Twilight of the Empire

THE SIMPLE CEREMONIES that a few weeks ago relieved 400 million people of the overlordship of the British Raj and established their right to domisions of their own, or even to the ultimate right of complete independence, wrote "Finis" also to a political theory that dazzled the eyes of men only a generation ago.

In June of next year the dominions of Pakistan and the Union of India will make their ultimate choice between dominion within the Empire and free and independent nationhood. The dream of and Empire of which Kipling sang, and whose brightest gem was India, will be a thing of memory. India will have proved again, what has been proved so often, that the price of empire is to lose empire. One way, or another all empires vanish either, as today, through the demands of newly enlightened peoples, or as in the dark days of the past, when the hatred of subdued peoples sooner or later grew too great for their conquerors.

It would be idle to urge that the concept of another age would seem justified today. Empire by acquisition was a practice, not always just, not always right, not always honest, but at least the practice of the day. Whatever its lacks and failures and injustices, it did work for peace, and the Pax Britannica of 1823 did bring an end to centuries of almost uninterrupted civil and foreign wars. It was broken by the great Mutiny and is broken again today as the firm hand is lifted and internal

hates flame up anew. To those who are not bigoted the test of Brit- being searcely more than a child ish Empire in India must always be what it found and what it left. To a country that had hardly ever known peace it brought an even justice that was not of the sword. To a country of 150 languages and a dozen warring creeds it brought education for at least a few millions. In a country where each year millions died of starvation, because drouth destroyed the crops by which people lived, it built vast irrigation systems; those of the Ganges and the Jumna canals alone provide irrigation to three million arid acres. In a vast land where there was no law but the will of princes it established courts and police regulations until the King's writ ran from the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean. In a land where the ox-cart ruled it has built 34,000 miles of railroad and 100,000 miles of telegraph. It has sent 125,000 of its sons to be governors and magistrates and police and doctors and teachers and agricultural specialists. It has built up vast power resources and an industry beyond believing. True these things advantaged itself. Now, in its own day of greatest need it hands them over freely, fully equipped and fully tried. It has encouraged and educated native officials to assist in the affairs of government. This is the price of Empire. This was the "White Man's burden" of which Kipling chanted when he was the mouthpiece and the apostle of an Imperial dream on which the sun could never set.

It has been the genius of the British people that, although they have fought many years, they have seldom fought against the inevitable. So, in place of a conflict that might have set all Asia ablaze, there has been the acceptance of the demand for freedom, that could be readily understood by people to whom freedom has been a peculiar heritage. They have accepted India's demands without relinquishing their sense of responsibility. They have negotiated and compromised until they have found the only possible way out for the embittered factions of an united land.

Down through the centuries a dozen empires have waxed and waned in India, and nothing but their monuments of stone remain. But the last Empire, with all faults, and they are admitted, found a disordered land, where everyman's hand was against his neighbor, and left it with a real measure of hope that it should move through pres-

ent bitter turmoil into an experience of democratic self-government.

