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Diamonds or Bricks?

TODAY'S tendency is towards bigger and bigger units. Industries amalgamate into combines, stores acquire branches and blossom into the big departmental store, editorializes the West Vancouver News, published by Harry H. Gregson, formerly of Prince George. Villages become municipalities, municipalities cities and cities sprawling metropolises, to flee from which is the week-end ambition of their inhabitants.

Labor amalgamates, also, the labor opposing the industrial giant.

The small man, neither a part of big industry or the big departmental store, nor a factor in labor organization, is caught between the millstones.

This trend to bigness has to be fought because not only the existence of the small man, but the existence of democracy is at stake.

We see little difference between gigantic corporations in America, state-controlled industries in Britain and Sovietized industry in Russia. In all the worker loses his independence, the qualities which make for sturdy individualism are undermined.

With rare exceptions, the big outside concern is not interested in building a community. The small man does the building. Owners of very large concerns are remote from the public and the public's influence of them is small. How different it is with the small merchant, who meets his customers face to face every week and who must consult their views and interests.

We in this paper champion the small man as opposed to the big and the small unit as opposed to the big one. We believe that communities of men, in business, working or in professions in a modest way and imbued with the go-ahead spirit, are the most valuable asset of democracy.

Whatever apparent economies in production the big organizations may achieve, there are certain things they cannot achieve. They cannot give the individual attention which the small storekeeper gives. They cannot promote that sturdy spirit of independence in their employees, the desire to serve which the small storekeeper and employer can promote.

It is the small merchant, the man in business in a small way, who is the nation's main bulwark against Communism. History, as in the case of the Swiss against the French, the Finns against the Russians, has again and again demonstrated the sterling qualities induced by independent small units. Did not Napoleon call Britain a nation of shopkeepers and may not the present American reverses in Korea be partly attributable to the fact that the sturdy individuals who built the United States have tended to be replaced by insignificant human cogs in gigantic corporation machines?

But the small man, the small municipality, unless it organizes is doomed. Big trade unions which fix the scales of pay for employees in big combines also decree that the small business man shall pay the same scales, although because of the very individual service he gives, his overheads must be proportionately larger than that of big business. Big buyers buy in bulk and threaten to undercut the already narrow profit of the smaller merchant.

What can we do about it?

We must prefer our local stores and the individual service they give to outside ones. We must develop the many cultural amenities we still lack and take a lively interest in every phase of local affairs.

We refuse to be deluded by "business" talk of what is or not a paying proposition, when it comes to our hospital or any other form of municipal service. We are indeed very suspicious of the so-called economy of which big units boast. They put a dime in our pockets and take away two-bits worth of our independence.

Man does not live by bread alone. Our yardstick to the worthiness of this or the other course shall be: "Does it make for individual, independent survival?"

Better our own hospital, not a paying proposition, better our own services which do not "pay" and better an independent municipality, than become cogs in a big wheel. We don't want the big business standards. We don't think they're right. What we want is a voice in our own affairs and the satisfaction of knowing we have that voice.

An overfed brigadier once remarked to an undersized Cockney recruit: "We'll soon make you into a big soldier. The recruit answered: "You can't make diamonds as big as bricks, sir." Let us be diamonds.



HUNGRY YOUNGSTERS—The camp of the P.P.C.L.I. in Korea near Pusan is besieged daily by children such as these, who have found it a good spot for a meal hand-out. Pte. Steve Towstego of Saskatoon is shown passing out a chicken leg salvaged from dinner. (CP PHOTO)



As I See It

By ELMORE PHILPOTT

THANKS, MR. HENTY

DID YOU EVER think how strange a thing is fate or destiny?

Almost all my life I have wanted to go to India.

As a boy I read every line I could get about it—mostly in the adventure books by G. A. Henty. Also, of course, in classics like Kipling's Kim, which is one of the finest books ever written in any language.

I must also confess that I LIKED army life. Of course, I hated the mud and blood and guts in the 1914-to-1918 war. My brain hated the senseless slaughter of fellow human beings. But for all that the army game suited me fine—the family life, or comradeship of a group living together: the thrill of achievement, say, in taking a unit and making it into something.

If I had not got shot up by the Germans at the very end of the First World War I would most certainly have joined the Indian army. By this time, if still alive, I would probably have been the prize Blimp of all Col. Blimps.

