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# Gold and Economics

TRNEST BEVIN suggested recently that the L United States should distribute its gold. The idea, foolish though it was, has aroused much discussion. If it had been made by anyone of less prominence no one would have given it a moment's consideration. Great is the power of a cabinet minister. When one of prominence speaks many listen, few understand.

Let's examine his suggestion. The United States has enormous stores of gold, most of it lying useless in Fort Knox. Assuming that the advice of Mr. Bevin is accepted, it is boxed, insured, shipped to New York, then to England. There it is unloaded and moved into a vault.

Great Britain, however, does not want gold. Great Britain wants food and machinery. Much of her present equipment was made obsolete by war —used up in the desperate effort to defend the world against Hitler.

What can Britain do with this gold? Ship it ling ships was fated to sink beback to the United States to pay for goods and let the United States return it to Fort Knox from whence it came! The whole thing could be done with less cost if the American government placed the needed amount to the credit of the government of the United Kingdom in any New York bank.

Assume now that Britain sends half the American gold back to the United States for goods, a quarter to the Argentine of wheat and a quarter to Canada for bacon. What follows? The Argentine sends the wheat to Britain, turns the gold back to the United States. Canada goes through the same hocus-pocus with the bacon. Is this to be the way great statesmen play with the hunger of men?

There is a way by which the United States can retain its trade and help to restore the world to a sound and sane economy. It should cut its tariff in two, then start in earnest to reduce it, extend greatly the free list. This should be done as speedily as possible. In time much of its excess gold would move out and become a factor in steadying the shaky monetary systems of the world. Midas could not live on gold; neither can Uncle Sam.

The United States does not want to do this. There is an alternative. The United States may lead the world into a depression. It will then be doing exactly as Stalin wants it to do. He wants the American economy to go into a tail-spin. He will blame it on the capitalistic system and urge the world to go communist. But capitalism in a depression is better than communism in a boom.

It is a serious moment for the United States, and the world.

#### BRITISH PRESS RESTRICTED

THE president of the Institute of Jouralists in Great Britain is not at all impressed by the size of the savings in dollars brought about through the cut in the total of newsprint supplies. The saving, he asserts, is trifling. The real purpose, he maintains, is the further restriction threatened the freedom of the British press. It is, he alleges, the most effective barricade possible against the unreserved expression of public opinion. Of course, this is as he sees it. Others might differ. But, for that matter there is in the British Isles today a sanctioned dictatorship.

### SOLDIERS IN WHITE HOUSE

DERHAPS more frequently than any other the name of General Eisenhower is heard mention-

ed and seen in print when it comes to presidential possibilities in the United States. Military renown would be nothing new across the border when associated with an incumbent of the White House. George Washington was first. Jackson, Harrison, Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, were among others. Some were more successful in the field than in directing the affairs of State. General Eisenhower has declared he will not accept nomination. However, the convention season is still some distance away and things may change.

## HIGHWAY CONDITION

do not know the facts.

T SEEMS almost impossible to establish the impression that the Skeena River Highway between Prince Rupert and Terrace is in good shape and that it can be safely taken for granted the road will remain that way. Reports conflict. Opinions differ. One motorist, having travelled over the highway, says the road is all right. He's seen and felt far worse. Someone else can only talk of pot holes, more ruts, and a shaken car. Others think there is no real ground for serious criticism. And,

## Reminiscences and Reflections

then, Prince Rupert had no

What's on tonight? Let's go.

Today, as 1948 draws nearer, a files gives one a new slant on the Kaien Island. situation at Prince Rupert in the fateful days following Pearl

Many of Washington's proud est ships lay broken and helpless. The Navy of Japan, almost without opposition, roamed the Pacific. Her airmen had already demonstrated what they were capable of doing.

Britain was busy with Germany in another part of the world. One of her newest fightneath the blows of Nippon's fliers not far from Singapore. Australia was deeply anxious Yank troops in the Philippines were being driven into a corner that became a trap. The outlook was black.

Reading it all over, now, the dominant impression is that Prince Rupert did not really grasp the imminence of her peril. The front page in Decem-Year's Eve street celebrations ver. but instead to keep quiet and turn lights low. Manila was due to fall any hour. There were more sinkings off the coast of California.

