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Big Four Conference

THE BIG FOUR foreign ministers' conference, opening today in London for the purpose of considering peace terms for Germany, the principal enemy of the recent war, as well as Austria, could be productive, if a measure of agreement were reached, of great progress on the way to world reconstruction, stability and peace but there is admittedly little hope of common ground being established or much being accomplished. The complete collapse of the deputy foreign ministers' sessions, which were to have been a prelude for the meetings of the foreign ministers, was indeed a bad omen.

This may well be the last chance for a united settlement of Europe's affairs and, unfortunately enough, the prospects are extremely dim. There appears little chance at this late date of a composure of the fundamental differences between Russia and the western powers. Without discussings rights or wrongs, whys or wherefors, that seems to be the realistic situation.

Since little is to be expected of these meetings, which might well have been of momentous positive importance, there will be little disappointment if they prove, as they give every indication of being, completely negative.

YOU CAN'T DO IT NOW

WHEN FACTS FAIL and logic deserts them, those who believe that governments can solve all economic problems fall back upon, "you did it in war, you can do it in peace." They accuse democratic governments of serving the interests of "capitalists" at the expense of the "people." Who are the capitalists and who are the people is never clarified. In democratic capitalism, where almost everyone is a capitalist, definitions spoil the assertion.

It is now clear that what "you" (governments) did in war, you can't do in peace. "You" cannot compel people to work at assigned tasks, at fixed wages, in specified locations, for stated hours. "You" cannot force one million of Canada's fittest young people to give up their freedom and to abandon every personal interest to serve any national peacetime purpose. "You" cannot impose the sacrifices of energy, time and money which millions made gladly to save a free Canada.

"You" cannot control wages, prices, production and marketing in a democracy for an extended period, except for emergency purposes. "You" cannot do it because the people will not tolerate it. "You" cannot carry on a democratic government for any majority which does not preserve the rights of minorities. When majorities deny the rights of minorities, democracy dies and totalitarianism supplants it. "You" did it in war but you cannot do it in peace because Canadians won't stand for it; and the people who are demanding "it" would be the first to rebel if "it" included the price of their services.

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Bulgers

What City Council Did

Accepted a recommendation from the police committee that road signs restricting traffic speed to 15 miles an hour be erected in the vicinity of the Civic Centre for the protection of children using the building.

* * *

On report of the licensing committee, requuested the police department to pay particular attention to the enforcement of the early closing bylaw. This followed a complaint from merchants that the bylaw was not being adhered to.

* * *

Authorized the board of works to enter a contract with Highway Construction Co. for the ditching of Fairview Cemetery at a cost of $1,092. The city engineer also was authorized to clear land in the southern portion of the cemetery at an approximate cost of $300.

* * *

Approved action of the finance committee in selling the following city-owned lots: East half of lot 22, block F, section 7 (Pigott Avenue), to B. F. and I. M. Lovin for $50; lot 5 and east half of lot 4, block 19, section 5 (Sixth Avenue East), to T. F. Shuprun for $525 subject to a 50 percent reduction for ex-servicemen.

* * *

Approved for payment accounts totalling $88,291 for November on recommendation of finance committee.

* * *

Referred to the 1948 council a request from the Union of Canadian Mayors and Municipalities for continuation of this city's membership. Council recommended that membership be continued at the regular fee of $25.

* * *

On recommendation of the utilities committee, approved the appointment of F. M. Kempton as assistant telephone superintendent.

Filed for future reference a letter from the Prince Rupert Public Relations Council urging that Roosevelt Park be retained for park purposes and not alienated for other uses.

* * *

Adopted a licensing committee report granting trade licenses to the following: H. F. Glassey, equipment agency; McKinley and St. Clair, interior decorating; Thornton & Hitchens, painting and paperhanging; Vera A. Parsons, curio shop; McRae Bros., toy shop.

* * *

Adopted a recommendation by the utilities committee that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mike Lubotina, former watchman on the city water main from Shawatlans, who retired recently after long service.

