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The Korean Situation

GENERAL MacARTHUR'S Easter Saturday remarks as he boarded his airplane at Tokyo to visit the front aroused rather more excitement than they need have done. For, surely, we should by now have become used, if not reconciled, to the general's fondness for discussing publicly what the State Department acidly describes as "political issues which are beyond his responsibility as field commander." It is an embarrassing habit—most of all, one surmises, to the U.S. government. But the general's utterances and the general's views are his own personal ones. They are not, as it were, ex-cathedra statements by the commander of the United Nations forces. They do not reflect or represent the views of either the U.S. government or the other governments taking part in the Korean operations or the United Nations Assembly.

What are those views at present? There is no reason to suppose that they have changed materially. It is known that for some little time the idea has been under consideration of issuing a new statement of policy—either by the Assembly or by the governments engaged in Korea. But there is no reason to suppose that this would be more than a restatement of the things already said: for nothing has happened to bring about any particular change.

The objectives remain the same. To put an end to the double aggression—the North Korean and the Chinese. To restore peace to devastated Korea. To assist in its rehabilitation. To ensure its independence and, if possible, its unity. To prevent the extension of war and the miseries of war to other areas. And to open the way for a general peaceful settlement of the Far Eastern problems.

That is the program. Whether it can be rapidly achieved must depend largely upon the attitude of the Peking government. Do Mao Tse-Tung and his colleagues wish to put an end to the fighting and seek for a peaceful settlement? Or do they still believe—as they certainly believed at the beginning of the year—that they can achieve a decisive victory and win what Kim Ir-Sen, the North Korean leader, has called a "battle of annihilation"?

There is a complete absence of direct evidence. It is now two months since the United Nations Assembly set up its "good offices committee." During this time, Mr. Entezam, its chairman, has twice inquired, through the Swedish ambassador in Peking, whether the Chinese government would be willing to discuss the possibilities of ending the hostilities, either with the committee or with him in his capacity as president of the Assembly. No answer of any kind has been given. No indication has come through any other channel. And the Chinese press and radio are in these days exceptionally reticent on the whole subject. That may mean that the Chinese Communist leaders are reconsidering the whole Korean situation: that they are thinking hard. Certainly they should be. For the military position has changed since they were so confidently expecting to "annihilate" the United Nations forces or compel them to a "Dunkirk" evacuation.

Two major Chinese offensives have been halted and broken. A third is now expected but it seems slow in developing.

This by no means suggests that the fighting strength of these armies has been broken. Far from it. But it does mean that the confidence of the Chinese leaders in the "invincibility" of their troops must have been somewhat shaken. Evan Stalin can hardly feel so completely confident today of the certainty of a decisive Chinese victory as he was when he gave his famous interview to Pravda.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins."—Acts 13:38.

Webster Ocean Falls Grit Head

Howard Webster was elected president of the Ocean Falls Liberal Association at the annual meeting last week. D. Potter was elected secretary. Frank Clark, Liberal organizer for central and northern British Columbia, was in attendance at

the meeting which drew a good-sized and enthusiastic attendance. Mr. Clark also visited Bella Coola, where R. E. Roberts is president, and Bella Bella, where Andrew Widsten is president. Mr. Clark made the trip from Bella Bella to Ocean Falls and Bella Coola by gasboat.

For Action, Advertiser

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

150,000 HEAR NEHRU

BOMBAY, India —My lucky star surely seems to be working on this trip. For among the things I had down as "must" was to attend a big meeting addressed by the Prime Minister. But my loop around the southern part of this vast land was arranged without knowledge of Mr. Nehru's Bombay visit.

I was one of a vast mass of about 150,000 people who went to Chawpatty beach on Sunday afternoon. This beach, by the way, is a famous spot where the great teacher, Gandhi, used to hold forth. I wondered how I would get in for there had been no time to arrange pass cards. In fact I had deliberately not informed the Indian Information people of my arrival. For I am doing two talks for the All-India Radio and the trouble is to get time to prepare them.

LONG BEFORE THE TAXI got me near the beach I saw something of the vastness of the assembling multitude. As the entire area was roped off I had to walk a few blocks. Politely young ladies prevented me from entering the "ladies only" section but shooed me forward. I found myself in the section reserved for M.L.A.'s of the Bombay Legislature and other invited guests.

The speaker's stand was 15 feet high. Above the microphones two electric lights blazed. I thought how silly to have them on in broad daylight. Actually the sun was well down and the western star shone bright over Nehru's head before the meeting ended.

PRECISELY AT 5:45 AS ADVERTISED the meeting began. There was a three-minute introduction. Then the Prime Minister arose and was decorated with the customary floral neck lool which, however, he removed.

Mr. Nehru spoke (in Hindi) for one hour and forty minutes. Usually he stood between two microphones, lightly holding the supporting rods of both. The loud speakers weren't working well at first. Maybe they had underestimated the size of the crowd. Anyway, from far back in the vast mass came a murmur, then a chant to the effect "We can't hear, we can't hear." Technicians did an emergency loud speaker improvement job and after about 10 minutes vastly improved the volume.

SURPRISING AS IT SEEMS, I could follow the general line of Mr. Nehru even before I read it later in English translation. That is because so many of the words and phrases are not translated (like Security Council, for instance).

He began by explaining why India had flatly rejected the latest move in the UN to reopen the Kashmir question. As in the case of branding China as the aggressor in Korea, India's stand was that these moves aggravated and not improved the situation. But he was caustically critical of the increasing number of people in India who talk about a "Third Force" unattached either to the western or eastern blocs.

