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British Politics

THE LABOR government has withstood the storm of Opposition in the British Parliament and has been sustained on the critical issues of nationalization of the iron and steel industry and the handling of meat.

Flush with the strong scent of possible victory should an election be called, the Conservative Opposition has announced that it will follow up any opportunity that would precipitate a defeat of the government on a non-confidence motion and a consequent election.

Next week foreign affairs and defence are coming up. The Opposition is unlikely, however, to embarrass the government on the subject of foreign affairs in the face of the current difficult international situation. And, on defence, it will hardly attack the government on the substance of its defence policy although it may on the execution of it.

The political pot is beginning to simmer again in Britain but there is no certainty that it will boil over.

Enthusiasm Needed

LIKE ALL political parties, the socialists are inclined to claim for themselves a monopoly of all the virtues and to deny to their opponents any credit for decent motives or actions, observes the Printed Word. This might be dismissed as good, clean political fun if it were not for the tendency of anti-socialists to accept as justifiable the indictment of themselves as drawn by socialists. In the days of the two-party system few Liberals were much concerned about anything said against their party by the Conservatives, and the Conservatives generally felt safe in ignoring verbal vitriol flung by the Liberals. A really good issue might change the political label of a government but, after the heat of election speeches had cooled, the actual process of government went on much as before. If the Liberals had gained power they found that there was no need to hurry in making Canada a free-trade country, and the Conservatives, no matter how loudly they had shouted "No truck or trade with the Yankees," never got around to raising an impassable tariff barrier on the southern border.

The admirable thing about socialists is that they do not feel impelled to run around apologizing for holding their political faith. They have the continual enthusiasm and belief in their own righteousness that will always make converts.

It is arguable that converts to socialism are swayed to that side because they are not tough-minded enough to resist. That may be so. If it is, there is little hope that either a Liberal or Conservative speaker will win them back to what he feels to be the true faith by merely adopting socialistic schemes with the implied admission that Conservatives or Liberals have been wrong because they did not see the light before.

The prescription that both old parties seem to need is one of more enthusiasm for what they believe and more fanaticism in preaching it.

Peace in Our Time

IT USED to be said, and it is probably still true, that when Britain is at war, Canada is at war.

It may now be taken for granted, in view of joint plans for defence of North America, that when the United States is at war, Canada is at war.

It also seems to be true that when the United Nations are at war, or are carrying out a police job anywhere in the world, Canada is at war.

The outlook for peace-loving Canadians is grim.

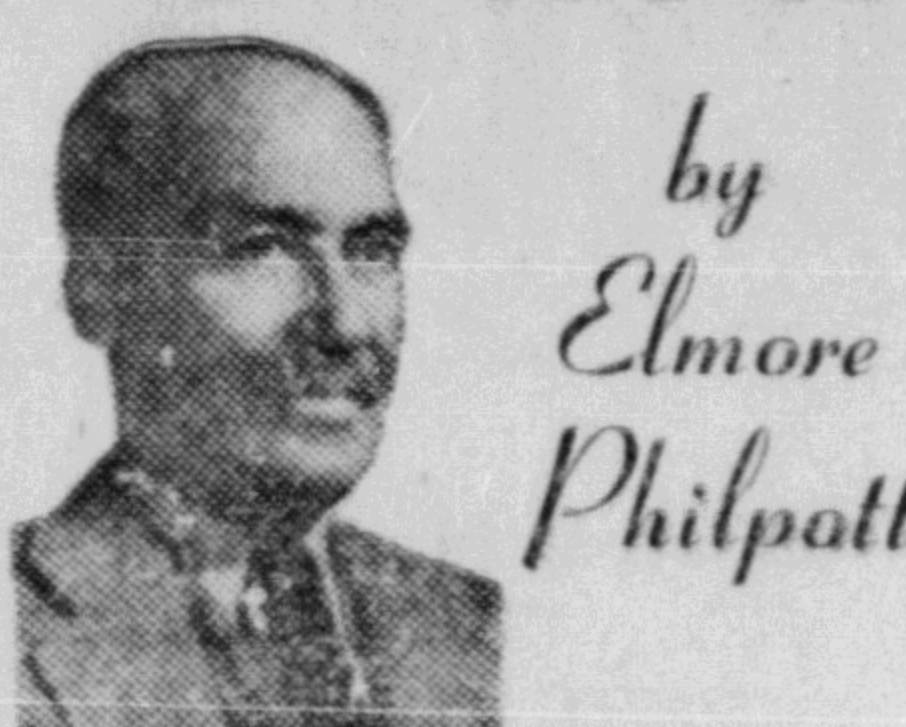
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As I See It