Reading between the lines, one sensed that much more could be told, but wasn't. It is no exaggeration to say the sea and air fleets of Japan, during those few momentous weeks packed with such dire possibilities, had the priceless Pacific ports of continental America at their mercy.

What saved them? The question has been asked, ever since and not yet answered. Supercaution on the part of Japan? Maybe! Still it seems incredible that after the paralyzing stroke of Pearl Harbor, others did not follow-only this time, aimed at the cities of the mainland. It was a supreme moment-from the standpoint of the enemy. It was a challenge. It invited reck- Murine in each eye. You getless daring and dash. In all lik- QUICK RELIEF. Instantly your eyes feel relihood, no Jap could have survived, but that prospect would have worried no raider.

Pearl Harbor shocked, and in respects unnerved the

Dutch Harbor, a neighbor of

It was only a bare six years Prince Rupert as distance goes ing. Mrs. Mussallem is the forago, but in December 1941, this in modern war, did not ease the mer Miss Stella Forzley, of Wincity faced a menace. There was situation. Prince Rupert, trans- nipeg. The couple have been danger. It was a risk, admitted continental railway terminus, honeymooning at Jasper, Prince by the population, but in a strategic centre and of import- George, Kelowna and Vancousomewhat light-hearted sort of ance in many other respects was ver. They plan to take up resi- pants held regular gymnastic surely a prize objective. If all dence in the Mussallem Block, classes. Oh yes! There could be a raid. the facts were known, it would Third Avenue. Prince Rupert had nothing one no doubt be disclosed that encould count on in the way of emy submarines and bombers protection from bombs. Well were not so far from her threshold. Nothing happened, however. There were false alarms. Real ones might have been sounded. For the Jap was not so far away glance at the local newspaper and he knew something about

> Snow dusted the peaks around Prince Rupert a few days ago and the coming of winter-in October—was hinted at, if not a little soft breeze and last night forests in perpetuity. Bulk a dash of rain.

Mount Morse across the harbor, was just the same old Mount Morse at this season - open spaces of brown patches and trees. There is a cairn away up there, enclosing the names of people from Rupert who one fine day made the climb and then sat down to enjoy the view, along with sandwiches. But that was a long time ago. It may not be there now.

Jack McNulty returned on the ber 1941 printed the solemn Prince Rupert this morning warning to forget all about New from a holiday trip to Vancou-

> Miss Caroline Elizabeth Madsen, who has been visiting here for the past five months with her mother, Mrs. Einar Telseth, will leave on Friday evening's train for New York where she will embark on the Swedish-American liner Drottingholm for Denmark. Although born in Prince Rupert, Miss Madsen has spent most of her life in Denmark and makes her home there.

