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Doukhobors need serious attention

Once again, through lack of a firm and consistent policy on the part of both federal and provincial governments, the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors have been allowed to create an incident, and in so doing draw the attention to themselves that seems to give them so much gratification.

Although those Sons of Freedom who marched on Victoria have now retreated, the current affair is far from settled.

What started earlier this year as a Freedomite trek to the federal prison at Agassiz where convicted members of the sect are serving terms, has grown into an affair of vastly greater proportions.

The whole business is made worse by having become a political issue as well.

Premier Bennett has blamed federal Works Minister Fulton for establishing the prison in the Fraser Valley in the first place. Quite obviously the Premier has taken as opportunity to lard out at the man who will undoubtedly be the next leader of the Progressive Conservative party in this province, and thus, sadly, we get the impression that just another political football has been kicked about.

The Sons of Freedom problem demands much more serious attention than it is now receiving. Government leaders cannot simply shut their eyes and hope that by the time they open them the Sons of Freedom will have gone away—and quietened down.

If experience is to be a guide, this simply does not happen in the case of the Sons of Freedom. During the recent march on Victoria, reports mentioned that the Sons of Freedom wanted the provincial government to establish a royal commission to study their problems. A Senate committee in vestigation was also proposed.

The public has long ago given up counting the number of exhaustive investigations and resulting recommendations for solving the problem, by governments, public bodies of all kinds, church organizations and non-partisan groups.

What has been wanted all along, and is still needed, is one definite and comprehensive policy from which there will be no deviation. We need this in all fairness to the Canadian taxpayer generally, to the law-abiding Doukhobors and to the Freedomites themselves.

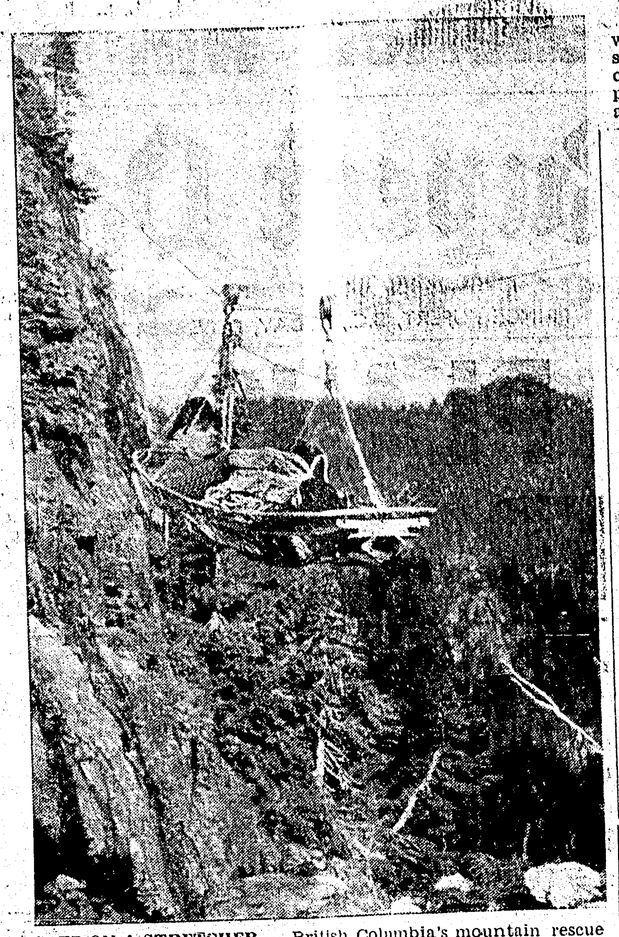
The provincial government appeared to be moving in this direction when it operated the New Denver, B.C., school for Sons of Freedom children whose parents refused to send them to regular public schools. This institution should have been continued for many more years, long enough certainly to demonstrate its effectiveness. However, the problem is not entirely one of education, although this is of great importance.

There must also be sound economic planning for these people, who are basically and traditionally linked with the land.

Krestova is not the place for any kind of farming; its barrens can only produce discontent.

However, there are many areas of the province, many undeveloped, yet suitable for habitation and agricultural pursuits, that could absorb all this group in divisions. Dispersal, after all, has been suggested repeatedly and sensibly, as a means of integrating them into our present economic and social pattern.

Regardless of what happened in the past, the fact remains that British Columbia has the Sons of Freedom and might as well make the best of them. But any major endeavor at integrating them, to be successful will require all-out effort and firm policy making by federal and provincial governments.



SAFE ON A STRETCHER — British Columbia's mountain rescue team demonstrates its techniques on Mount Seymour. The team, formed six years ago, rigged cables and used a stretcher to bring this "victim" down from a rugged 400-foot slope.

"It is conceded that a world-wide nuclear war could be started by accident," says an official. Let's hope those in position to bring such a war aren't accident-prone.