FIRST DAY AT SEA

ABOARD RMS CHUSAN.—Thanks to the ever-courteous Agent-General for B.C., Mr. McAdam, I ride in style from London to Tilbury to board the sleek new 24,000-ton Chusan.

Almost before I get a chance to say goodbye and thanks to the most obliging chauffeur in London, I am taken in tow by a cheery-faced woman in the uniform of the St. John Ambulance Corps. Her job is to pilot widows and orphans, waifs and strays, old cripples and tiny tots, through officialdom. She gets me past the British customs officials almost before you can say Jack Robinson.

She won't take a tip, of course, nor a "contribution" for the work of that grand old society.

MY CABIN is on D deck, right opposite the dining room (pardon me, sailor, I mean dining saloon). My next-door neighbors are Hindus, families with young children, homeward bound.

We have about 700 passengers aboard (capacity 1000). You could call this trip a gigantic travelling nursery. For there are scores and scores of mothers with young children. These are the families of men in the British armed services.

Whatever else I learn from the first 24 hours aboard this fine ship, I conclude that the British don't intend to lose Malay or Singapore at any early date. Otherwise, the women and children of the army, navy and air force people would be moving in the other direction.

LAST WEEK the handsome staff commander of this craft was on the BBC television program. He was telling land-lubbers about the stabilizers which keep this ship from rolling. Having a liberal dash of the man-from-Missouri spirit in me, I thought to myself, "They'll have to show me."

Well, believe it or not, they are doing just that. Here we are, well out in the Bay of Biscay. The wind is blowing like all-get-out. There is enough sea running to toss most ships really roughly. But we are gliding through it. Maybe it's skillful steering. Or maybe it is those stabilizers, which are a unique feature of this new greyhound of the oceans.

MOST OF THE passengers are bound for Bombay; and most of the passengers are of western race—that is, are not of Indian ancestry.

One thing that gives me a thrill is that quite a few of the Britishers going back to India are from families which served in the old British Raj days. A few years ago they thought they were saying goodbye for ever. But now many of them are going back into private business posts.

Beside me at the dining table sits a British youngster who looks, talks and acts like something right out of a G. H. Gentry book. He is in his early 20's, I guess, and is tall, pink-cheeked and with curly fair hair. (In fact, I had to look twice to make sure that it wasn't artificially permanent waved.)

He was born and brought up in India of a professional army family. He has lived in England only since the handover of power in 1947. Now he is on his way back to work on a tea plantation in Assam.

I put him through a friendly sort of third degree. He calls England "home" with his tongue, but his heart so obviously belongs to India that his face literally glows when he talks of

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SALVAGE DEFERRED

Halibutter Takla Being Stripped Following Stranding
PRINCE RUPERT.—Efforts to salvage the big Prince Rupert fishing vessel, Takla, which stranded Wednesday morning on Lucy Island in Chatham, are being temporarily given up.

Tides are now receding which make it impracticable to refloat the storm-beaten hull until they start to make again.

The Takla had been driven up to high water mark by the seas which have lashed here since the stranding.

Capt. Pete Parkvold is now at the scene to aid salvors in stripping the vessel of gear and equipment pending final refloating which underwriters said today might not be possible for a month or so—if ever.

