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The Budget

It might have been worse. This may be said by the average taxpayer of Mr. Abbott's defence preparedness budget.

Everybody had expected an increase in the personal income tax. It takes the form of a surtax on the present tax. The surtax is twenty percent per annum but, since it does not become effective until July 1, that means only ten percent for 1951. Further tax changes depend on the international situation. If it deteriorates taxes will go up. If it improves, taxes will go sky high. If it improves, they will go down.

The increase in the sales tax from eight to ten percent will effect everything we buy and use. Its tendency will be to further increase prices. If that discourages buying, it will tend to curb inflation.

We may not like it particularly but we will have to put up with the increase to 25 percent of the excise tax on "luxury items" such as motor cars, radios, furs and jewelry, also the 15 percent tax on electric refrigerators, washing machines and cooking stoves. This will not hurt anybody very seriously. The increased cigarette and tobacco taxes also will not hurt anybody very much. Nor would we have minded very much if they had boosted the tax on liquor and beer. In fact, there will be some people who are disappointed that Mr. Abbott did not do so.

Business people, of course, will not relish the increase in the tax on corporation profits over \$10,000 a year but there will be some satisfaction that the excess profits tax has not been resumed.

In his financial policy, Mr. Abbott continues the "pay as you go" principle, budgeting for surpluses which, so far, have been substantially underestimated.

All in all, it was no sunshine budget, of course, but it was not so cloudy either. Canadians still have a long way to go to be exacted upon as severely as are the British people who got another "austerity" budget yesterday.

The main criticism of the budget will probably be that it is not sufficiently anti-inflationary. But the government has definitely gone on record as being opposed to controls at this time, leaving it to the people themselves, for the time being at least, to combat the trend of rising prices by working hard to increase production and, at the same time, voluntarily curtailing their spending.

General MacArthur

WE have been prone to criticize General MacArthur but there is something sad about his summary dismissal as Far Eastern commander-in-chief. We presume there was nothing else for it. Quite evidently, he was not going to submit to anything in the way of discipline and there is every indication that he was not receptive to advice. Away over there in Japan, where he had ruled with something in the way of despotic powers for so many years, he quite evidently, got out of touch with democratic public opinion or chose to ignore it.

There are still some who believe that he was the right man in the right place. There may be more who feel that pettifoggish politics may have had something to do with his removal.

MacArthur will go down in history as one of the great, strong men in the international scene.

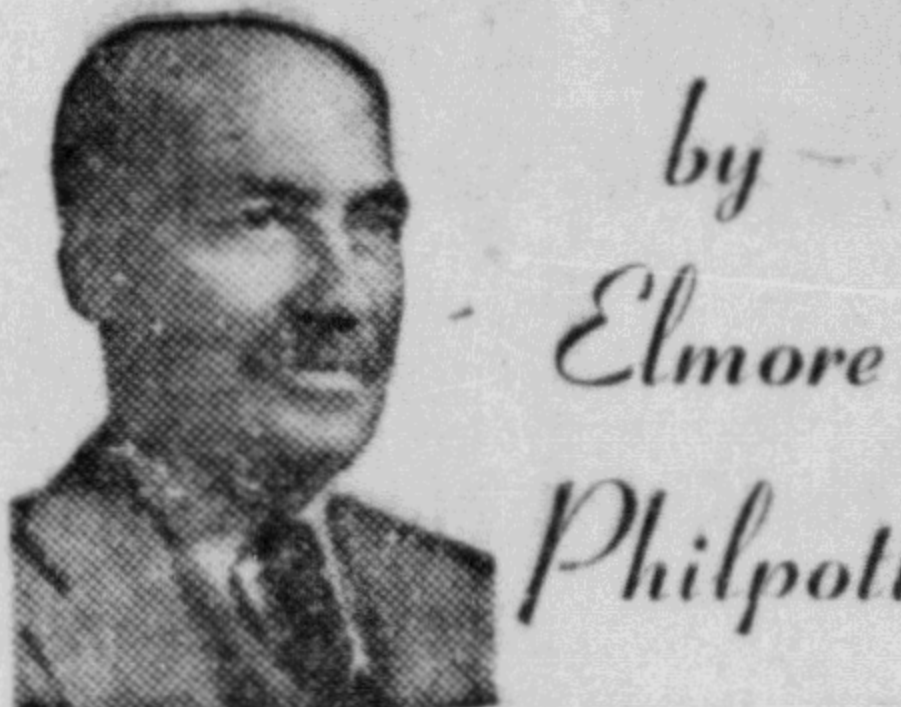
What will be the ultimate effects of his removal remain to be seen. It would appear at the moment to facilitate the movement for a negotiated, if not a permanent, peace in the currently major troublesome part of the world.

Confidence In City

ENTRY of one of the big chain store concerns—F. W. Woolworth Ltd.—into Prince Rupert, announced today, is indication of the new importance that outside business is attaching to this city. It is to be noted that the official of the company said that his company had purchased important downtown property and would build here not because of the present size or buying power of the city but because of the obvious fact that it was due for further growth in the certain expansion of north country.

