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Dr. W. T. Kergin left mark on north

Another link with Prince Rupert's history has been broken with the death of Dr. William T. Kergin, pioneer surgeon, politician and patriot. Dr. "W. T." was more than just a young doctor doing a job. He could have done that in Toronto where he graduated but he didn't even stay a year in the big city. Wooed by the opportunities of the Canadian West, he came out to the village of Port Simpson in 1902, the same year he received his degree in medicine.

From that time on he devoted his time to curing the sick, pushing development of his new-found home and working in the provincial legislature for the residents of the huge burgeoning north.

With his teacher-bride from the Grosby Girls' Home at Port Simpson, Dr. Kergin found time to operate two hospitals, one at Port Simpson and one at Port Essington, many miles apart. Later he helped build the hospital at Stewart and even after establishing himself at Prince Rupert with his brother Dr. L. W. Kergin, found time to go away for further studies.

Besides his medical practice, his Masonic and church work, Dr. Kergin also found time to relax and help pioneer the growth of the Prince Rupert Rowing and Yacht Club. He used to commute between Port Simpson and Prince Rupert in his launch the Sunbeam.

Many tributes have been paid to this pioneer doctor who up until 1940, when he retired, was the city's leading surgeon. In his book, "Skeena, River of Destiny," Dr. R. G. Large, whose father, Dr. R. W. Large, succeeded Dr. Kergin at Port Simpson, pays tribute to the pioneer doctor to whom he often turned for advice.

He describes Dr. Kergin as "a man of outstanding ability in his chosen profession and an active member of the community . . . At various times he was associated with the development of the natural resources of the country in mining, lumbering and fishing."

Another tribute is to be found in "British Columbia, from Early Times," a publication which concludes its biography of Dr. Kergin by saying that he "always exerted his efforts toward worthy objects and contributed in no small degree toward implanting civilization in northern British Columbia." The final sentence says that Dr. Kergin was "a man of high professional ideals and attainments and a public-spirited, loyal and patriotic citizen."

A man could ask no better epitaph.

Not free from falsehoods

Premier Bennett's chief contribution to the recent Social Credit national leadership convention was the humorous statement — although he didn't mean it that way — that the Social Credit party presents itself to the people free from the bidding of "Big Business, Big Welfare and Big Labor."

Most British Columbians by now are used to the premier's pleasant habit of making exaggerated claims about his government's integrity. However it is good every so often to set the record straight so that those folks who don't quite see the point of his jokes are able to join in the chuckling.

For example, take Mr. Bennett's claim that under the Social Crediters the people are free from Big Welfare. Yet when it suits his purpose, the premier has bragged loudly that British Columbians get more welfare from their government than the people of any other Canadian province.

The following figures taken from the government's 1960 financial estimates may or may not be called Big Welfare, depending as Mr. Bennett invariably does on whom he is trying to impress:

Health administration $905,000; public health $3,675,000; medical, dental and allied services $2,944,000; hospital administration $569,000; provincial mental hospitals $11,000,000; provincial TB hospitals $1,336,000; hospitalization (paid from out of the five per cent sales tax) $29,204,000; old age pensions $12,020,000; social welfare $5,777,000; child welfare $2,362,000; social welfare administration $1,367,000.

There are other welfare items which help make up the provincial total of 73,000,000. Nor does this total include such "welfare state" items as parks, recreation, physical culture, civil service benefits and many others, totalling many more millions, which we the people have come to expect and demand, but which nevertheless are part and parcel of Big Welfare.

Nor is Mr. Bennett's claim that his party is free from the bidding of Big Business any less humorous.

As any voter will recall, Social Credit candidates got a very substantial share of their election campaign funds from such Big Business interests as the Wenner-Grens and the McMahons. Big Business does not hand out favors with no thought of return, and it has been seen clearly from post-election activities that the Social Crediters are more than willing to pay off Big Business by awarding franchises, contracts, mineral and water rights and, in some instances such as Mr. Gaglardi's recent court case indicated, with cash.

Mr. Bennett's claim that his government is free from the bidding of Big Labor is not humorous to the union members who live in B.C. and possibly not funny to anybody else. But at least it is the only claim he made which contains a semblance of truth.

