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1951-1952

THE PROBLEMS of a troubled world may not be settled by any means as yet. There is still confusion and uncertainty. The cold war of ideologies and propaganda persists. The incipient hot war is still on. There is suffering in many lands where aggression and conflict persist. Yet, as 1951 passes out and 1952 comes in, a calm assessment must bring the conclusion, without being overoptimistic, that things are better and the outlook more promising than they were a year ago at this time.

As for the focal point of the hot war, insofar as it has developed, it has been contained to Korea during the twelvemonth just ending. A year ago the United Nations forces were reeling below the Yalu River. For many months now, however, the line has been held and gradually improved and today there is little fear of further serious military reverses. What is more important, there is still real hope for a truce, no matter how long it may be deferred because of obduracy on either side. Meantime, the fighting itself has to large extent subsided, uneasy as the situation still may be.

There are also still the wars in IndoChina, Malaya, Burma and other lesser theatres in the Far East, the progress and outlook in which are more obscure.

After many anxious months, there are signs of an easing up if not a settlement in the Suez area where Britain and Egypt have come to crisis. So the situation there is also improved.

A year ago defence and organization of Europe was only an uncertain plan. Today, there is a great difference with a strong western bulwark now organized and getting stronger every day. The question of Germany will be the critical matter in 1952.

So the international scene may be surveyed more cheerfully. The prospects have veered during the past year more from war to peace and the air is not without signs today that that trend may be continued in the year about to be ushered in.

While common defence of the western world must still be developed and expanded, it could be that we may be able to give more attention during the coming year than we did in the last to matters of domestic concern. This is particularly important in the economic scene, where it is so essential that equilibrium must be maintained so that, while building our fences abroad, we may not be allowing them to fall apart at home.

And this is of even greater importance in some of the less favored countries than Canada where the demands of immediate defence have been hampering recovery.

As the New Year dawns, Canada is still a gem among the nations, British Columbia among the provinces and this part of British Columbia the most favored part of the province. A year ago, we thought we were making giant strides industrially. Even today we may still not be appreciating fully what is going on.

The dawn of the year 1952 finds us having much to be thankful for and much to be hopeful about. All the gloom, all the doubts and all the dangers may not have been dispelled. But conditions are such today, we would say, that, while we must still be realistic, watchful and conscientious, we can still be optimistic and cheerful.

If the trend toward better and more secure things that marked 1951 is continued in 1952, and we confidently believe it will, a year from now, with more crises settled and behind us, we should be facing a really happier year.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee." — Deut. 8:2.

Raised Screen Actress Checks

NEW YORK (UPI)—Mrs. Evelyn Cronin, who said she paid for "marijuana, booze, cocaine and

sex" for Tullulah Bankhead, was convicted Friday of raising the screen actress' checks.

Mrs. Cronin, 59-year-old former vaudeville hoofer and strip tease in her younger days before she became Tullulah's maid-secretary, faces a maximum penalty of 7½ to 15 years in prison. She will be sentenced January 24.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT . . .

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Fraser Street

Phone 37

As I See It

by
Elmore
Philpott

No Big War in 1952?

A KEEN business man, who heads an organization which keep a weather eye open for squalls ahead, is willing to pay me good money to try to answer this question:

WILL THERE BE A WORLD WAR IN 1952?

My answer, for what it is worth, is NO. A world war would mean one in which Russia and the U.S. were openly engaged. I do not believe that such a war will occur in 1952.

* * *

REGULAR readers of this column know that I have never accepted the theory such suggests that Russia is frantically building up strength in order to launch a war of armed conquest against her neighbors.

It is the people who hold the above mistaken theory who argue that Russia will sweep west in the year X—maybe one, two or three years ahead. I think I could give a dozen reasons why Russia will not do that. But here is the main one:

If the hard-boiled boys in the Kremlin ever had such an idea, what were they waiting around for from 1945 to 1951? The superficial answer of the Russias-always-wrong-in-everything school might be that Russia was waiting till she too had the atom bomb. But that answer seems half-baked to me. What about armies?

* * *

IT HAS always seemed to me that another world war would be just as likely to result from U.S.A. decisions, policies or blunders as from those of Russia.

I do not mean of course that any U.S. President would deliberately, openly order a Pearl Harbor type of attack against Moscow. Nor am I cynical enough to agree with one of the informed Latin American diplomats who said to me some years ago:

"If the Yanks ever decide that the time has come to start the war, without taking the blame for it, they have a simple device they could use—something like this. They could fly one of their own planes across northern Canada and drop some bombs near some sensitive point. Nobody would ever know who really did drop the bombs, until years later, in any event—for the war would be on."

I don't think it would be as simple as that, even if there were enough sinister people in high places in Washington to try anything like that. Canadians, Britons or Americans aren't all simpletons.

* * *

OF COURSE, 1952 and 1953 ARE crucial and dangerous years. Russia has plainly warned the West that she "will not tolerate" the re-armament of Western Germany. Yet that re-armament is obviously on the time-table for the next year or two. Hence we shall reach a highly dangerous moment at a time when it does become clear that Western Germany actually is to be re-armed.

