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Trading with Japan

NOBODY who has compared the prices of a wide range of imported Japanese goods with those of comparable Canadian items would attempt to deny that trade with Japan is creating an increasingly serious problem for Canadian industry. But it is not a problem which, taking all factors into account, can be solved by the simple device of cutting down shipments from Japan while expecting exports to continue unabated.

Among those adversely affected by this trade have been the Canadian textile manufacturers, who have beaten a path to the federal government's door pleading for preferential treatment to end Japanese competition. This week Finance Minister Fleming announced that as a result of an "understanding" arranged with the Japanese government exports of textiles for the Canadian garment trade would be "kept down to very low levels." Just how much pressure was applied to Japan to achieve this "understanding," the ultimate effect of which will be to maintain a high level of prices charged to Canadian purchasers of garments?

The loudly lamenting textile makers form only one segment of Canadian industry feeling the pinch of Japanese competition. Among others there are the manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment, footwear, toys and stainless steel items, all undersold by wide price margins. What about them if the textile industry is to be protected by what is euphemistically described as an understanding?

If all Canadian industries were to be protected by quotas the whole field of trade with Japan would be endangered; and Canada as a nation has a great deal to lose. Last year imports from Japan, made up almost entirely of consumer goods, totalled $70,000,000. But in the same year the Dominion sold to Japan raw-and semi-processed materials to the value of $104,000,000; and if the rate of increase in exports continues. Japan very soon will become Canada's third best customer. How is Japan to pay for her imports from Canada if by a process of attrition, beginning with textiles, the market for her exports is to be narrowed?

—The Daily Colonist.

To safeguard our past

Every summer it seems the need for B.C. to have an antiquities act to protect historical and archaeological treasures is demonstrated anew. And still the provincial government continues to do nothing about it.

The need is brought up again this year by the activities of Dr. George Cottrell, of Portland, Tre. and his companions. They are once again skindiving around our coast in search of sunken old ships. Their work is historically worthwhile and it is splendid that somebody is doing it.

And we are especially fortunate that these Americans have adopted a policy of giving all their finds to the department of transport or—as they did with a cannon last year — to the Victoria Maritime Museum. It may be that (when it finally gets operating) Vancouver's budding maritime museum will benefit from Dr. Cottrell's activities, too.

But the point is we are entirely indebted to Dr. Cottrell's lack of interest in taking his finds home for the fact that he leaves them here. We gratefully acknowledge his fairmindedness. Another such "explorer" from either the U.S. or some other Canadian province might very well decide to ship home everything he found. And we could do nothing about it.

"Historical monuments" can be protected under existing legislation, but historical and archaeological finds must be declared to be such monuments. This occasions delay and argument.

A proper antiquities act would provide for the automatic protection of all relics of history and prehistory. Equally important, or perhaps more so, it could automatically stop construction — of roads, buildings, railways or anything else — when a possibly important find was made.

Stop it at least until experts had assessed it and determined whether it was worth rescuing.

As the province builds up, as more roads and buildings are created, as more and more people explore the coasts, this matter will become increasingly important. We have already, for instance, seen the loss of a good part of the Marpole Indian midden through lack of facilities for stopping construction.

Even if an act were passed at the next session of the legislature, this winter, the question remains: What are we going to lose this year for the lack of it?

Such losses are totally irreparable. They are also totally inexcusable.

—The Vancouver Sun

Cold war not ended

One great question about the invitation to Nikita S. Krushchev to visit the United States is: To what extent does this imply acceptance of the Soviet empire? Some comment has interpreted it as final American abandonment of the people of the satellite nations. It has been said that there could now be no further actions or even words from Washington to challenge the Soviet system.

This is a premature conclusion. The total effect of the exchange of visits may not appear for months. Much will depend on how the peoples of Eastern Europe react. So far it is known the President Eisenhower sees the invitation to Khrushchev only as a change of diplomatic method not of national purpose. And in connection with assumptions that all American cold-war operations would be dismantled, the latest State Department jab at the Kremlin is worth attention.

