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Next Year's Food Crisis

THE WORLD WILL HAVE to tighten its belt in 1948. That is the grim prospect held out by the latest grain survey by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

At the same time, despite the qualms of some of the delegations, the FAO conference at Geneva has voted to suppress the International Emergency Food Council by December 31 of this year and transfer its functions to FAO—though that body will not be in a position to exercise executive functions for months or years to come.

There has been persistent resistance by some of the leading Powers to a genuinely international approach to the food problem. Typical of the attempt to "tone down" FAO action is the British delegation's move at Geneva to refer in the conference report to the food "situation" instead of the food "crisis."

But everyone—including the Russians, who are not members of FAO—knows that it is a crisis. The Russians expect a large harvest, allowing them to export a considerable amount of grain where it will do the most good—political good. Here is one explanation of the reluctance of some of the other Powers to bind themselves to international action and surrender the political leverage afforded by unilateral action in shipping food.

This is a sad "situation." Hunger knows no politics. If national policy rather than human need is to determine food exports, then only self-discipline and humanity in the exporting countries can make this course more than a shadow solution of the world food crisis.

CIVIC CENTRE CAMPAIGN

THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN for membership in the Prince Rupert Civic Centre is to be held towards the end of this month. We can only speak and hope for its complete success and we feel we have every justification in urging widespread and unhesitating support for the drive. The drive, we understand, is not designed to raise revenue for capital expenditure but for current operation, the policy of the Centre management being to pay its way without dipping in any way into capital.

Now and then there may be criticisms heard, there may be differences of opinion as to certain matters of Civic Centre policy. The deciding factor however, which must convince every citizen of his or her duty to support the Civic Centre by at least becoming a member is the great place the Civic Centre and its variety of activities are playing in the live-in making comment if they are not duly qualified as members or possess an even greater investment in this fine and valuable community utility.

REGISTERING NEW SHIP

IT IS REPORTED, and it is to be hoped that the information is erroneous, that it has been decided to make Vancouver the port of registry of the new steamer being built at Victoria for Pacific Coast service.

There may be some curiosity expressed as to why, if it has been, Vancouver should be considered as the port of registry over Prince Rupert.

There was considerable disappointment that this new vessel was not built at Prince Rupert. However, the situation was accepted and there developed a feeling of pleasurable anticipation that we are at least to have a fine new ship to feed travel over the local railway line and also, we hope, to foster, as the Canadian Pacific is intending to feature, automobile carrying between the Skeena River Highway from Prince Rupert and the Haines cut-off to the Alaska Highway from Haines.

The Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce requests that the new ship be registered from Prince Rupert which has been in name, if not in complete fact, the home port of Canadian National Steamships from the old Grand Trunk Pacific days and which is the only exclusively Canadian National port on the Pacific Coast.



TOT KILLS SISTER WITH SHOTGUN—Their mother had gone in search of a larger apartment. She left little William Taylor, four, right, in charge of his sister, Betty, eight. When Mrs. Viola Taylor returned to their Waukegan, Ill., home, Betty lay dead on the floor, victim of a shotgun blast. It appeared that they had quarrelled, as children will. The shotgun had been hidden under a davenport. The police said that Billy apparently crawled under and, finding the gun, fired.

LETTERBOX

CO-OPERATION

Editor, Daily News: It was a surprise to read in your paper an advertisement that announced the forthcoming "Fall Fashion Show" to be held in the Capitol Theatre Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Surely the management knew in advance that a local organization was sponsoring the same type of display to be held at the Civic Centre, the following night. In view of this I cannot see why the management of our theatre could not have postponed or advanced their additional attraction one week instead of having it the night previous.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor,
LAURA MITCHELL.

"TAP OR BOTTLE"

Editor, Daily News: In a recent issue of your newspaper, my name was brought up by a correspondent in connection with the chlorination of the city water, which, with your permission, gives me an excuse to rush into print myself.

