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Compliments Can Wait

WHILE Social Credit has made a commendable showing in our provincial election and will undoubtedly have much public support if asked to form a government, its present official spokesman Lyle Wicks must realize at once that preliminaries are over and that the game has begun.

Advised of a report that Premier Johnson will recommend Social Credit as the party to form the next government, Mr. Wicks took the opportunity to say to a radio reporter that his group was being asked to repair the mistakes of the old regime which he felt was a natural request.

He ended by congratulating B.C. on its choice.

Perhaps he had no time to consider his brief remarks but coming over the radio, they sounded graceless and smug. They smacked of days before June 12 which everyone is glad to forget, and somehow inferred that Social Credit had scored a smashing victory.

As far as congratulations to B.C. are concerned, these seem slightly premature. Mr. Wicks and his colleagues may be rightly congratulated on their showing but compliments from them to the public can wait for a while.

We are waiting to be shown, Mr. Wicks.

When The Sun Shines

COMPLAINTS about the weather have been top priority conversation topics since time immemorial. In Prince Rupert such complaints run heavy during the rain season. But how easily the bad days are forgotten when the sun shines.

It is the same in other aspects of our everyday life. We worry for days, weeks, and even months about little things which may go wrong. Then, when we have a break, we feel as though we never knew about any trouble at all.

It shows, that after all, there is little use in worrying; as there is little use in complaining about the weather. There is always the day when the sun shines.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A Boom For "Dark Africa"

By FORBES RHUDE
Canadian Press Business Editor

"Darkest Africa" is having a boom.

The dream of a native of the Belgian Congo is to own a phonograph, a bicycle and a radio: or, in the more practical realm, a sewing machine.

His dreams are broadening and, in growing measure, he is earning the money to realize them.

Robert Bodson, a Belgian who has spent some years in the Congo and now is attending New York University, told these things and many others yesterday to a joint luncheon in Toronto of the Canadian Exporters' Association and the export study club of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

From Mr. Bodson's remarks, and from the film which he showed, one judges that one may still find most of the things associated with "Darkest Africa"—jungles, lions, elephants; colorful native tribes, from pygmies four feet tall, to the remarkable Watutsis, seven feet tall.

But one will also find a country embarked upon one of the most remarkable advances of the times, and one which is prepared both to buy and sell a wide range of goods and natural products.

W. J. Weldon, first vice-president of Canadian Exporters, and an executive of Coleman Lamp and Stove Co., Ltd., expressed it:

"Development in the Congo in recent years exceeds anything I have seen in 32 years in the export trade. It is one of the few markets in the world which is not hamstrung or hogtied with restraints."

Belgium Congo Sees Development

The Belgian Congo is in Central Africa, with a narrow outlet reaching to the Atlantic. It is about one-quarter the size of Canada, and straddles the equator. It has some 14,000,000 natives, and about 55,000 white people.

Its very modern, sleek-looking capital, Leopoldville, has wide boulevards, tall white buildings, and swimming pools in which happy-looking native Congolese children play like children anywhere.

There are 3,000 miles of railway, 6,300 miles of roads, and 7,900 miles of navigable water in the Congo River and its tributaries, the vast water artery which lays open the country to development.

The Congo is the world's biggest supplier of cobalt, industrial diamonds and uranium, and a large supplier of tin, copper, zinc, gold and agricultural products. Apparently there is no "dollar problem" as there are large dollar earnings from sales to the United States.

It has been in Belgium's hands since 1885, apparently on the understanding that all countries shall have equal rights there. Accordingly, there are no preferential tariffs. Only 39 per cent of its imports are from Belgium.

The administration is appointed by the Belgian government, but operates the country as a separate economy. The administration's objective, Mr. Bodson states, is a good social system for the native Congolese and to train them to do all jobs of which they are capable.

Missionaries of all faiths receive financial support. Out of 2,000,000 children in the vast area, about 1,000,000 attend schools, and higher education is provided for those who qualify for it.

All this is within 36 flying hours of Eastern Canada. Canada's trade with the Congo is not yet great, but it is growing.

In 1939 we sold goods there worth only $108,000. In 1951 this had risen to $4,217,652. In 1939 our purchases from the Congo barely got on the books at $469. In 1951 they were $3,052,447.

