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As I See It
By ELMORE PHILPOTT
LAND OF CONTRASTS

LONDON.—Here are a few items which tell their own story of Britain in 1951:

1. The carcass meat ration is to be cut from 10 pence to 8 pence within a month—and pessimists say the cut may be to 6 pence.
2. The bed shortage in London hospitals is so acute that authorities admit that only one of three emergency cases can gain admission. (Those excluded do exactly what those excluded do in Vancouver.)
3. Fewer babies died in England in the last quarter of 1950 than ever before. The infant mortality rate was just 24 for every 1000 babies born.

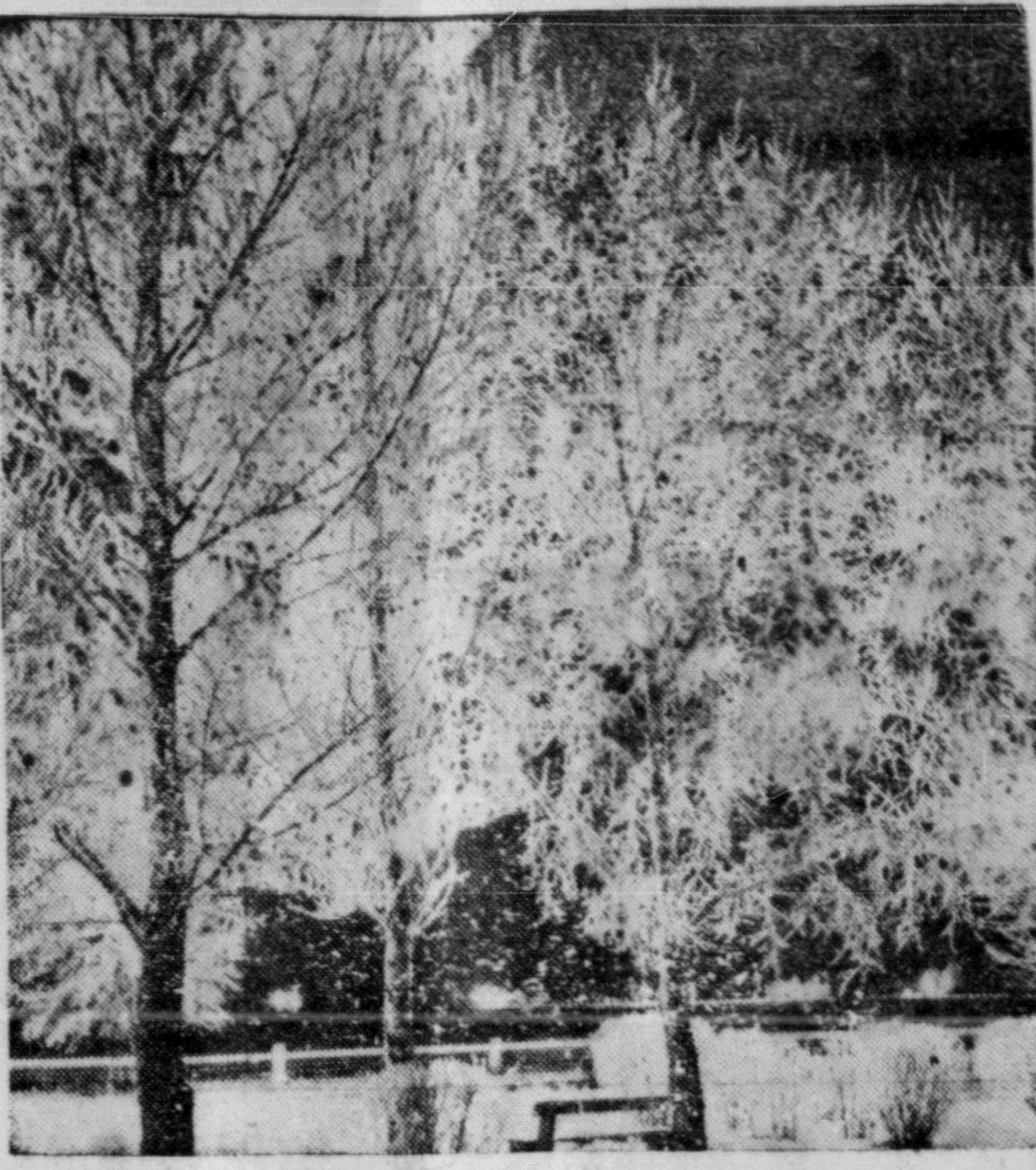
THE MEAT SITUATION here is really grim.
You can't really compare the British ration with what we buy in Canada, for food prices are subsidized by the government, just as they were in Canada in World War Two.
But the broad fact is that the British people are getting less than a dime's worth of meat per week. It seems to me that we in the British Commonwealth should hang our heads in shame at that fact. I am not now going into all the whys and wherefores of how we got this way. But the broad fact is that Australia, New Zealand and Canada could, between them, raise enough livestock to enable every person in Britain to obtain all the meat that dietitians say is necessary for good health.