— The Prince George Citizen

INDUSTRIALISTS AND WORKERS TOO

Canada nation of goof-offs who want jam on it

By SANDY BAIRD
In The Kitchener-Waterloo Record

It's human nature to seek a scapegoat, and it's the usual political practice to serve one up on a platter. But, in the large sense, there can be no one scapegoat. To find the villain, Canadians need only to look in their mirrors.

That's right. The government past and present, the Bank of Canada, our industries and their policies are only reflections of our own image. And a sad image it has become.

Let's face it. To a great and growing extent, we Canadians have become lazy and lethargic.

♣ ♣ ♣

Trade Minister Hees — and we admire him for it — has ticked off Canadian industrialists for a lack of guts and gumption in going after foreign trade.

Somebody should tick off the Canadian workers in the same bald terms. And by worker we're not just talking about organized labor, the usual whipping boy.

All of us are workers whether we tote a briefcase or build tires. And all of us bear a share of the guilt for the goof-off complex that is crippling the Canadian economy.

Ask the employers. The automatic pay increase has become a plague, but most employers would be willing to live with that if there was just the occasional sign that employees were interested in doing a full day's work for a day's pay.

Instead, Canada's factories, stores, mines, mills and offices have been semi-crippled by the marathon coffee break, the half-hearted, half-speed effort, the come-late, leave-early attitude.

♣ ♣ ♣

It's appalling that so many Canadian workers can be so stupid as to think that they're merely bilking the boss when they short-change their jobs. They're bilking themselves, their community, their country.

Somebody has to pay and the loafing becomes part of the price of every product and every service. And it is a millstone about the neck of Canadian products fighting for foreign markets.

The problem, of course, is that it doesn't take many goof-offs to gum up a plant or office. A couple of clowns start dogging it and sooner or later a couple of colleagues start wondering why they should be frustrating themselves. And a chain reaction sets in.

Translate that into trans-Canada terms and you've got a good part of the answer on what's wrong with the economy.

♣ ♣ ♣

It's time we Canadians awoke to the fact that there is no platinum-paved path to prosperity. It's rocky and uphill all the way. And, alas, it involves work.

We can talk ourselves red, white and blue in the face about the U.S. inroads in our economy. We can moan and groan about the immigrants and their terrible penchant for toil. We can weep and wail about unfair foreign competition.

But when all the chatter, moaning and groaning, weeping and wailing is over, it will still leave us more sinning than sinned against. Canada has been amply blessed with resources. Give another people the same opportunity and what would they do?

They'd work with some of the old root-hog-or-die spirit that 04 years ago made this geographical paradox into a nation.

A Bible Thought for Today

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves. — Hebrews 13:17.

But he who would be a ruler must also be servant of all.

ALL ABOARD WITH G. E. MORTIMORE

Organized crime biggest business in U.S.

Organized crime is big business in the United States. It is bigger than General Motors, and so powerful that it can buy policemen, judges and politicians.

The honest law enforcers—and they are numerous—have only been able to lop off a few small tentacles from the nationwide octopus of big crime.

Daniel P. Moynihan says in The Reporter magazine that "The private government of crime" has—in some areas of society—become stronger than the elected government.

"Tens of millions of Americans regularly come in contact with crime when they patronize a numbers runner, a bookmaker, or an after-hours drinking club as well as when they become involved in any of the 50-odd areas of racket infiltration, ranging alphabetically from advertising to transportation, that the Kefauver committee uncovered.

"Organized crime obviously has something to sell that people want to buy. Yet always behind the pleasures of vice lie the ugliness of degredation and the terror of violence.

"It is pleasant to think of winning a lot of money, not so pleasant for an Irish tenement kid to stare at what is left of his father's face after the smiling bookie's psychotic 'enforcers' have collected the hard way.

"We can all sympathize with the shame of parents who learn that their son in college has been paid off to shave the score of a basketball game, but most of us find it difficult to even imagine the feelings of Puerto Rican parents the first time their daughter comes down from the roof 'high' on heroin."

Overshadowing these personal tragedies, Moynihan suggests, may be an even worse by-product of organized crime—a widespread cynicism about law enforcement—a belief that "government . . . is controlled by massive and sinister commercial interests that the individual dare not defy."

The department of justice's Special Group on Organized Crime estimated that the underworld makes $9,000,000,000 a year from gambling—and pays off half of this sum to police and politicians for "protection."

"Since the total salaries of the municipal police forces in the United States probably do not come up to $1,000,000,000 a year, these figures would indicate that the American police receive more money from criminals than from taxpayers.