British Troops Stay in Korea

LONDON (CP)—Prime Minister Churchill today answered calls from two pacifist Labor members for an end to hostilities in Korea by indicating that British troops will stay in Korea with other United Nations forces until the war ends.

"Nothing would be more fatal to British interests than that we should fall out from the line," he said.

MOST OF THE RACES which make up Asia have representatives among the members of a club which meets regularly in London and airs its views for the whole of Asia to hear on the British Broadcasting Corporation's Far Eastern Service. No membership fee is charged and the members, mostly teachers and students studying in Britain, ask no-holds-barred questions of a British guest speaker, thus providing an example of the free speech of democracy. Pictured here facing smiling Asian inquisitors is Compton Mackenzie (left) noted British novelist and playwright, making a guest appearance.

As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

Sees Two-Faced Man

ONE of the interesting visitors who have come around to see me in my bed in Shaughnessy Veterans' Hospital is Curley.

Curley has only a few yards to come, for he has been a long time patient here in the arthritis ward.

They call him Curley because he has a dome as bare as a billiard ball—a fact which adds much to the gaiety of this institution on all festive occasions. For on Hallowe'en ,at Christmas parties and such like, the nurses transform Curley into the original two-faced man. They literally paint a second face on the back of Curley's bald pate—complete with bright blue eyes, vivid red-lipsticked lips, and all the other trimmings.

According to Curley, who has quite a reputation for tall tales—the two-faced phenomenon had given some nervous lady visitors quite a shock at times—till they tumble to the fact that it is all a joke and that the poor man hasn't had his head turned right around by an atom bomb or something.

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CURLEY is a natural born joker and morale-raiser of the kind we used to get, once in ten thousand times, in the army. To look at him, crippled as he is, you would wonder what he had to be so cheerful about.

But get him talking seriously about his own life and you find that there is enough wisdom hidden away in that old bald pate—maybe enough to justify the two faces they give him.

Curley is a Yorkshireman who went into the textile mills at the age of ten.

"If that seems young remember that my father and mother went into the same mills at the age of six."

Curley can remember how scared he was as his father took him by the hand and led him down the narrow passageway between the giant looms. A few years later he was one of the charter members of the Labor party in his town—and in those days it was worth almost as much as your job to stick your neck out that far.

Philip Snowden lived not many miles away. When the little Labor group brought him to speak in their mill town, Curley's father (a staunch Liberal) was broad-minded enough to let Mr. Snowden stay at their home. Of course there was no money in those days to entertain visiting speakers at hotels.

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CURLEY is proud of the fact that in his Winnipeg days he was on J. S. Woodsworth's committee in North Winnipeg. He can give you an inside story of the history of the trade union movement in Canada for in his lifetime of service with the Canadian National Express he was part of it all.

Like myself, Curley is appalled by the ignorance of some of the young people today who take for granted all the things which have been won by trade unions. They did not just come into existence overnight, he says. Every advance that has been won in this part of the world has to be paid for by somebody working at it and for it.

The man who went into the mills of North England at age ten, fearfully holding the hand of his father who had gone in those same mills at age six, is an optimist.

Grain Men Expect Bumper Crop; Price Big Factor

By HAROLD MORRISON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA—With the weatherman co-operating, Canadian grain experts anticipate the biggest wheat crop in history this year, but faces dull when they consider what this may do to international bargaining.

A bumper crop already has been forecast for the United States, and the experts feel that if the Canadian crop develops into another bumper or peak harvest, importing countries may use this asa lever to argue for a curb on export prices.

Some 40-odd countries are negotiating for a new international wheat agreement to replace the current one which expires July 31, 1953. The top wheat-exporting countries, Canada and the United States, are demanding that the price ceiling be raised substantially from the current $1.80 (US) a bushel for No. 1 Northern.

TURN THUMBS DOWN

Canadian negotiators want a ceiling of between $2.15 and $2.35 a bushel. The U.S. has suggested about $2.50 a bushel. But wheat importers, including the biggest one, the United Kingdom, have turned thumbs down on any price advance.