WHY SHOULD Britain have to depend on beef from the Argentine?
It's a long story—but in the end it comes down to this:
At the beginning of this century, the British flag flew over about a fifth of the people of the human race, who occupied at least one-fifth of the land surface of the earth—and a most fertile fifth, at that.

Notwithstanding the world wars of the first half-century, January 1, 1951, saw the British world kingdom still covering immense areas, like Candy, capable of doubling, tripling or even quadrupling basic food production. Look what we did in the Second World War, when we made a cut-and-dried bargain with Britain.

Yet the Englishman of 1951—who, of all people in the world, was a beef-eater—cannot get enough roast beef per week to put in one eye.
THE SHORT RANGE cause of the near meat famine in Britain is the breakdown in the meat negotiations with Argentina.
In the old days, meat moved across the oceans of the world according to the law of supply and demand. Every country's money was changeable into other country's money.
But now trade is done on a bulk buying basis—government to government, not man to man. It is beside the point for Americans to cry: "Aha, we told you so—that's what you get under this Socialism." For the arch-capitalist U.S.A. has probably done more than the mildly Socialistic Britain to upset the old channels of trade on a truly free basis. The Marshall Plan was only one of the devices for achieving this result. Stockpiling of rubber, wool, cotton is by now an old American custom—not to mention such things as buying potatoes from U.S. farmer and then selling those same potatoes, dyed blue, for less than one cent on the dollar of cost.

TODAY IN FRONT of a London jewelry shop I saw a big sign reading: "We pay 69 shillings for sovereigns."
Now, as everyone knows, there are 20 shillings in the British pound, and a "sovereign" was a gold piece worth one pound.
The sign really means that the value of money has been debased to less than one-third its supposed worth. When kings debased the coinage in the old days, their wrathful subjects sometimes rose in revolt. Now the same trick is done in such a slick way that most people don't even know that there was a trick.



WINTER HANDIWORK—These lace-like, frost-laden trees were photographed on Calgary's North Hill. The photo was taken with a two-minute time exposure, the only light being that from a nearby street lamp. Photographer was Jack Le Lorme, photographer of the Calgary Herald. (CP PHOTO)

RAY... Reflects and Reminisces

More people with titles is what Canada needs more than anything else, says the Recorder, an English newspaper. There should be titles from coast to coast, representing business and industry, labor and art, on a broad and comprehensive scale. Thousands, deserving of honors, should receive them. But what's to be done with the peasantry?

Tact is the art of showing that you don't dislike a person as much as you do.—EX.

Prince Rupert has been promised by no less an authority than the postmaster general the early start of a mail delivery. At the same time comes announcement that, to cut expenses, deliveries in Canada will be once daily, instead of three times. If other cities protest, this one won't.

It was when the voice of Ald. Kirkpatrick was first heard in Prince Rupert that the usefulness and necessity of a ladies' rest room at City Hall was advocated. That's a long time ago. The accommodation, a great convenience then, should be even more so today. To what extent has it been maintained? It's obvious there are more tired-looking mothers and more babies in carriages and in arms than ever before in this man's town.

There are more Prince Rupert folks wearing wooden soles on their shoes and boots than one thinks. The wood, it seems, which is covered with rubber, has lasting qualities and should be of cedar. But ascending stairs is not so easy. Neither is dancing so graceful.

Thanks to our ancestors who, for countless centuries, ate generously, when they could get it of beef, mutton, bread, butter, eggs, pork and other food which tasted good to them, we have all inherited sufficient strength and stamina to stand present day dietetic fads for a while anyway.—Dublin Opinion.