I see that the U.S.A. military authorities have ordered all the wives and children of their men in Berlin to leave there before October 1952.

That is just another indication that the international situation is likely to reach the crisis stage at about the time of the U.S. presidential elections, which take place early in November.

20—First group from Canadian 27th Brigade sails for Germany.

22—U.S. atomic tests in Nevada include tiny a-bomb which may be a tactical field weapon.

25—Conservatives win British general election.

27—Communists abandon demand that 33th parallel be buffered line in Korea.

30—So to sum it all up—my guess is, no big war in 1952—but look out for squalls toward the end of the year, especially if the U.S. elects a President whose policies would make for aggravation, not stabilization, of the big-block struggle.

The first dated postmark on a letter was used in 1829, when recipients still paid cash for delivery.

WORLD DATES OF 1951

(Continued from page 1)

sion becomes operational in Korea, including Canadian 25th Brigade.

AUGUST

3—Accused of cheating at examinations, 90 cadets dismissed from U.S. military academy at West Point.

5—Riveman William (Red) Hill, 32, killed attempting to go over Niagara Falls in light barrel.

8—French National Assembly confirms Rene Plevin as premier.

14—William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper and magazine publisher, dies at 88.

16—T. C. Davis presents credentials of first Canadian ambassador to West Germany at Bonn.

17—Hurricane lashes Jamaica; 154 dead and heavy property damage.

22—Oil talks between British and Iran governments collapse.

31—Gauver crime committee of U.S. Senate in final report on dramatic hearings charges some communities "held captive" by racketeers and grafting public officials.

SEPTEMBER

1—Pacific Ocean pact for mutual defence signed by United States, Australia and New Zealand; Prime Minister Sidney Holland's Nationalist party re-elected in New Zealand general elections.

3—Japanese peace treaty signed by 48 nations at San Francisco; Russia boycotts final ceremony.

11—Czechoslovakia "Freedom train" crosses border into Germany with engineer held at pistol point.

12—Gen. George C. Marshall resigns at U.S. defence secretary; Sugar Ray Robinson of New York regains world middleweight title from Randy Turpin of England.

15—Ministers of 12 countries in North Atlantic Treaty Organization open conferences at Ottawa.

18—Physicians announce King George has developed "structural change" in one lung; New York Times marks 100th birthday.

20—NATO meeting at Ottawa recommends admission of Greece and Turkey to pact membership.

22—Australian voters in referendum reject constitutional amendment to outlaw Communists party.

23—King George undergoes operation for lung resection; immediate post-operative condition satisfactory.

27—King names Council of State; Princess Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh to start Canadian tour Oct. 9, one week later than planned.

28—Prime Minister St. Laurent at Washington conveys Canada's offer to construct St. Lawrence seaway by herself.

30—Former Nazi General Kurt Meyer, transferred from New Brunswick prison to British prison in Germany, discovered at home for weekend.

31—Allied and Red truce negotiators approve provisional buffer zone in Korea; North Atlantic Pact Council at Rome sets goal of nearly 100 divisions for western Europe by 1954.

32—Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive by air at Montreal; Egypt denounces West's disarmament plan.

21—Over 100 miners perish in Illinois colliery disaster.

25—Peace negotiations in Korea still deadlocked.

OCTOBER

3—Washington announces Russia set off second atomic explosion recently; last of British oil workers evacuated from Iran.

5—Canadian units spearhead new United Nations offensive in Korea.

7—1952 tour of Australia and New Zealand by King and Queen cancelled; Elizabeth and Philip will go instead; Sir Henry Gurney, British high commissioner to Malaya, killed by guerrillas.

8—Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive by air at Montreal; Egypt denounces West's disarmament plan.

19—United Nations approves West's disarmament plan.

21—Over 100 miners perish in Illinois colliery disaster.

25—Peace negotiations in Korea still deadlocked.

DECEMBER

16—Fifty-six persons die in air disaster at Elizabeth, New Jersey.

19—United Nations approves West's disarmament plan.

21—Over 100 miners perish in Illinois colliery disaster.

25—Peace negotiations in Korea still deadlocked.

NOVEMBER

1—Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Washington.

DECEMBER

1—General Eisenhower at Washington outlines plans for speeding up Western Europe defense; Leon Jouhaux, 72, French anti-Communist, awarded 1951 Nobel Peace Prize.

6—Luis Padilla Nervo of Mexico elected president of United Nations general assembly.

8—Russia rejects new western disarmament proposals in U.N. at Paris.

11—Princess Elizabeth makes farewell broadcast to Canada from St. John's, Nfld.

14—First of main body of Canadian 27th Brigade docks at Rotterdam; U.S. Eighth Army accuses Communists of killing 5,700 Allied prisoners.

17—Elizabeth and Philip return to London after Canadian tour.

18—Po river starts disastrous flooding of north Italy; more than 100 dead.

24—Ottawa Rough Riders beat Saskatchewan Roughriders 21-15 in Grey Cup football classic at Toronto.

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