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Contrast In Politics

IT HAS been interesting during recent days to observe and compare how politics work in Great Britain and the United States both of which countries have been having their crises of sorts.

Reckless of the serious reactions which might result both at home and abroad, politicians allowed a great storm to develop in the United States over the case of General Douglas MacArthur. Losing sight entirely of the simple fact of the case which was that General MacArthur had put himself in a position where there was nothing for the President to do but dismiss him, political passion and vituperation, fanned by the American love for sensationalism, threw the nation into a virtual frenzy. And it certainly has not been conducive to national unity in the face of a grave international situation.

There seemed something more honest and dignified about the crisis which developed in Britain due to the cleavage within the Labor party over the Attlee government's budget. Notwithstanding fundamental differences which led to the final split between the two wings of the Labor party, there was always that restraint based on the consideration of the national if not the party interest. It was the cool, steady and deliberate British way of doing things—a way that is confidence-inspiring, too. Politics in Britain seem inherently imbued with a sense of statesmanship and responsibility which is perceptible in so few of United States top public men.

One wonders which line Canada is more inclined to follow. It is probably a middle way—not quite so staid and respectful as Britain but certainly not so excitable and reckless as that of the United States.

Alaska Too

THE FACT that great cellulose pulp and aluminum manufacturing plants have been or are being established in British Columbia does not deter the hopeful enthusiasm of Editor Bill Baker of the Ketchikan Chronicle for the ultimate establishment of like industries in southeastern Alaska.

Baker sees renewed hope for the pulp mill project at Wacker City, a short distance out of Ketchikan, by reason of the fact that the House of Representatives in Washington a few days ago passed an appropriation of about \$3,000,000 for pulp mill access roads in Tongass National Forest. He also takes hope from the fact that market conditions are good and prospects are for shortages for some time to come.

As for aluminum, Baker says: "We can only hope that the way the world is using aluminum, Alaska will have to be used to some extent, no matter what Japan and Canada have to offer."

One Way Of Figuring

AN OLD-FASHIONED Hebrew employer demonstrated when one of his employees asked for a raise on the ground that he worked too hard. "Why," protested the employer, "you have an easy time of it. You do not work at all. Look! There are 365 days in a year. Eight hours each day you sleep. That makes 122 days, leaving 243 days. Eight hours of every day you have all for yourself. That leaves 121 days. I give you an hour for lunch every day and that amounts to 15 days more, leaving 106. You do not work on Sundays—52 more days off, leaving 54. You get Saturday afternoons off—another 26 days, leaving 28 days. You get two weeks for vacation every summer and you take off about a week for sickness. Only seven days a year to work—and New Year, Good Friday, May 24, July 1, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas are holidays. Besides you take Yom Kippur off. I should give you a raise? You owe me money!"

Scripture Passage for Today

"Peace be unto you."—Luke 24:36.

"GRIPE" OFFICE
RIO DE JANEIRO — A public complaints department has been set up at Brazilian labor ministry where anyone who wants to may complain about any subject within the ministry's jurisdiction. Complainants must accept responsibility for their statements.

ORNERY WEATHER
OSLO, (CP)—Prolonged drought in western Norway is seriously affecting power supplies and Bergen, Kristiansund and Stavanger are putting up with black-outs and daytime rationing of electricity for homes and industry.



FIRST PRIZE—This photo of a Victoria Order nurse and a little boy won first prize of \$25 for R. Clare of Sackville, N.B. in the annual competition sponsored by the V.O.N. Runners-up were T. Van of Ottawa and Kosher's Studio, Truro, N.S.

(CP PHOTO)

VICTORIA REPORT

... by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.—Officers of the British Columbia Liberal Association are convinced that Tory chieftain Herb Anscomb outmanoeuvred Liberal chieftain Byron Johnson when it came to announcing that the Coalition won't go to the people at the next general election as a Coalition.

Mr. Anscomb was the first one to make the announcement. The Liberal Association people feel such an announcement should have come from Premier Johnson, as indeed it should have.