Ten days after the Krushchev visit was announced the State Department pointed an official finger at Moscow as having a hand in a Communist military revolt in Laos. The most direct and obvious Communist intervention in Laos comes from Red China via North Viet Nam. The only evidence of a Kremlin connection given by the State Department is that two members of the North Viet Nam Communist Central Committee had visited Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan on Aug. 7.

It could well be that the Kremlin is again taking an active part in Communist pushes in Asia. But Peking is the far more obvious target for American charges that Communists "are determined to keep tensions alive" there. So the verbal finger pointed at Moscow indicates anything but a disposition in Washington to muffle any anti-Soviet words. Soviet enslavement of Eastern Europe was a prime cause of the cold war. No official courtesies will erase American feelings about that nor in the long run alter national purposes.

—The Christian Science Monitor

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Algerian war creates strain in alliance

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

"C'est pitoyable," said the French sergeant's wife. "Pitoyable, pitoyable, pitoyable . . ."

The young Frenchwoman, just back in her homeland after two years in Algeria, was speaking to a Canadian Press reporter of the pitiful human consequences flowing from 4½ years of war in the North African territory.

She was thinking of non-combatant Arabs caught between two fires in a vicious circle of violence, of young French soldiers proudly proclaiming the efficacy of torture in forcing "confessions" from suspected rebels.

The human considerations of which she spoke are important, but have received little publicity. They are likely to be increasingly submerged as President Eisenhowers' forthcoming visit to Europe places new emphasis on the political, economic and strategic aspects of the Algerian war.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

As the world waits for Eisenhower, bickering breaks out between Britain and France. British papers accuse France of a policy of grandeur that bears no relation to power realities, of playing down the "big two" diplomacy that Britain's Prime Minister Macmillan helped to promote.

A country that has suffered a string of defeats in wars spread over the last 20 years — France is the only country that hasn't stopped fighting since 1939 — salves wounded pride with attacks on British "hypocracy."

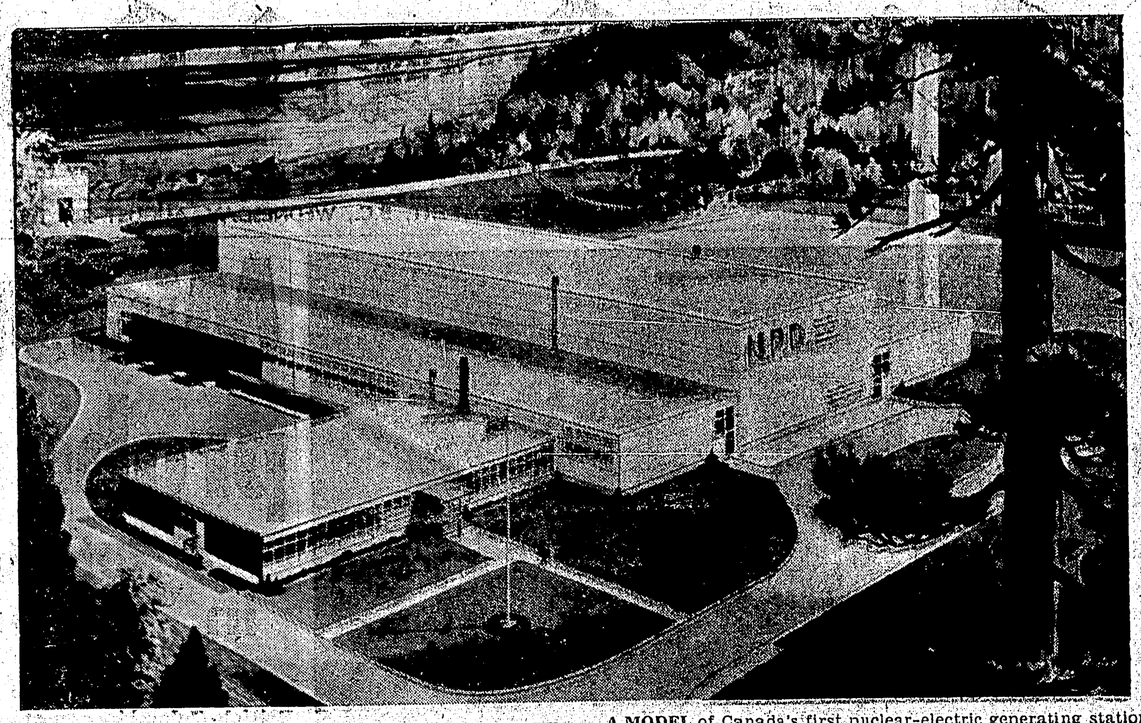
Unquestionably, Anglo-French resentments spring from differing views of the Algerian conflict.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Seen from London, the bitter war in a territory that has suffered invasions all through its history is a futile fight against an invincible Arab nationalism. British observers say the resulting economic burden is preventing France from making a proper contribution to European recovery and Western defense.