To date this year credit (?) for doing the most unnecessary thing goes to a Frenchman who stayed balanced on a tight-rope for 174 consecutive hours.

Judging from the high speed at which money passes through hands these days, it seems that on momentum alone it should go further than it does.

KNIGHT IN ARMOR

Fulton rides to B.C.'s rescue

By FRANK RUTTER
Toronto Telegram News Service

VICTORIA — Tories are jumping out of hiding all over B.C. to welcome Davie Fulton home as provincial leader. They have had a long hibernation.

Fulton's resignation from the Federal cabinet to lead them could bust B.C. politics wide open.

But the man most delighted by Fulton's decision isn't even a Tory: He's B.C. New Democratic Party leader Robert Strachan.

He predicts Fulton's presence will split Social Credit support just enough to put the NDP into power in the next election.

Any Tory resurgence in B.C. will come from a return to the fold of thousands of defectors to Social Credit, says Strachan.

✦ ✦ ✦

The Socreds gained power in 1952 when the people became disgusted with a Conservative-Liberal coalition. Perhaps that's why the man apparently least delighted by Davie's choice is Premier Bennett. He refused to comment on it.

But Fulton isn't coming to help anyone else's cause.

He is taking a bold gamble that history can be repeated.

His return is almost an exact parallel to the time the Conservatives last formed a government on their own.

In 1926 Simon Tolmie resigned as agriculture minister in Arthur Meighen's government to answer a B.C. leadership draft at Kamloops, Fulton's hometown.

Two years later the Tories swept to power with Tolmie. Can Fulton do it?

It's a huge job. The Tories haven't held a seat in the legislature since 1956. They got only 6.7 per cent of the popular vote in the last election, 1960. Their leader, Deane Finlayson, resigned in disgust.

✦ ✦ ✦

First hurdle for Fulton is to win the leadership at a convention Jan. 24-26 in Vancouver. Although he has one opponent — former Vancouver-Kingsway MP Fergie Browne — it's only token opposition.

Browne has just finished a tour of the province and he's enthused at what he sees.

"Everywhere there's a tremendous revival of Conservative support," he says.

He believes enough Tory supporters will desert the Socreds to put the Conservatives in office—not the NDP.

"People are fed up with the two extremes of Social Credit and NDP," Browne says.

The Socreds (31) and NDP (16) hold 47 of the 52 seats in the Legislature; the Liberals four.

A clue to the future will come Dec. 17 in a Point Grey by-election.

The burst of enthusiasm for Fulton might put Tory candidate Reg Atherton in front. Opinion polls show he's running second now.

✦ ✦ ✦

Fulton's own choice of a seat to contest will be important.

The natural one would be Kamloops. It is now held by Flying Phil Gaglardi, most colorful and controversial member of Bennett's cabinet.

It would be quite a battle.

But the battle everyone really waits for is Bennet versus Fulton.

They've fought for years over power development. How Fulton tackles the Columbia-Peace River power controversy as a provincial politician will be significant.

The image the Tory old guard sees of Fulton is a knight in shining armor riding to rescue B.C. in distress.

It now remains to find how many people will see him in the same way—at the polls.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

K pulls a switch

The European Common Market is "reactionary and capitalistic". It threatens to disrupt the world market in agricultural products. Some of its policies are definitely "no-good-nik". Besides, it could fall apart because of economic problems developing in Western Europe.

That sounds like the Khrushchev line on the Common Market — with a little wishful thinking added in for good measure.

But surprise, surprise — it turns out that none of these things was said by the Soviet premier.

Instead, they were said (successively) by Professor Jean-Ethier Blais of the University of Montreal, GATT (the multi-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Orville Freeman and Du Pont of Canada economist R. B. MacPherson.

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And what does Mr. Khrushchev think of the Common Market? Up to a few months ago it could safely be assumed that he didn't like it and didn't want any part of it.

Now he's becoming something of a Common Market booster. Evidence of this has been developing for some time.

An article in Pravda, signed by the Soviet premier, set the tone with references to the "objective trends towards internationalization of production which are at work in the capitalistic world."

It added, "It is in this connection that the question arises of the possibility of economic co-operation and peaceful economic competition, not only between certain states with different social systems, but also between their economic groups."

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In fact, the Soviet equivalent of the Common Market is already in existence — comecon (Council of Mutual Economic Aid). Reports are that it may even attempt to copy some of the institutions of the Euromart.

But the strongest indication of where Mr. K. stands on the Common Market was given at the recent meeting of Communist Central Committee in Moscow — the meeting at which the Soviet premier urged industry to follow the lead of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

"Why dont' we use everything rational and economically profitable that the capitalists have?" he asked, suggesting that the principle of international division of labor and the productivity benefits to be obtained thereby were examples

Which only goes to show that somewhere along the line, Mr. K heard, that old reactionary capitalist saying — "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em."