OLD G. A. HENTY certainly has the joke on me. I did not know till just now how much I owed to the old boy. For all I know I have been shooting Henty's ideas in this column for fifteen years past, and really thinking they were my own.

Here is one that I THOUGHT was my own brain child. I have been waiting for some suitable occasion to write a really witty piece about the English. I figured I would show the great contradictions in the Englishman's character: That he is obviously the best sportsman in all the world. If he wins, that's that; but if he loses he takes it with good grace. All the world knows that the above is true.

But here is the other side. A couple of hundred Englishmen and women will mount horses. They will let loose a great horde of lifelong-trained hounds and chase one poor tiny little fox over hill and dale, stream and forest—until the poor lone critter is cornered and killed.

Yet a well-bred Englishman would almost rather die than shoot a "sitting duck" which he needed for dinner. On the wing—yes, of course the Englishman will shoot anything that flies. But "sitting"—no air—the poor bird does not have a sporting chance.

As I say, I thought the above ideas were my own brain children. But just for fun I was looking over a boys' book on India, Through Three Cam-

New Treatment In Polio Case

OTTAWA (C)—Doctors at the communicable diseases unit of the Ottawa Civic Hospital are eagerly watching the recovery of 14-year-old Brian McSorley of Ottawa.

The youngster is beginning to swallow again and for Superintendent Dr. Alan Doane it is the most encouraging thing he has seen for some time. It means that he is succeeding in his attempt—the first ever made in Canada—to cure a bulbar polio victim by a method known as electrophrenic stimulation.

Brian was admitted to hospital Nov. 15 in a critical condition. He had paralysis of the muscles which control swallowing, was in a coma, and had a temperature of 106 degrees. A tube was inserted into his windpipe to drain the mucus and help him to breathe, but the lad stopped breathing.

He would normally have been put in an iron lung, but he happened to be in the care of one of two Canadian doctors able to treat him with electrophrenic stimulation.

The treatment requires a machine whose prototype was constructed at Harvard University by Professor Stanley Sarnoff and his wife. Dr. Doane first read about it last August in a magazine which published details of the cure of Bruce Plater of Ottawa, the first bulbar polio victim to be given the treatment.

HARVARD COURSE
Dr. Doane was given leave of absence to attend a course at Harvard. Sixty United States doctors and another Canadian doctor from Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., attended.

A machine was brought to Canada and Brian was the first patient in Canada to use it. Dr.

paigns, by G. A. Henty.

On page 373 I find that the hero, Lyle Bullen, astounds his hosts in England thus:

"Do you mean to say that you are not going to ride, Captain Bullen?" one of the ladies on horseback said.

"In the first place, Miss Morton, I am an infantry officer, and except for a few weeks when I am on the staff of Colonel Lockhart I have never done any riding. In the second place, I am forbidden to take horse exercise at present. Moreover, though no doubt you will despise me for the confession, I dislike altogether the idea of a hundred men on horseback and forty or fifty dogs all chasing one unfortunate animal."

"But the unfortunate animal is a poacher."

"Very well, then, I should shoot him as a poacher."

HENTY EVIDENTLY thought it was unparliamentary to hunt foxes in the approved English manner. But actually he did more than any writer of his time to condition the minds of a whole generation to kill their fellow humans—and take it all as part of patriotic duty.

Well, the whole history of the human race is one of gradually increasing consciousness. Moral ideas change with the centuries.

Wars and armies and power politics are not necessarily bad at one age of history. They become wrong when the minority begins to teach the majority that they are wrong.

Canadian Pianist Stresses Practice

WINNIPEG (C)—As you practice, so you will play," says Canadian pianist Gertrude Huntley Green.

She told interviewers here that is why she believes in "careful and calm practice."

Miss Green—Mrs. Jay Durand of Seattle in private life—was back in Winnipeg for her first concert here in seven years.

She said she has been giving concerts since she was "little more than a baby" and has played and studied in London, Paris and Dresden as well as North American cities.

Miss Green thinks pianists should study a second instrument. She studied violin with Viardot in Paris.

"It gives one a sense of line and phrasing that percussionists often lack," she said.

Doane and two internes worked on the lad day and night for a week, and at the end of that time Brian was able to breathe again without help. Since then it has been indicated that his capacity to swallow is returning.