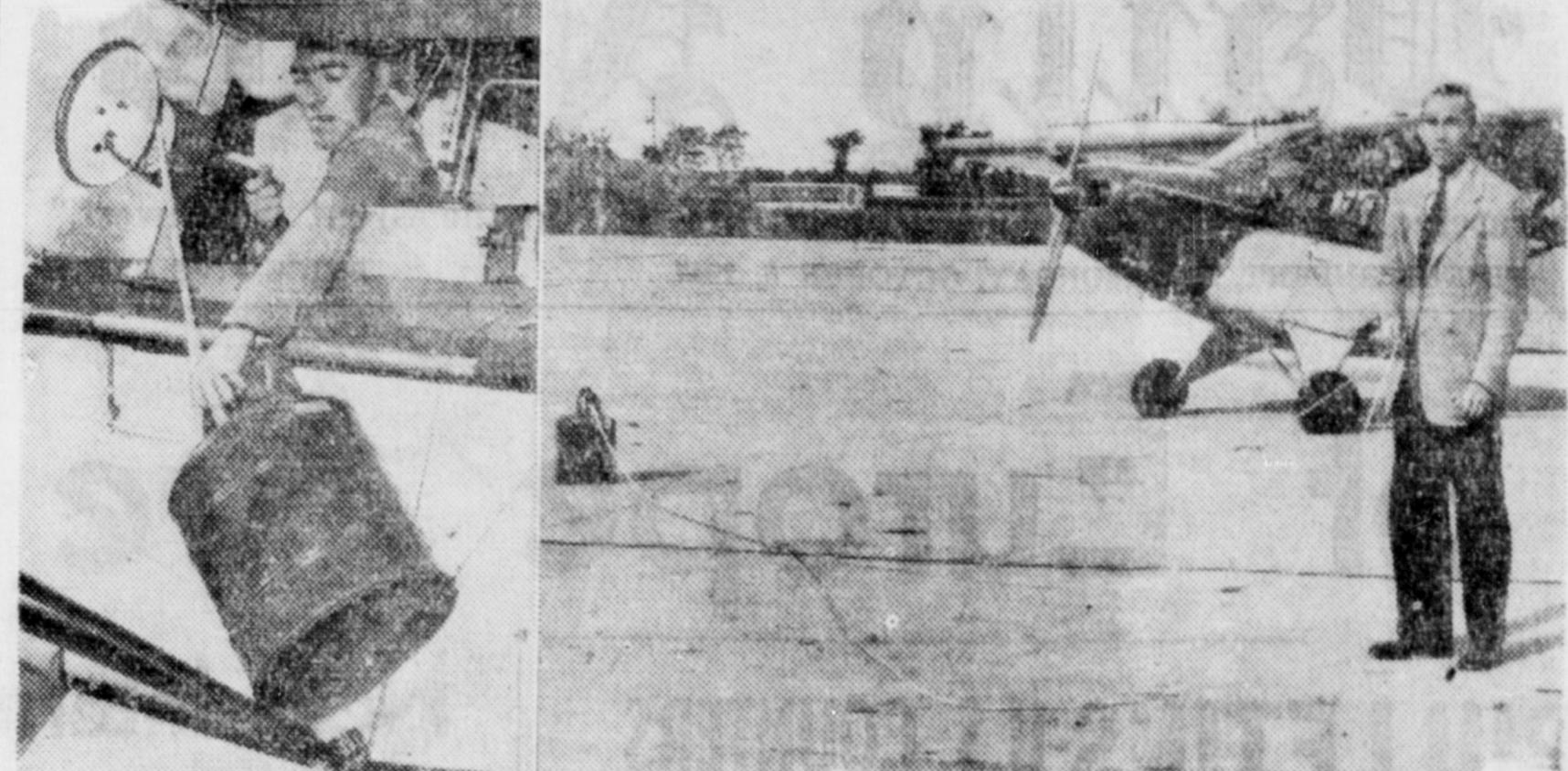
A NATIONAL DISGRACE

ME ARE A PRODIGAL PEOPLE. Last year, VV fire destroyed property in Canada amounting to nearly 50 million dollars, or about 55% more that the losses five years ago. There were 408 tragedies in Canadian homes.

Organizations spent time and money preaching the gospel of fire prevention and illustrate how carelessness can destroy human lives and property. Regional insurance underwriters' associations of Board companies throughout Canada maintain rigid inspection services which undoubtedly help to prevent many fires. They also impress on the public that insurance rates are related to losses. Yet our fire losses continue to increase at an alarming rate—1946 figures alone, were nearly 12% higher than in 1945. The remedy, and there is one, lies in our own hands.

We simply must pay more attention to simple rules established for our own protection. In other words, day by day, we must all exercise more care. We must stop playing with fire to prevent fire if we want to eliminate this national disgrace from Canadian yearly records. A little more common sense and a little less prodigality will save lives and property.

LIGHT PLANE TO ATTEMPT NON-STOP GLOBAL FLIGHT



Brown shows how plane will pick up gas enroute. Cockpit gas tanks installed. Picking up five-gallon gas cans enroute, Nelson E. Brown, of Statesville, N.C., and a companion will attempt the first non-stop round-the-world flight in a "souped-up" light plane. Take off from LaGuardia Field, N.Y., is scheduled for this month.

LETTERBOX

ROYAL SKIRTS

Daily News-

In your editorial titled "Elizabeth Decides" you intimated that, regardless of the world's great stylists, royalty's taste in clothes-as usual-would win out and lead.

Though for economy's sake longer skirts ought not to have arrived, I cannot feel that Princess Elizabeth's preference for the shorter length ones can possibly upset the world's new fashion wardrobe-particularly, her with an immature viewpoint, shall I say. At any rate, she is defying the world's adult and dynamic creative stylists who, in spite of royalty's taste, have for many decades catered freely to the ever-ready-and-waiting fol-

Our present Queen Elizabeth has for several years past shown a distinct preference for the longer skirt in her own ward-

Moreover, Mr. Editor, seemingly you have forgotten Queen Mary's taste in hats and shoes. Even more specifically, it would seem that you have forgotten Queen Mary.

VIOLET INGALLS.

PANNING GOLD IN KITCHEN SINK; PLENTY MESS, NO YELLOW METAL

The mother of a family came home a few days ago, to discover what looked like a mixture of sand, gravel and muskeg in the sink, in a wash basin, in sundry dishes in the pantry and to some extent on the floor.

No harm was done to anything or anybody but the general situation justified a tidying up and a thorough questioning, which was done, without undue delay.

It seems that some members of the household, convinced that "gold is where you find it" had taken a quantity of West Prince Rupert to where they dwell and, in the seclusion of the kitchen, along with the advantage of plenty of running water, closely examined what they had brought in for a trace of color, or, perchance, a hefty nugget lying cosily in the middle of all the mess.

"There was no gold," remarked one, "but I think there was a little of everything else."

Better English By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "What business have they to interfere?"

2. What is the correct pronounciation of "naphtha"? 3. Which one of these words

is misspelled? Appear, adhear, arrear, linear. 4. What does the word "dere-

lict" (noun) mean? 5. What word beginning with

ex means "roomy"?

ANSWERS 1. Say, "What right have

they." 2. Pronounce nat-tha, first a as in "at," final a as in "ask," and not nap-tha. 3. Adhere. 4. A person abandoned, or without the pale of respectable society. "There is not a derelict of the streets, in whose heart there is not some good."

5. Expansive.

PACIFIC COAST SALMON PACK

Total B. C. coast salmon pack according to the latest bulletin fisheries, Vancouver. The pack 1945, when it was 1,566,407.

put up in all areas. The chum pick is 374,941 cases and sock-eye, 284,240 cases.

In the Naas and Skeena area, the total pack has been 238,846 cases, of which 65,203 have been ! sockeye, 46,778 pinks and 86,778

What happens to Carniva?

A. These funds are added to the amount already raised over the past few years for the building of a Civic Centre. The present building is the first part of a major project. The gymnasium now being built is the second unit of the entire project. With the anticipated help from the provincial government it is expected that the building project can be completed during the next two years.



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THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

has mounted to 1,393,277 cases, issued by the chief supervisor of is the greatest of any for the last six years with the exception of

Pink salmon has accounted for the major part of this year's pack, with 592,538 cases being



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