Some observers say that the Premier should have immediately asked for Mr. Anscomb's resignation on the grounds that no cabinet minister should run around the country announcing major government policy without the Premier's permission. There's no indication that the Premier knew what Mr. Anscomb was going to say. And certainly announcing the end of Coalition in two years is major government policy.

LIBERALS ON DEFENSIVE

Liberal cabinet ministers are going on the defensive over hospital insurance. The big guns—the Premier, Attorney General Wismer, Education Minister Straith, Health and Welfare Minister Turnbull, Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney—are going on province-wide tours in an effort to explain the necessity for increasing hospital insurance premiums.

The Conservative ministers don't feel the same necessity for some reason. Premier Johnson has said so often that he takes full responsibility for hospital insurance and will sink or swim with it that the Tories are quite willing to let him have his way—hoping of course, he'll sink his Liberals with him at the next general election. Hospital insurance was the Premier's baby in the first place, so let him worry about raising it to a healthy adult. That's the way the Conservatives figure it even though they must bear their full share of the responsibility.

But you can see the way the wind blows when you look back to budget days and recall that Mr. Anscomb stood in his place in the House and gave facts and figures about hospital insurance and then said he doubted if the new increases would work unless Health and Welfare Minister Turnbull took a realistic view. That, in the opinion of many, was a most extraordinary statement—one cabinet minister doubting in public that an-

other cabinet minister could make a success of his part of government policy.

ANSOMB ON MARCH

Whatever way you look at it, Mr. Anscomb is on the march. He is rallying his Conservatives in all parts of the province. He's going to fight to the last ditch to get a straight Conservative government two years from now. If he falls in that (and he will) the Conservatives will be the Opposition for four years—and then, as oppositions usually do, they'll most likely become the government. That won't be until 1957. It's a long-range view and a gamble whatever way you look at it, but Mr. Anscomb is

Finns Are Anxious

HELSINKI — Finns foresee a possible tightening of Soviet influence over their little "western" democracy situated at the gateway to northern Russia.

They express apprehension that a change in the Soviet minister here, announced April 8, might indicate a "get tough" policy on the part of Russia, whose press has been firing broadsides at the Agrarian-led Finnish coalition Cabinet.

Observers pointed to the fact that Lt. Gen. Grigori Mikhailovich Savonenkov, the minister, "relieved of his duties" by the Kremlin, was generally regarded here as a moderate. He headed the Allied Control Commission here before being appointed head of the Russian diplomatic mission.

The observers said the newly appointed minister, Viktor Zakharovich Lebedev, was "a different type." Mr. Lebedev is a graduate of Moscow University, was previously Soviet Ambassador to Poland.

According to reports here Mr. Lebedev played a leading part in hitching Poland's economy firmly to Russia's and paved the way for the appointment in November, 1949, of a Russian—Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky—as Polish Defense Minister and chief of the armed forces.

quite correct in his campaign if ever he's to get the Tory party back into power.

Politically speaking, the next two years are going to be very interesting.

LIBERAL CONVENTION

It could well be that the Liberals may call a convention within a few months. There's a stirring to this end throughout the province. If President H. G. T. Perry, now living in Victoria, receives 10 official requests he must call a convention.

Such a convention, it is believed, would re-endorse Premier Johnson as leader but insist that Liberals get out of Coalition right away, so in two years it would be a Liberal government that will appeal for re-election.

COMPLICATIONS

The situation is complicated, filled with intrigues, but people who love politics can think and talk of nothing else these days. There are so many possibilities and probabilities, so many hypothetical answers to hypothetical questions, so many impossible predicaments in which both Liberals and Conservatives are finding themselves.

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

ISRAEL'S 1951 ARMY

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL.—If you travel quickly over the whole state of Israel, as I did in the past few days, you cannot help but be impressed by the size, efficiency and alertness of the army.