"Probably that is an exaggeration, but there is no question about the validity of the conclusion to which the figures point: corruption by organized crime is a normal condition of American local government and politics."

Crime first got organized as big business during Prohibition. Bootlegging attracted people from marginal social groups, including many Sicilians.

Some people believe that the Sicilians brought their own organization with them—the Mafia. But this is much too simple, Moynihan says.

"The Southern Italians had qualities that made for success in this field: nerve . . . the possessional organization men in sant habit of group loyalty and a relative imperviousness to alcohol and narcotic addiction. Nor were they disheartened by the occasional necessity to settle disputes with violence.

"But the process by which crime became organized was . . . no different from that by which a score of small, fragmented industries have been concentrated into ever larger units . . ."

After Prohibition ended, the new criminal syndicates turned to gambling, narcotics and other enterprises.

"The general corruption of local government that took place under Prohibition continued, making possible a great expansion of racketeering, in which threats of violence were used for commercial purposes."

Organized crime is managed by "a new type of criminal, living in luxury, flanked by expensive attorneys and advisers, able to cut deeper into our social structure by corrupting weak officials than he ever did by open defiance and violence."

Many Americans are worried about organized crime. They often elect reformers who promise to stamp it out. Once the reformers take office, however, they lose their enthusiasm. They cannot or will not keep their promises.

The standard remedies for crime are to clean up the slums, which breed crime, break up the political machines, which tolerate crime, and guard the trade unions against criminal penetration.

These remedies probably will not work. "It is probably too late to get at crime by cleaning up the slums; organized crime has moved to the suburbs and the underworld has become cafe society."

Formerly, slum delinquents might hope for a career in crime. But, nowadays "in the world of semi-professional and organized crime, there is no place for the impulsive, explosive and undisciplined individual."

The day may come when young toughs may find organized crime closed to them as a career, because they are short of education. This is not a joke, but an educated guess by a sociologist.

In many cases where political machines have been broken up, organized crime has flourished all the more. "Far from having solved the problem of commercial crime, the elimination of the machines seems to have eliminated the one social force that was able to contain it."

There has been little public support for labor leaders whose unions have been threatened by criminal infiltration. "The record of major industries employing criminals as labor-relations advisors is well known."

Public indifference to local politics has enabled the crime syndicate to move into government like a cuckoo moving into a nest.

Some laws — such as laws against gambling and liquor —actually seem to promote crime, rather than stop it. "When a government attempts to restrict certain activities that a large number of citizens do not really disapprove of, it runs the risk of expanding rather than reducing the areas in which criminals find opportunities . . ."

Neither federal law enforcement agencies nor the U.S. Congress have launched a real attack on organized crime. But Attorney-General Robert Kennedy has announced that he means to try.

"If we do not on a national scale attack organized criminals with weapons and techniques as effective as their own," he said recently, "they will destroy us."

Someone may boast: "This could never happen in Canada." In fact, organized crime is already entrenched in some of our big cities, and may well spread further.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Signed articles and editorials credited to other newspapers do not necessarily reflect the views of The Daily News.

With the Classics

Mock on, mock on, Voltaire, Rousseau;
Mock on, mock on; 'tis all in vain;
You throw the sand against the wind
And the wind blows it back again.
And every sand becomes a gem
Reflected in the beams divine;
Blown back, they blind the mocking eye,
But still in Israel's path they shine.

—WILLIAM BLAKE

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

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In considering juvenile delinquency, not enough attention is being paid to the cowardice that is manifest in a good many of the cases that come to public attention. It is extraordinary how these instances of gangs of youths invading dance halls or resort areas, or of beatings administered by half a dozen young hoodlums on a single person, are dealt with dispassionately in terms of the law.

The rank cowardice involved in these cases should concern us far more than the breach of some statute. For countless centuries, the folklore, the literature, and indeed the whole culture of every nation has striven to build up an ideal of human behavior in which cowardice is always the most lothsome of attributes. Yet sheer cowardice is displayed in almost all these instances of rowdyism.

Quite a number of the old traditional virtues have suffered some eclipse in recent years. But it will be a sorry day for us as a breed of men, let alone as a nation, if we allow our contempt of cowardice to cool in the debilitating wind of sociological indulgence.

Quote, unquote

J. W. Kerr, president, Canadian Electrical Manufacturers Association:

"Similar prices are, in most cases, arrived at by evolution rather than collusion."

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