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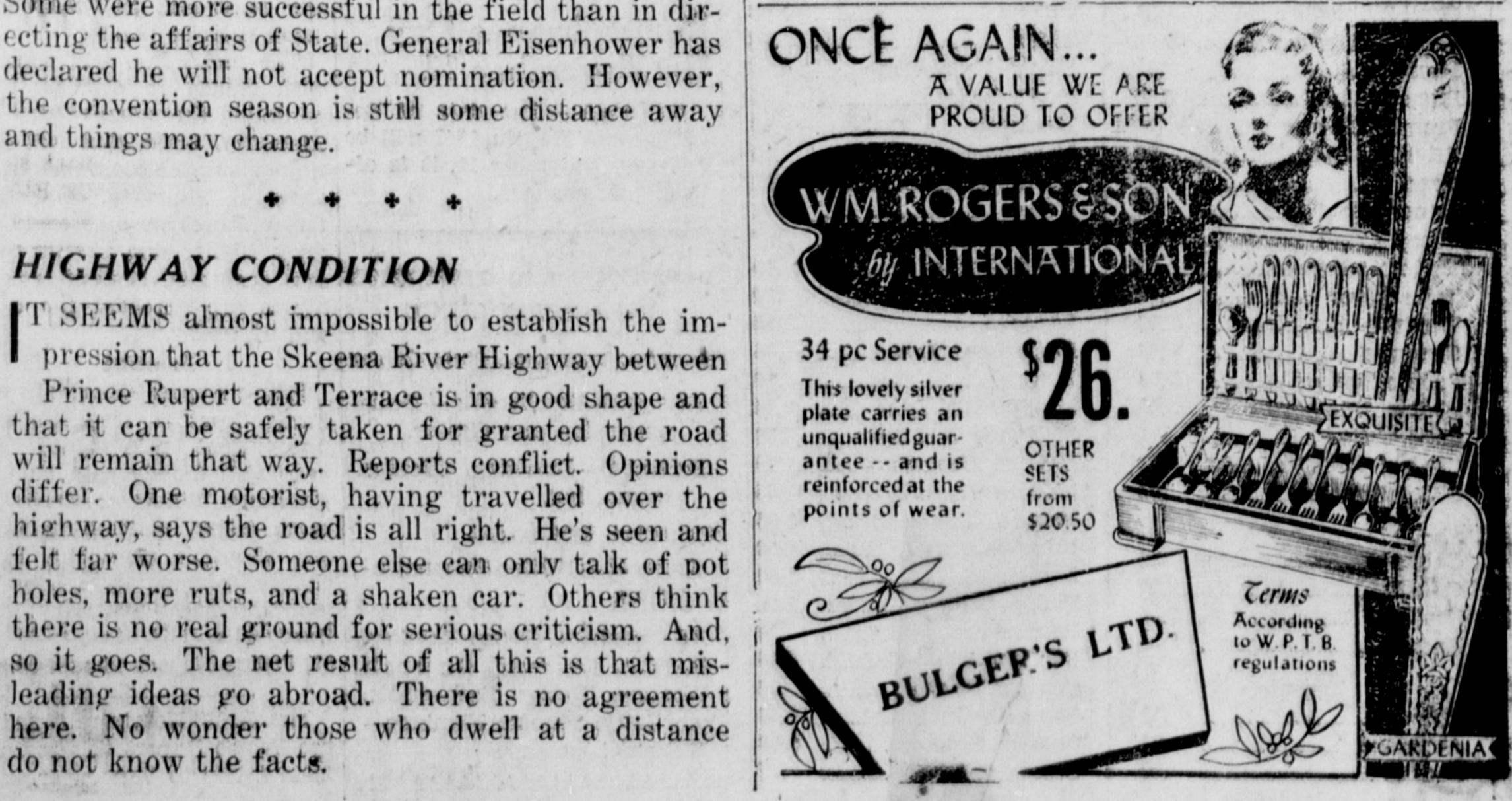
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#### Local Business Man Returns With Bride

Bringing his bride, whom he married at Winnipeg on September 12, Jack Mussallem, local business man, returned on tthe Prince Rupert this morn-

#### TROUT FOR AFRICA

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanganyika (P)—The forest department has been granted £200 (\$800) for the stocking of streams with Scottish trout ova. The rainbow trout, introduced in 1926, flour ishes, but the brown trout disappeared after only 12 years.

#### PERPETUATE FORESTS

MELBOURNE, Australia (P). asserted. Then the weather man, The state of Victoria proposes feeling as if he had to do some- to plant 10,000 acres of softthing in keeping with his gen- woods each year and to maineral reputation, sent sunshine, tain 250,000 acres of softwood the planting will be in the This morning, the crest of southeastern tip of the state.

#### TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

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Civic Centre QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. How many people use the

A. This is best answered by Workers Union, Industrial ance in March taking the month of March 1947 as a sample month.

(a) 18 Rup-Rec groups with an enrollment of 480 partici-

(b) 14 basketball teams with 130 team members held 44 practices, played 36 games attend by 4560 people in March 1947. (c) 96 badminton players

used gymnasium and auditorium at 12 regular sessions.

(d) 3,458 people attended events in the auditorium during March 1947; such events included a School Operetta, an Amateur Concert, a St. Patrick's Dance, a Public Meeting, a Fashion Show, Band and Symphony Practises, Little Theatre rehearsals and a Concert Recital.

(e) 5,771 people attended meetings or events in the lounge rooms, and committee These groups include Radio Amateurs, Teen Town,



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Citizens' Forum, Electrical (f) The total

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