There is difference of opinion about the popularity of the chain store, particularly in view of the tough competition it gives the independent community store, but one thing about them is—they do not enter communities where the business trend is on the downgrade.

As I See It



KASHMIR LEADS INDIA

J A M M U, Kashmir, — One reason why I was so anxious to visit Kashmir was that everywhere I went in Southern India the state government evaded Kashmir's advanced land reform program.

The chief minister of one key state, menaced by Communist violence, told me that if he had the legal power to do what Kashmir had already done, his main worries would be over.

The land ownership question is vital in a vast area of the earth, stretching from Asia across the Middle East and into Africa. Everywhere the mighty carrying cry of the Communists is "the land for the peasants." The impoverished, ignorant peasants are not always well enough educated politically to know that under Communism, the peasant does not always keep the land he helps take over from the landlords, but is "collectivized" or chased out for being a "kulak."

The obvious fact is that the cry has titanic appeal.

In India, many wise men ask "can a democracy deliver the results in time, or will India, too, go the way of Russia and China?"

IN KASHMIR, UNDER WHAT is clearly the most progressive administration in all India, the resolute government of Sheikh, Abdullah has already enacted a model and drastic land reform program.

The Sheikh sent Mr. R. C. Raina, his "land reform officer," to see me. He had all the facts and figures, including a copy of the actual act under which the land was transferred. I checked later and found that the land reformer had long since taken a demonstration dose of his own medicine. That is, years ago he had freely given away his own land inheritance to the actual tenants.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT of Kashmir put through the land reform program last year there were 123,213 "sleeping partner" landlords owning 643,546 acres of land (exclusive of orchards). There were 275,890 landless tenants—that is, farmers who worked the land for landlords, who often took all the income except a small pittance.

The Kashmir government made the new law which says that (apart from orchards) nobody may own more than 23 acres. Landlords with more than 23 acres had to hand over the surplus to tenants with no land.

To date, 15,872 former tenants got land grants. There, with their families, total 65,000 people. Till now, they have taken over only 20,000 acres—for the process takes some time. Of course, many of these small holdings are very fertile.

Here are the rates of compensation to the ex-landlords: The first year he gets three-fourths of the yearly land tax. The second year he gets two-thirds of the land tax. The third year he gets one-half.

The forthcoming Constituent Assembly is to decide how much more than the above (if any) the ex-landlord is to get.

NOW CONTRAST THE above with the scale of compensation in South India and you see what's what.

In Hyderabad and Madras they pay lump-sum compensation at the rate of about 20 times the year's rent PLUS A BONUS OF 15 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. The yearly rent mentioned in the latter figures should not be confused with the yearly land tax, used as basis of part compensation in Kashmir.

In Kashmir, for instance, the tax runs less than one-eighth of the worth of the crop. Rents in Hyderabad often run more than one-half the crop values.

KASHMIR IS ABLE TO DO this because she is not fully under the new Indian Constitution, except for defense, foreign affairs and communications. Elsewhere in India, the new Constitution compels payment of more generous compensation—even to landlords who in Hyderabad sometimes charged as high as 35 PERCENT PER YEAR on loans to their tenants.

MR. NEHRU—KNOWING full well that India is in a race against time in its race with Communism—is determined to speed up land reform everywhere. He hints that even the



PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME—Prime Minister St. Laurent shakes hands with President Vincent Auriol of France as Mr. and Mrs. Auriol arrived in Ottawa's Union Station. The presidential party is in Canada on a five-day official visit, the first state visit to Canada made by a French president. President Auriol is visiting Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City as well as Ottawa. The party arrived from New York after an official visit to the U.S. (CP PHOTO)

May Mean Prosperity

Fine New Ore Opened Up in Premier Border

Next to Premier Gold Mine, British Columbia's largest gold producer in the past, Premier Border Gold Mining Co. Ltd., has opened ore predominating in lead and zinc which gives promise of ushering in a new period of prosperity for the Portland Canal mining camp.

Net smelter returns of \$159,983 were realized from 5,776 tons of Premier Border ore milled by Silbak-Premier Mines Ltd. in the first five weeks of 1951. This was an average of \$28 per ton. Silbak-Premier mines the ore and profits are divided 50-50 after all costs, including development. Premier-Border has received a cheque for \$55,720 as its share of net profit for the milling of 5,776 tons during the five week period. Settlement was made as at Feb. 6, because the following day a new agreement became effective, more beneficial to Premier-Border in allocation of overhead costs.

Of the 4,735 tons milled during January, metal content was 6.05 per cent lead; 6.40%; 0.102 oz. gold and 3.58 oz. silver. In the five days of February included in the settlement 1,041 tons milled averaged 7.91% lead; 8.76% zinc; 0.076 oz. gold and 4.01 oz. silver. In addition to gold, silver, lead and zinc, the smelter pays for a small cadmium content.

Present mining is above Premier Gold's old sixth level. In recent months diamond drilling has proved the presence of ore 200 feet below the No. 6 level. Eight out of 12 holes drilled below the level intersected good ore. One of the last holes drilled, No. 1956, cut an ore zone having a true width of about eight feet and an average grade of over 25% combined lead and zinc at about 200 feet below No. 6 level. This value compares with 12.45% combined lead and zinc for the ore milled in January and 16.97% combined lead and zinc for the six days in February.