Had your newspaper given as full an account of the opposition, voiced to the recommendation to chlorinate, as it did to the Medical Health Officer's statements, your correspondent "One Against Chlorination" would probably never have considered it worthwhile to mention my name in the matter.

Three of the aldermen, Rudderham, Casey and myself spoke most vehemently against the proposal, which really was "sprung" on the meeting, insofar as I am aware. I consider that before a measure of such a controversial nature is brought before a city council meeting to be voted upon, some notice in advance should be given, not only so that the aldermen could think it over, but also that the citizens in general would know about it.

To my mind the reasons put forward advocating chlorination were trivial. Such as "tests not being up to standard" due most likely to the repairs that have been recently made to the water system. "Typhoid" that had been brought to the city from outside points, and a few cases of diarrhoea amongst children, as if there is anything peculiar about that, as from what I know about kids, most of them have diarrhoea once or twice every summer. They would not be normal if they didn't.

As Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo now chlorinate it was inferred that Prince Rupert also should do so. It will be noted that these places have enjoyed a goodly quota of polio cases, while the other two coastal cities that have not chlorinated, namely, Prince Rupert and Port Alberni, have had no polio cases originate within their borders. Not that I intend to imply that chlorination caused the polio, but as Alderman Rudderham stated, there would be just as much sense in doing so, as there is in

THIS AND THAT



"Let's stop fighting for a while, George, I want to hear the battle next door."

some of the reasons advanced in advocating chlorination.

I agree that some drinking water systems require chlorination or similar treatment, but Prince Rupert water will have to get a whole lot worse than it is, before I will believe it requires such treatment.

Another feature in addition to the undesirability of the measure, is the cost. I will be much surprised if it does not add another mill onto the taxes.

In regard to your correspondent's kind inquiry, "whether the writer (Alderman Brooksbank) is well enough to start drinking chlorinated water" I would like to assure him or her, whichever it might be, that I have always been well enough, and still am well enough to drink anything that any other person in Prince

Rupert can, irrespective, whether it comes out of a tap or a bottle. But I want to remain that way, and I don't believe chlorination will help me.

Regarding a plebiscite on the subject, I am all for it. I believe the city council alone should not presume to rule indefinitely on such a controversial matter. But in order to get a plebiscite granted, those interested will need to exercise some strong action that will bring pressure to bear on the city council members supporting chlorination, and remember, the election is very near, there is no time to be lost. A minority on the council is powerless, it can only talk.

Apologising Mr. Editor, if this letter appears morbid and thanking you for the space.

ARTHUR BROOKSBANK

Business and Professional

DR. P. J. CHENEY
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EUROPE FACES GRIM WINTER

(By Donald A. Schwind)

LONDON (AP) — Europe is moving inexorably toward another grim winter with the key to her recovery still hidden in the smoky hollows of the Ruhr.

The output figures of the Ruhr an area which before the war gave Europe 22 per cent of her coal, are expected to play a major role in determining the nature and extent of aid which the United States might make available to European countries under the Marshall aid plan.

The Ruhr's pre-war output per man-shift was 1,625 tons but that figure has shrunk roughly 55 per cent.

The Ruhr mines were produced before the collapse of Germany. In 1940, 400,000 tons of coal a day V-E Day found a bare 30,000 tons being raised, a quarter of the miners' homes flattened by the fighting, half the remaining houses damaged, barely a quarter of the normal German working force at work, and hordes of wartime forced labor straggling homeward.

However, the report of Anglo-American experts published last week in Washington indicated that production has been forced slowly upward to a daily post-

war record of 244,080 tons produced September 4.

Meanwhile, Europe remains in the grip of a bitter anomaly—more men are producing less coal than before the war.

Four of Europe's six major coal producing countries are going into the winter with substantially more mining workers, above and below ground, than in 1938. Poland had 149,000 miners in 1938 and has 191,090 now; France with 220,970, now has 318,700; Belgium's pre-war total of 138,130 has increased to 162,497, and Holland has 38,027 as against a pre-war estimate of 39,408.

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