* * *

On recommendation of the board of works, approved the expenditure of $200 for the improvement of Water Street, east of Tenth Street.

* * *

Granted an application by Capt. Earl F. Jarrett of the Salvation Army requesting permission to set the Salvation Army Christmas Cheer pot on Third Avenue near the post office on December 18.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "All of my friends are to be invited."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "abyss"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Defensable, inconceivable, dissoluble.

Answers

1. Omit of. Say, "All my friends." 2. Pronounce a-bis, a as in ask unstressed, i as in kiss, accent second syllable. 3. Defensible.

Advertise in the Daily News

WINDSORS WILL VISIT ALBERTA

NEW YORK—A visit to Alberta Canada, by the Duke of Windsor is on the cards. The Duke and Duchess, who arrived here a short time ago aboard the liner Queen Mary after sojourning in Britain and France, said in an interview that they expect to travel to the Duke's E. P. ranch, south of Calgary.

"I consider the property a great link with Canada and an assurance that we shall return there some day," said the former king. He declined to discuss the royal wedding and the fact of the Windsors being omitted from the ivitation list.

"It is purely a personal and private matter," he said.

CAMP CLOSING DECEMBER 20

SANDSPIT—The Pacific Mills pulp camp here will close on December 20 for about six weeks, and the 150-man crew will head for Vancouver for Christmas. The camp will re-open about the first week in February.

AUGUST WALLIN IS NOMINATED

Second nomination for next month's civic election was filed yesterday with Returning Officer H. D. Thain. The nominee is August Sigfrid Wallin, carpenter and president of the Trades and Labor Council, one of the Labor ticket nominees for alderman. His proposer is Edward La Sota and seconder, Jack Eyber. First nomination was that of Mayor Nora Arnold for re-election.

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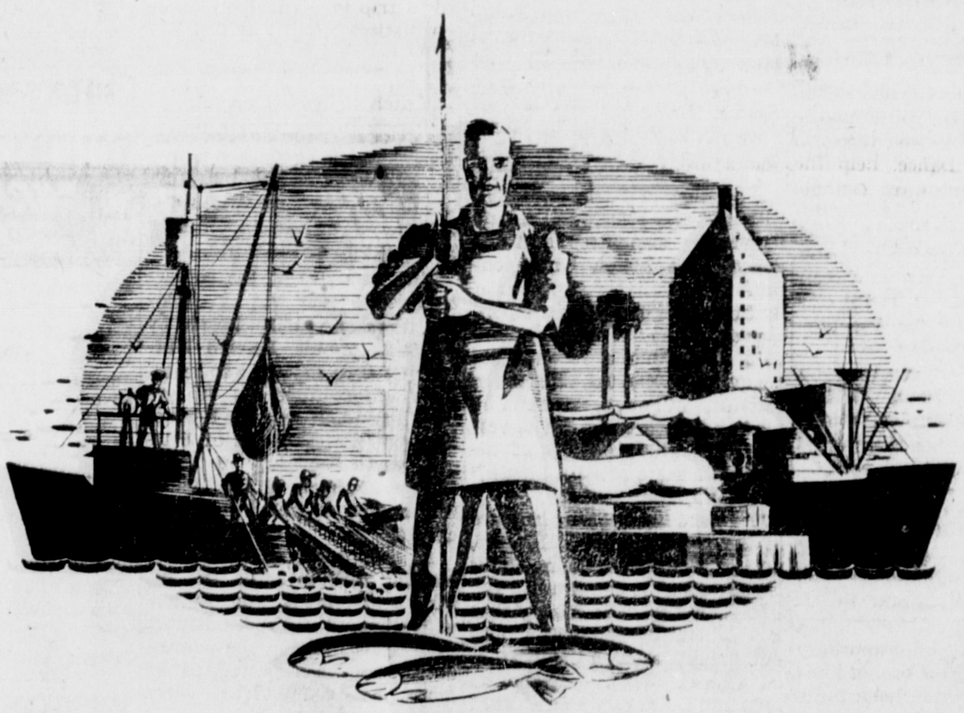
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