Shaft sinking to make available the deeper ore is scheduled for 1951.

City Grants Trade Licences

Trade licences were granted by city council Monday night to the following:

M. J. Saunders, trucking; Magliore Gagnon, roofing and shingling contractor; F. X. Farrell and J. H. Jeffries, hardware store.

Council approved that single quarters in RCMP barracks be furnished at a cost of \$525, and that C. T. Young, city rest rooms cleaner, be paid \$50 a month for his services.

A bylaw will be prepared for purchase of a three-ton truck from the land sale trust fund. Board of works committee also recommended that an eight-inch water meter be purchased and installed at Canadian Fish and Cold Storage plant at an approximate cost of \$2100.

The first Welland Canal, connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario, was opened in 1829.

new Constitution may have to be changed in a hurry to follow the Kashmir lead everywhere. For, he argues, the Constitution was made for man and man was not made for the Constitution.

Big Tourist Year Coming

British Columbia to Share in Record Business

VICTORIA (CP) — Canada is looking for 5,000,000 tourists this year to duplicate 1950's record figure.

A Canadian Press survey today shows that the experts believe the season ahead will be as good as last year's—barring a major war. They base their prediction on healthy advance prospects.

While the war in Korea was a limiting factor in tourist travel and trade last year, the conflict may have different effects this year. Inquiries to travel agencies suggest many potential tourists are planning an early vacation in case of a service call-up or with the thought that conditions arising from the defence program may make pleasure trips difficult.

Government travel agencies have increased their activities and advertising in an effort to reach more travellers and bring more new money into the country. Agencies in all provinces are active.

Tourists spent \$275,000,000 in Canada in 1950. Ontario, the biggest tourist magnet, reaped a harvest of \$165,000,000 in tourist dollars.

British Columbia valued its tourist industry at \$53,999,000 last year and believes it could double the figure through large conventions if it had the hotel accommodation for the additional thousands. With its Pacific Coast attractions, the province is looking for an increase of between five and 10 per cent.

Predicting a record year, deputy trade and industry minister E. G. Rowbottom believes it will also be a challenge year, calling for redoubled efforts to meet the intense competition of every country which feels it has something to offer for the tourist dollar.

Changes in CNR Posts

MONTREAL—Appointments to senior positions in the Canadian National Railways personnel department were announced by W. H. Hobbs, vice-president, personnel.

F. E. Ayrhart is appointed director of labor relations and W. T. Wilson is appointed director of personnel. C. B. Reid has been appointed staff registrar; H. A. Allen becomes staff recorder and K. K. King is named manager of the suggestion bureau.

In the department's labor relations branch, F. E. Jones is named assistant director and P. E. Garlin, H. H. Johnson, J. P. Curran and J. C. Hodges are made labor relations assistants. Named as personnel assistants are H. J. Walker, F. C. Salter and E. M. Greaves.

Mr. Salter, formerly assistant to vice-president, research and development, is succeeded by W. S. Ziegler.

THE LETTERBOX

NOT TOO EASILY OFF

Editor,

Daily News,

By comparison values are generally determined. The information given here is taken from Maclean's Magazine in an article entitled "You Are Lucky You Don't Live in New York" by Harry Henderson.

The population of New York is 8,161,000. In the central part of the city real estate is valued at \$32,000 per square foot.

The water supply is rationed. A single room apartment costs \$130 per month to rent.

In New York the average time spent by people going and returning from work daily is two hours.

New York thousands of children attend school in buildings erected before the Civil War—over 100 years old—described as filthy and unsanitary.

In New York 38,000 children attend school only part time on account of overcrowding. Another 25,000 are stuck in sub-standard equipped rooms.

The basic salary of teachers is \$2500 per year up to \$5375 after 16 years' service.

New York has over 5000 miles of streets that cost \$23,000,000 per year for cleaning.

People are forced to wear goggles to protect their eyes from dust.

In comparison, Mr. Editor, the people in Prince Rupert are not too badly off.

GEORGE B. CASEY.

THEATRE OPENING

Editor, Daily News:

As you know the Totem Theatre is about to be opened. The central idea or the theme throughout the theatre is the native art of B. C.

I don't know how the people would feel about this, but I think that the theatre should be opened by a native girl or boy—not just any native girl or boy but one who is going to school here; and one who has been going to school here the longest. Of course, the mayor should be there, but I think it would be very nice if it could be, for a native girl or boy to open the theatre.

Respectfully,

"INTERESTED."

Liberal Council Meeting Called

VICTORIA—A meeting of the advisory council of the British Columbia Liberal Association has been called by President H. G. T. Perry. It is emphasized that the meeting is not being called because of a possible break in coalition but for the purpose of ordinary business.

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There are about 140,000 retail stores in Canada and this year Canadians will buy about nine billion dollars worth of goods through them.

In the most recent election the Liberals won 2,457,680 votes, the Conservatives 1,530,751, the CCF 312,497.

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