"He is fully conscious and feeling fine," said Dr. Doane. "He is being fed by tube through his nose and into his stomach, but there is every hope now that he will be a perfectly normal boy again."

Dr. Doane's delight in the progress, however, is tempered by regret that he did not have the means to give electrophrenic stimulation earlier. Fourteen cases of bulbar polio died in Ottawa last summer.

There is, however, a slight snag to this treatment. It is useless if both phrenic (or breathing) nerves are damaged. One has to be in good working order to save the patient.

WANT TOWN HALL

THE PAS, Man.—The need of a town hall was stressed by Mayor H. F. Bickle at the year's first meeting of town council. The 39-year-old town is still without a building to house municipal offices but it is hoped to erect one in 1951.

Daily Health Hint

Heart diseases can not be brought on by strenuous exercise if the heart is young and healthy. However, it does put an extra strain on damaged or age-weakened hearts.

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RAY... Reflects and Reminisces

Britain's Labor government spent more than 10 million dollars growing peanuts on millions of acres in East Africa. It had been hoped that from this could come an abundance of needed fats and oils. But the whole scheme is now being scrapped. It wasn't what it had been cracked up to be.

Most of us welcome an occasional change of scene or society and confess to a yearning to "get away from it all." Jack Scott, on the Vancouver Sun, is home from a continental tour, after having motored all over America. He is being asked how it feels. It must be grand, say the questioners, to behold what you've always had an itching to see—to discover what is on the other side of the mountain.

Yet, suggests Scott, this urge to "get away from it all" can be disappointing. People are much the same. Some places, certain towns, different neighborhoods show a similarity. In fact, it's about as hard to get away from it all as it is to get away from one's self.

For military reasons, during the last war the names of certain seaports in Canada failed to appear. But there is no world struggle on now and hence no necessity to exclude names. Vancouver should be reminded of this. Wednesday, a story about aluminum development appeared. In reference to Kitimat it said the latter spot is about "20 miles south of the northern terminus of the CN." Sometimes it seems almost essential to have a surgical operation before it's possible to write Prince Rupert the way it should be written.

It's always been like that. Efforts have not been wanting, to play up Vancouver, at the expense of the north. If there has been any way to make it appear that Vancouver is the terminal, and this is the end of a branch line it's been tried repeatedly.

The touring Maple Leaf team from Lethbridge succeeded in trimming the champion German team, and in their own town of Fuesen, at that. It was a second straight victory. This sort of thing is becoming a habit.

A United States senator says he cannot understand why so much American money is being spent to provide a huge aluminum plant in British Columbia. Well, Senator, there is also almost endless water power in Alaska. Fact is both regions are very much alike.

CHIROPRACTIC FOR HEALTH

WHEN BABY ARRIVES

Nature is not always kind. Childbirth often leaves the mother in a serious condition. Every chiropractor is familiar with the story of the woman who dates her illness back to the time of delivery of her baby.

There is a reason for this. Towards the end of her pregnancy period, the joint cartilages of the pelvis soften to allow for greater expansion of this structure at time of delivery. This softening process often permits the spine to "settle" between the pelvic bones, laying the foundation for future spinal imbalance and distortion with its accompanying pains and nerve interference.

This condition is most easily corrected shortly after childbirth, but becomes set and more difficult to correct as time goes on. For this reason, the spine should be examined and if necessary put right as soon as possible after delivery.

Quite often Chiropractors are asked if there is any risk in treating the spine of prospective mothers, or soon after birth. The answer is, there is no risk in treatment, but there is much risk without it.

Mothers who have been attended by their Chiropractor through the entire period of pregnancy, and again soon after baby arrives, report they never were so well at birth time before. They usually go along fine the whole time, birth itself is easier, and the "pick up" afterwards is most heartening.

Chiropractors do not handle confinement or delivery, but stay strictly in their field, which is the vital field having to do with health and keeping the body functioning normally. Yes, if anyone needs to be fit and sound, it is mother when baby arrives.

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Inserted by the
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INDONESIAN PAPER STOCKHOLM (C)—A group of Swedish wood and pulp experts will visit Indonesia this year to set up a wood-pulp plant which is expected to make the country independent as a paper producer within a few years.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

VANCOUVER (C)—More than 1,000 persons arrived at International Airport today in 1951, in a record day in 1950, in a record 392,011 passengers. Air mail loadings also over the previous year.

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