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Canadian Pacific

Rent Control Lively Issue

OTTAWA.—Only three of the Canadian provinces have taken action to keep rental controls alive when the federal government abandons them April 30.

A fourth province—Newfoundland—is an exception, since it had its own rental controls in effect before it united with Canada in 1949 and still has them in operation.

A survey by Canadian Press in provincial capitals indicates that only in Quebec, Alberta and Saskatchewan have provincial authorities taken legislative steps to continue rental controls.

Other provinces either have no intention of entering that field or appear to be waiting to see whether the federal government might decide to extend the life of its controls.

However, authorities have given no indication they plan to seek continuation of their ceilings, despite the inflationary pressures building up in the wake of the country's expanding program of preparedness.

THIN CIRCLE
A typical atoll, Bikini in the Pacific, has a land area of 2.87 miles and a lagoon of 280 square miles.

LIVERISH?

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THE LETTERBOX

WRONG FISHING SYSTEM

Editor, Daily News:
We are killing the British Columbia salmon fish off, by allowing the wrong fishing system.

We trollers make our money on the three year old fish. When the spawn fish come in they are not biting. The spawn fish rush into the deep inlets where they wait for the creeks to rise.

The big seiners come and corner the spawn fish and scoop them up by millions. Still some of us wonder how we are killing the salmon off.

Cut the seiners off for the next four years and we will get our salmon fish back.
J. E. EMERSON.

EXCLUSIVE CLUB
The Jockey Club, which governs flat racing in England, has had a very exclusive membership for 200 years.

CATHOLIC ARCHITECT
Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, architect of the magnificent Anglican Cathedral at Liverpool, is a Roman Catholic.

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Canada The Peacemaker

IF A SETTLEMENT in the Korean situation should be reached soon it could well be that Canada may be thanked in large measure for its part in the negotiations. As a radio commentator observed yesterday, Canada's diplomats, led by "Smiling Mike" Pearson, have been observing no 40-hour week in their tireless efforts towards bringing an end to the conflict which now threatens to kindle the fires of World War III.

Canada may not be large in numbers. Her possibilities of actual war-making may not be great. Her defence ability may be limited, but at the peace table, her ingenuity and leadership are proving of high and effective order.

Letting "George" Do It

PRINCE RUPERT should be having skating these days on the centrally located and already partly prepared Gyro Ball Park site at Sixth Avenue and McBride if there was just the leadership to get the small amount of remaining preparatory work done. As a mater of fact, a fine week-end was missed when weather conditions were ideal for ice-making. Nobody took advantage of the offer of the civic public works department to make the necessary tools and equipment available.

Ambitious ideas have been expressed during recent days about the desirability of a skating and curling arena in Prince Rupert. It is not a very good testimonial, however, of the active support that might be expected when there is not even enough initiative or energy to get this outdoor venue ready when condition were propitious.

The trouble is that, in many things like this, there is a tendency to "let George do it." But sometimes there's not the "George."

Aneurin Bevan's Job

THE IMPACT of rearmament on British life is illustrated at the political level by the changes in the Attlee cabinet's "backfield." The most significant is that which puts Aneurin Bevan in the Ministry of Labor and National Service—Labor for short. Mr. Bevan since 1945 has been minister of health, heading an immense experiment in social welfare.

In Britain, as in other lands, the need to re-create a military balance of power as between East and West has forced hard choices upon the people. One of these is the choice between a rising standard of living and social benefits on the one hand and arms on the other—the old choice between guns and butter.

British labor must now face sacrifices and tolerate direction by government somewhat as it did during wartime. Mr. Bevan is the man most likely to succeed in making sacrifices palatable, since he is popular with the workers. He himself has had to become reconciled to the demands of rearmament. His main concern in the past has been to avoid inroads on the British social program. Now his main concern must be to direct British labor for a maximum rearmament effort.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you."—2 Peter 2:3.

Rev. E. A. Wright, D.D., left minister into the pastorate of the last night on the Chilcotin for First Presbyterian Church here Vancouver, where he will be inducted by the presbytery of West-

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Daily Health Hint

Immunization is the first line of defence against such communicable diseases as diphtheria, whooping cough and smallpox. Parents and guardians should not neglect their children in this respect.

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