Rightly or wrongly, this greatly strengthened the impression that has been growing on me ever since I came to India, that is that India's independent line is much misunderstood in the west. As I see it, India is as resolutely opposed to Communist aggression, or Red Imperialism if you prefer that term, as are the western countries. Where she differs is as to MEANS to deal with it.

MR. NEHRU WARNED THE thoughtful people that, welcome as they were, mere food grants from America would not solve India's problem. She had to have increased production. He gave examples of where and how they were getting it. But she also had to have population control.

(He did not stress the point which is the very heart of India's struggle.)

He was sharply critical of certain brilliant ultra-leftist weeklies for their loud cries about "civil liberties" because of detention of Communists attempting to wage violent war against the state. At this point there was a shrill heckle in female voice. It was (free translation): "Government should crack down on them," them being the leftist weeklies. I thought it was significant that when so interrupted Mr. Nehru involuntarily lapsed into English for a sentence or two. He said that in a democracy even critics of the



"Course I heard it! It's the theme song for prizefights and ball games!"

Report from Parliament

By E. T. APPLEWHITE, M.P.

A few sentences from an article in The Country Guide (Winnipeg) of March, 1951, are so interesting to me that I am going to repeat them here. They deal with the aluminum project. "Most of the opposition to the Kitimat enterprise, which would involve development of waterpower in the Nechako basin

THE LETTERBOX

RENTS REASONABLE

Editor, Daily News: There is too much irresponsible complaining about rents in this city. The Dominion Government publication, "The Labour Gazette" quotes rents in Prince Rupert for December, 1948 as ranging from \$20 to \$24; December, 1949 as ranging from \$21 to \$25, and for December, 1950 as ranging from \$22 to \$26. This represents an increase of 5% per year for the two years mentioned. Surely as compared with the rising cost of food, clothing, etc., rent costs in this city are very reasonable.

"STROMBERG"

HUH?

Editor, Daily News: According to the old chroniclers, England had a climate much like the Queen Charlottes a thousand years ago. It took the people of Britain a thousand years to develop the land and change the climate the wee bit necessary to produce corn and tomatoes. It looks like it may take that long to change the Graham Island summers that much if the starving residents continue to discourage settlement.

It is estimated that drainage and the clearing of forests will raise summer temperatures as much as 10 degrees. An industrial city will further increase the warmth by four to five degrees over the surrounding countryside. However, the winters may be somewhat colder than before. Fifty years ago the corn belt in the States barely reached into southern Minnesota. Today, corn is grown in northern Minnesota and up into Manitoba.

A pamphlet asserts corn and tomatoes cannot now be grown in the vicinity of Seattle on Puget Sound! I am told very fair roasting ears are grown in the vicinity of Vancouver. I hope that's right. It sure encourages our hog population.

As a matter of fact, tomatoes are occasionally grown in favored locations on the Queen (Continued on page 6)

VICTORIA REPORT

by J. K. Nesbitt

Coalition Will Last Another Two Years—Hospital Hike May Be Forgotten Then

VICTORIA.—The Coalition government will ride out the storm until another general election, two years from now. But it will be tough going. The storm is not yet showing any signs of going down. Indeed, they are many signs it will increase.

Members of the Legislature will go to their home ridings and that will start the arguments all over again. They will have to face their angry constituents and explain the government's shortcomings, which won't be easy.

The government's 8000 civil servants are seething because some deputy ministers and the Justices of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court got more money. So far, the government has refused to up the salaries of the rank-and-file civil servants and they're boiling mad.

The retired civil servants, too, can't get any more money and they can hardly be expected to vote for the government.

The teachers are mad because they claim their pensions are far too low. The newspapers are made because the government will do nothing about the liquor situation.

The general public is mad because hospital insurance premiums have been increased.

It is only fair, however, to say at this point that there is a lot of unreasonableness about hospital insurance. True, the government rushed it in as an election dodge, something like governments of old started railways and highways just before a test at the polls.

But just the same there's no denying that hospital coverage for a family for \$42 a year is dirt cheap these days—when a hospital bill could make \$1000 look mighty sick in a very short time. Everybody knows men and women who, in the past, were financially crippled by hospital bills—in a day, too, when hospital rates were not nearly as high as they are today.

In two years hospital insurance should be working fairly smoothly and, if the rates don't go up again, the public will have forgotten the present storm.

The future of the Coalition, of course, is another matter. It doesn't seem possible it can continue beyond another two years. The Conservatives are the ones who are suffering most at the moment. Bolting of W. A. C. Bennett of South Okanagan and Mrs. Tilly Rolston of Vancouver-Point Grey has left the Tories with but 11 seats in Coalition, compared to 23 for the Liberals.

Some Liberals now feel that one Tory minister should be dropped from the cabinet and that a Liberal take his place.

These are unhappy days for both Premier Johnson and Finance Minister Anscomb. The Premier is still suffering from his automobile accident last September. He has a heavy brace on his foot and must walk with two canes. In addition, he is bearing tremendous responsibility and, naturally, is worried. He doesn't know how to be a tough politician and hates to see people unhappy and fighting among themselves. The Premier today probably wishes that Gordon Wismer beat him for Liberal leadership—and the premiership—back in 1947. Wismer is a tough politician and knows how to knock the opposition down and enjoys doing it.

First test of public opinion at the polls will come at the Esquimalt by-election in mid-summer.

Until then the government will try and contain itself. Esquimalt will give an indication of how the political wind is blowing.

E. Mussellam of Prince Rupert will leave shortly to attend a conference of Great-West representatives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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