Winter Hits Rupert Again

Woody Woodchuck seems to have been a "bad steer" last week. It was just a week ago that he promised that winter was finished. For the first day or so it appeared he was right but this week has undone all the good work a few mild days had done.

Wednesday night's rain, which continued until noon yesterday, cleared away a good part of the snow which covered the city. However, sleet yesterday afternoon, followed by snow last night, gave the landscape another white blanket to confront waking citizens this morning.

Compulsory Army Service Is Urged

OTTAWA.—George Cruickshank, Liberal MP for Fraser Valley, speaking in the House of Commons yesterday, called for compulsory service in the reserve army. He did not consider outright conscription necessary or advisable at the present time.

Bingo Banned By Catholic Church

MONTREAL.—Games of chance, including bingo, have been banned throughout the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Montreal. The archbishop says that the church is not a financial organization, much less a school of games.

his boyhood and school days there.

THE SHIP'S COMPANY is certainly international. The officers and most of the stewards are British. A few stewards and most of the seamen are Hindus (why are such seamen called Lascars?). The chef is French (thank Allah and the P and O). A Swiss presides over salads and cold cuts.

I HAVE A TWO-BUNK cabin all to myself. It is beautifully fitted—even down to a telephone. There is a bingo game on now (count me out). There is a free movie tonight and also a dance in the tourist section. I am travelling first-class this time. But I think I'll take in both movie and dance.

I don't dance any more, but I like to watch.

PS—For Scots: The fare, London to Egypt, is \$153.

Labor Gov't Is Sustained

LONDON.—The Labor government beat down by eight votes in the House of Commons last night a vote of non-confidence on its meat handling policy. The vote was 306 to 298 in favor of the government.

Capt. Harry Cruickshank charged the government with continuous muddling—the greatest muddle of all in meat.

Another Conservative, R. A. Butler, announced that the opposition would take every opportunity to force a general election and reminded the House that the subjects of foreign policy and defence were coming up next week.

Yesterday's Conservative attempt to force the government out of office by blaming Labor for Britain's meagre meat rations was the second unsuccessful Conservative challenge in two days and the third in a week.

Liberal party members joined the Conservatives in voting against the government.

Canada Gets German Miners

BONN.—The government of West Germany has approved a plan for the emigration of 600 young German miners to Canada. The Canadian Metal Mines Association will pay all transportation costs. The first 150 will leave for Canada next week.

Ice Arena Poll

For combination arena	34
For skating rink only	7
For curling rink only	1
\$250,000 project	45
\$75,000 project	38

Are Flocking Back to Jobs

CHICAGO.—The wildcat strike of railway switchmen is ending as unceremoniously as it began. Hundreds are returning to work in the Chicago yards following the edict yesterday that they would be established unless they could prove illness.

Five Years Is Sentence

NEW YORK.—William Remington, following conviction on a charge of perjury in denying that he had been a member of the Communist party, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment with fine of \$2000. Remington had been accused of making secrets available to the Communists while he held a responsible government position. There will be an appeal.

Penticton Hit Hard By Flu

PENTICTON.—Dr. Helen Zeman, medical health officer, estimates 25 per cent of this city's 11,000 residents have been stricken by influenza. The doctor described the cases as being mild and said the epidemic was "nothing to worry about."

HOCKEY scores

National	Detroit 4, Chicago 3.
Pacific Coast	Portland 10, Seattle 2.
Okanagan-Mainline	Kamloops - Vernon 6 (over-time).

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AIRPORT GROWS
HAMILTON, Bermuda @—Bermuda's civilian airport is to be extended to handle 15 planes a day. Present traffic amounts to about 10 planes daily. By Easter it is hoped to complete the first section of a new permanent structure which will replace temporary one.

BARNBURY—England fire squad at this town raced to action. But there was no fire. snow had short-circuited alarm system.

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