

Smith was quite impressed but thought he should see the animal in daylight and suggested to Jones that the horse be taken out for a run.

Jones opened the barn door and the horse, after a few snorts, went tearing out of the barn on the gallop and crashed headlong into a sturdy tree in the yard.

"I'm not going to buy that horse," said Smith, "he's as blind as a bat."

"Heck, son," said Jones, "he's not blind. He just doesn't give a darn!"

Quote and unquote

Martha O'Donnell, Toronto security analyst, speaking to 357 secretaries at the Association of Administrative Assistants seminar in Toronto:

"A working knowledge of investments may prove a greater asset than enrolling in a cooking or decorating class."

✦ ✦ ✦

Thomas A. Edison:

"I am glad that the eight-hour day had not been invented when I was a young man. If my life had been made up of eight-hour days I do not believe I could have accomplished a great deal. This country could not amount to as much as it does if the young men of 50 years ago had been afraid that they might earn more than they were paid for."

✦ ✦ ✦

Alfred C. Fuller in "A Foot in the Door":

"A Fuller Brush man is a local merchant, an independent who purchases his wares from the company but rises or falls on his own diligence. In an age that encourages herd instinct, he goes his own way. In an era that lures men into mediocrity, he dares to establish himself as his own boss and seek his own security. Responsibility is ingrained in him. He knows that reward in this world is in direct proportion to his own efforts."

Short sermons

Jokes won't sell the product, but a frowning prospect won't buy it either.

✦ ✦ ✦

It's fun to give advice except when it's really needed.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

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A backwoods friend of mine who is one of the most intelligent men I have ever met was in town for a few days interviewing prospective cooks and waitresses for the small summer camp he operates. I took him to lunch, and a couple of acquaintances of mine, seeing us at a table for four, came and joined us.

They were average characteristic businessmen and during lunch kept up a typically lively and entertaining conversation. My backwoods friend was characteristically silent.

When the two left us, my backwoodsman said:

"Does everybody chirp and warble like that in cities?"

"Well," I excused, "they are considered fairly intelligent members of the community."

"No," said the backwoodsman, "not intelligent. As you know, I've guided and fed a lot of city people up at my camp the past 40 years. And I've got a pretty clear idea of who is intelligent and who is not. The intelligent man is the one who asks questions rather than always spouting the answers. The intelligent man is the one always adding to what he knows, not wasting time showing what he knows. In the 50 years a man has to be grown up in, there's little time to reach intelligence."

He is 70, and there.

gems of thought

A lie has only one chance of successful deception — to be accounted true. — Mary Baker Eddy.

✦ ✦ ✦

It is twice as hard to crush a half-truth as a whole lie.— Austin O'Malley.

✦ ✦ ✦

Lying is a certain mark of cowardice. — Thomas Southern.

✦ ✦ ✦

Half a fact is a whole falsehood.—Elias L. Magoon.

"Nothing Old Hat about our house this spring!"

Bright and shiny, like a new spring bonnet — that's how our house looks these days. We've had it "done" all over and now the Joneses are keeping up with *us*.
The cost? Well — much less than you'd think. We financed the "works" with a B of M Home Improvement Loan.
That's how you can get *your* home improvements done at lowest cost. Talk to the people at your neighbourhood B of M branch soon — they'll be glad to tell you all about it.

"MY BANK" TO 9 MILLION CANADIANS — B of M

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