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS EXPERT SAYS

Occupational revolution in labor force

By GREG MacDONALD

TORONTO (CP) — An occupational revolution has been taking place within the Canadian labor force in recent years, says an industrial relations expert.

Dr. W. Donald Wood, director of the Industrial Relations Centre at Queen's University, says white collar occupations — managerial, professional, technical and clerical — have increased at an average annual rate of three times that of the labor force since 1950.

Writing in Personnel Management, a special publication put out by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, Dr. Wood says the qualitative changes in the nature of many jobs have probably been even more far reaching in their impact than the quantitive shifts.

"Many former categories of work, if not eliminated, have undergone substantial change. The levels of skill and the basic educational requirements demanded of workers within all groups have been rising."

Dr. Wood says many professional occupations now require post-graduate university education and specialized training. He adds that in the clerical field also new occupations are growing up and skill requirements are changing as new mechanical and electronic equipment and new techniques are applied to office operations.

"Many of these jobs constitute a relatively new group of occupations for technicians, the counterpart of the growing number of technicians in the field of production.

"The same change of emphasis is evident among the groups of skilled craftsmen."

The main factor responsible for the expansion of white collar workers, he says, is "innovation" — technological, organizational and administrative changes in business — which substitutes engineers, scientists, administrators, technicians and clerical personnel for men on the production line.

the lighter side

Of course, crime doesn't pay. And, on the other hand, good behavior and honesty don't yield a fortune overnight.

✦ ✦ ✦

Johnson: "What was the most expensive piece of jewelry you ever bought?"

Thompson: "My wedding ring. I'm paying fifty dollars a week alimony."

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"Golf is a game for fellows who are too old for girls but still want to get into a trap." —Bob Hope

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Another great trouble with the world is that it's becoming increasingly cluttered up with people.

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A woman is a person who can remember in detail what a dozen women wore at church but can't remember the sermon. A man is a person who can't remember what anybody wore at church and can't remember the sermon.

LETTERBOX

The Editor,
The Daily News:

A few weeks back there were a couple of letters in the Daily News regarding "Rehandart" Christmas Cards.

I wrote the Canadian Paraplegic Association regarding this firm and received the following reply: "Rehandart is a subsidiary of a corporation with head offices in Vaduz, Lichenstein. There are also branches in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

Rehandart has one artist in Canada under contract and three in the U.S., others in Europe.

While Rehandart is a perfectly legitimate company their "sob story" sales approach and sending out of unordered merchandise is to be deplored.

Anyone receiving these cards should regard them the same as any other commercial merchandise and compare prices.

If anyone desires this type of card they may obtain them from: B.C. Division, Canadian Paraplegic Association, 1347 S.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B.C.

In this way you may be sure that the handicapped artist is the only one deriving any benefit from the sale of these cards.

C. J. Wilkinson,
300 7th Ave. E.

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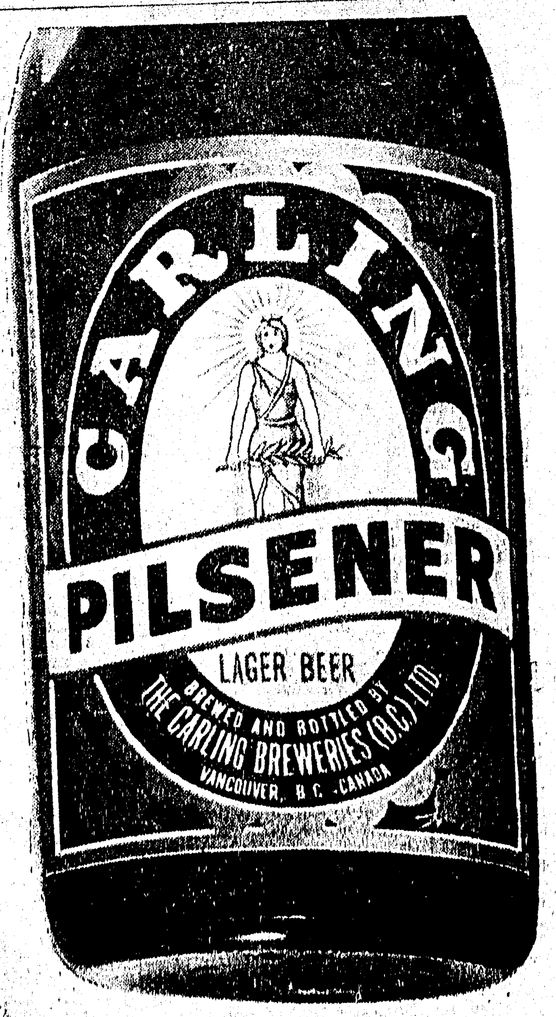

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