Much, though not all, of French opinion replies that Algeria is eternally French, and that the war of "pacification" is in reality a crusade on behalf of Christianity against international communism.

Thus the temporary differences between Paris and London, which Eisenhower will discover in the next week or so, are less important for the West than finding a solution to the Algerian problem. As long as the war continues, there will be strains within the alliance.



A MODEL of Canada's first nuclear-electric generating station being built on the Ottawa River near Rolphton, Ont., 150 miles northwest of Ottawa. The plant, being built jointly by Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., Ontario Hydro and Canadian General Electric Co., Ltd., is known as N.P.D. (Nuclear Power Demonstration). It is scheduled to be in operation by 1961 and will produce 80,000 kilowatts of heat that will be used to generate 20,000 kilowatts of electricity. N.P.D., while not expected to produce electricity economically, will serve as a pilot plant for future atomic power stations capable of producing enough electricity to serve cities with populations of up to 200,000.

—CP photo

Victoria Report by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—Because Lieutenant-Governor Frank Mackenzie Ross has made the new Government House into a sort of gallery of British Columbia paintings, work by B.C. artists in the long ago, so long ignored, is taking big prices at auction sales.

His Honor has bought and begged some very fine paintings of British Columbia scenery, thereby doing a service to this province, and this fact has made such paintings fashionable, and now there's a great scramble for them, much to the delight of the auctioneers.

So if you come across any hidden away, perhaps, in a junk store, go after them, though even the junk store people are coming to know their value and won't give them away, by any means.

Tops, of course, is Emily Carr, but if you want an Emily, you'll have to put out at least $500—and you're not likely to find one in a junk store. Indeed, there are very few for sale.

Then there's Paul Kane and Frederick Whymper, Thomas Mower Martin and Thomas Fripp, Henry James Warre and L'Aubiniere. Their work is becoming more valuable each day as it becomes scarcer.

G. T. Brown, a California artist, did some good work in British Columbia in the 1880's but much of it seems to have disappeared. Practically nothing is known of him today. There are, however, several of his originals in the Provincial Archives.

Brown travelled extensively in the Okanagan country and apparently did some fine paintings of the magnificent scenery there. It's possible some of his work is still in that country, hidden away in old barns or musty attics.

The Provincial Archives is filled with many splendid and historically-valuable paintings of British Columbia sites and scenery. Pity of it there's no room to properly show them. They're piled up every which way. Some are stored in attics and basements.

With the $25,000,000 a year the Premier says he's saving on debt interest perhaps he could find about $1,000,000 or so for a simple, plain art gallery to show all this priceless work which has been gathered over the years.

A provincial capital most certainly should have a provincial art gallery, for the capital must of necessity be the heart and home, the very core of a province.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

DIARY OF A VISIT TO BRITAIN: Normal, well-balanced people plan their journeys. But it's less fun to know what you're going to do, ahead of time.

We came to Britain without any specific cause to pursue. My wife wanted to bring her little boys to visit her mother, and I wanted to see some friends and relations, and absorb some of the feeling of post-Suez Britain, in a random way. I have also been trying to arrange a jaunt to the continent.