With an eye on the heavy wheat stockpile that may develop in the western world, they have indicated the price should remain at the present price. As a result, a preliminary meeting on development of a new wheat pact held in London last May achieved no concrete results. Another one is scheduled for the Fall.

By that time, the negotiators will have a clearer idea of the wheat supply. There's a feeling in Ottawa that by then it may be harder than ever to persuade the importers to agree to any boost in price.

For conditions in Canada point to the heaviest wheat crop in history. Any shift in the weather may, of course, upset the outlook, but so far the experts anticipate the crop will be far greater than the peak harvest of 566,000,000 bushels in 1928.

NOT TOP GRADE

Canada came close last year when she produced a near-record 562,000,000 bushels, but part of that crop was damp and tough and difficult to handle.

This year the weatherman, so far, has been a lot more co-operative. Most of the prairies has sufficient rain to promote good growth. Damage from hailstorms and insects has been relatively light. In addition, the wheat acreage has been extended to 25,600,000 acres — up 300,000 from 25,300,000 last year.

Even if yields are no higher than a year ago, the total harvest may turn out to be the greatest ever.

And in the U.S. optimism also is growing. The U.S. has predicted it will produce about 1,326,000,000 bushels of wheat, second only to the peak crop of 1,359,000,000 bushels harvested in 1947.

$3 Billion For Britain

TORONTO (CP)—The Financial Post in a dispatch from Ottawa says a "substantial new dollar loan by Canada to Britain—of perhaps $2,500,000,000 to $3,000,000,000—now is in the cards."

The Post story adds:

"The loan—if it is made—would be made jointly by Canada and the United States for the sole purpose of enabling Britain, as the sterling area banker, to set sterling free.

DESERT RESORTS

The temperature never rises above 80 nor falls below 40 in Tangier and Mogador, historic cities of French Moroco.

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

When a two-year-old Danish girl, while playing laughingly chewed up a lottery ticket her scientist father missed a $3,500 prize. Merely an incident, but it does emphasize the high cost of gamboling.

There is talk of a United States of Europe. So far it taxes only the imagination.—Ex.

ALSO LONG BLUE COATS

British constables are said to be substituting peaked caps for the helmet. Gor Blimey to that. Once, right here in Prince Rupert, they were jolly well worn all over the shop! George Leek, Bill Adams and lots of other cops looked as if they were just off Bow Bells, drenched in London rain.

Furs on display usually manage to halt the passing tourists. They linger and point and often assemble within the stores. But to what extent the long green changes ownership is something else again.

WHEN IS HE ANYWAY?

It is admitted Averill Harriman, a man of means, leader in home and foreign affairs and a candidate for Democratic nominee, would make an excellent president. But not being a politician, he could not be elected. Webster says a politician is one who understands the art of government: a man who devotes himself to the business of the state: Someone's wrong. Surely, not Noah.

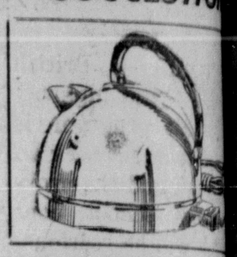
Sam Gompers, at a big meeting of workers once declared "the greatest crime with which you could ever reproach capitalists would be that they did not make enough money to maintain their industries." One can't but wonder what a man of Gompers' common sense would say, were he alive today.

There's this much about Chicago. Few will deny Canada and Canucks are not well disposed toward Eisenhower.

A Quebec daily says Hon. R. H. Winters, Minister of Resources and Development recently made the remark that Americans find our food good, our shops satisfactory but our highways bad. He happens to be on his way to Prince Rupert just now, and when the House resume next November, will he tell his colleagues, should so disposed, that he is inet's best informed m far as Skeena is concer

This column, some recalled the death of resident, and undertak cribe a few circumsta ted to tell his name. there was an excuse he couldn't remember, a fact. In a single after, no fewer than uacious old timers phoned to disclose M identity. Melvin! Th And we're grateful to t sweats who know local history than som could think of.

HOT WEATHER SUGGESTIO



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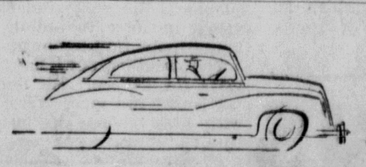

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