Actually, Israel has an army, navy and air force, but it was the army of which I saw most, for I saw the army on training operations, even in the middle of the night when I arrived at Lydda, from Pakistan.

OF COURSE, YOU DO NOT ask questions about military matters in Israel—for this little land is very definitely on a sentry-go basis. Yet you read that on the full-scale manoeuvres a few months ago, Israel had 75,000 troops actually in the field.

There is universal conscription in Israel. Both boys and girls must serve for two years from age 18. Up till now, girls have not served (officially) in combat units, and theoretically are not liable for service nearer the front than divisional headquarters. But as all the world knows, or should know, girls fought with the men in the actual war of 1948. In fact, men, women and children fought in the pioneer settlements, just as they used to in America in the old days of the "Wild West."

Also, up till now, any girl could claim exemption from military or national conscript service on religious grounds. It seems to me tremendously significant that, although Israel's parliament is just winding up its business before the general election of early July, they are rushing through a bill to end this exemption. That is, despite the objections of the conservative religious groups, the majority parties are saying in effect, "every fit person must stand ready to help defend our land."

THE ISRAELI ARMY WEARS British style uniforms. Believe it or not, it's more blond than dark! Time after time, I had to pinch myself to make sure that

I was NOT looking at just another British army.

It is a fact that the Jews of Israel, and certainly the army of Israel, does not look so "Jewish looking" as we imagine that groups of Jews look in our own lands. Some wise or witty fellow explained this to me as follows: "Most of the Jewish people in Western lands look pretty much like everybody else. But some are clearly recognizable as Jews. Hence, everybody assumes that all Jews look different. Here you know that this is not so."

Whether the above theory is sound or not, I do not know. I do know that the men, and especially younger officers, look so darn British that I feel a sharp, sudden pang of sorrow that they are NOT now a part of the Commonwealth.

Had we had wiser leaders, realistic enough and honest enough to stand like a rock on the Balfour Declaration we would never have lost what should have been "The Seventh Dominion," and we would have had a firm and even fanatically fervent friend where right now we need friends.

CONTRARY TO ALL THE silly talk that preceded the actual war of 1948, that followed the proclamation of the sovereign state of Israel, British military leaders were never surprised at the outcome. As I reported in my own column before the event (not after), British generals knew the quality of the comparative armies.

The Israeli army of 1948 was a find it.

crude and puny thing well-balanced force of Israel's enemies into the war into the hands of the tankers. But the leaders of the very wise. They look ahead. They know that only really younger men in a region of peace are the primary aim of the and lasting peace neighbors. Israel would find out, go into the hole on her hand of a apple for a genuine let nobody mistake that it is from strength to strength.

ISRAEL IS THERE! The sooner that everyone recognizes that fact, the can begin to relax and peace in what has been and still is the very of destiny.

I drove across the where mighty empires past, from East to West after time, though the battles; and where prophets have predicted great climatic battles will take place, and the anarchy of the power politics and and make possible war under world law.

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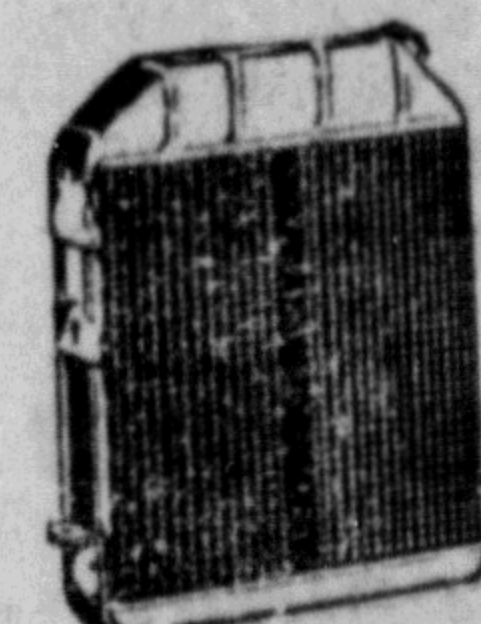
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