As a result of my lack of plan, and of the effort to see a number of people at their convenience, my family and I have followed a tangled path across southern England, separating from one another and reforming ranks at intervals. This has been wasteful of time and railway fare.

However, the railway fare costs very little. We bought some British railway tickets in Canada which entitled us to ride British trains at a far lower price than residents of the British Isles ever pay.

The cut-rate coupons induce a mood of recklessness. Whenever we want to go anywhere by rail, we have only to peel off the required number of coupons, and we're on our way. No money changes hands, except an odd twopence to even the amount (coupons are in denominations of sixpence).

It feels like some Socialist society in which money has been abolished. However, it is not a classless society. For thrift we travel second class, and sometimes look enviously through the windows at the emptier compartments, the cleaner upholstery and the white head-cloths which are the signs of higher status.

In the last train we rode, first-class carriages were virtually deserted, while numbers of second-class travelers stood in corridors.

At every sizeable station, there is usually a scramble for second-class seats. The numerous doors of the train fly open, people come tumbling out (they have only a minute or two before the train leaves) and others come bustling in.

All of them are polite. No matter how rough-looking they are and no matter how plebeian their speech, they say "sorry" if they jostle one another, they respect reserved seats and they make room for fellow-passengers when they can.

It is true that English people don't talk much on trains. But I think there is reason for it. People are so numerous on these islands that it is necessary for a man to learn the habit of isolating himself in a crowd.

A train journey across Canada is an adventure. The people who take part in it feel a sense of comradeship against the background of wilderness and great distances.

But I think an Englishman looks on a train as a kind of moving street, which happens to have upholstered benches in it. In ordinary circumstances he would no more strike up a conversation with a stranger on a train than he would on a street corner.

Lighter side

"Everybody I meet is so irritating," a tense, nervous patient complained to her doctor. He prescribed a tranquilizer and told her to come back in a week and let him know how she was feeling.

"Have you noticed any change in your mental attitude?" he asked on her next visit.

"None at all" she replied. "I feel just the same—but I've noticed that other people are acting a lot better."

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To hold down prices

From The Vancouver Sun

France proposes to stabilize prices.

Its methods should excite interest in Canada. We hope the Canadian government is watching.

The French cabinet foresees possible rises in the prices of eggs, butter, cheese and potatoes. So it has decided to increase imports of these commodities.

The price increases in France would be due to failures of production brought about by unseasonably hot weather. Supply shortages would ordinarily impel producers to raise their prices. But in this case the French government interferes with the law of supply and demand in an entirely reasonable way. It lets down the tariff barriers. It promotes competition.

If the Diefenbaker government is as concerned about the possibility of further inflation as it claims to be, if it really desires stable prices, it could take a leaf from the French book.

But this government has given many indications of a protectionist bias. It ought to be aware that high prices are usually one of the results of protection for uneconomic home industries.

LETTERBOX

GARDEN RAVAGED

The Editor,
The Daily News:

An incident of vandalism occurred the other day which I feel should be brought to the attention of all parents of young children.

It was by chance, I ventured over to our neighbors' yard. My curiosity was aroused when I saw some children, possibly between the ages of eight and twelve, making a hasty retreat through the bushes. It was not until they were out of sight that my attention was attracted to the upheaval in the garden. There were plants pulled out by the roots, others broken and strewn everywhere, rock-work broken down, the patio all covered with muddy footprints.

I was shocked, angered and dismayed, to think that anyone could have so little regard for the beauty of flowers in bloom or be so thoughtless of the care and attention and the time spent in making a garden. Not least of all, is the complete disregard of the property of others.

I lack the words to describe the full extent of my feelings when I discovered the havoc that had been wrought in our neighbors' beautiful garden.

It's alarming to discover such destructive tendencies in young children. Parents should try and instill in their children, an appreciation of beautiful things and certainly respect for the property of others.

In the hope that you will publish this letter, I thank you for the space.

Mrs. G. Selvig.

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