

EUROPEAN PEACE

THINGS ARE LOOKING BETTER than ever before at the current United Nations and foreign ministers' deliberations at New York. The spirit of compromise between the major powers, particularly Russia, which had to come before anything could be accomplished, has been definitely on the make the last few days. The bickerings, which had worried the world and made us fear that nothing would be done over Europe's grieved problems, appear to be coming to an end in a real spirit of give and take and mutual understanding.

Despair, with which the most of observers appeared to have been permeated even though they would not have admitted it, is giving way to real hope. Of course, more difficulties may come up and there may be more clashes but it is now being shown that, if there is the will on all sides, the way can be found to settle serious problems. This is being shown in regard to the disposal of the peace settlement for Italy and the Axis satellites. Next on the list will be the major question of Germany.

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

WITH A CONTEST for the mayoralty now assured and several candidates already in the field to fill the aldermanic and school board contests, interest in the forthcoming civic election is looking up and that is a good thing. It is gratifying to see that a few good citizens at least are assuming the responsibilities of citizenship, if not the realization of the fact that they should be doing something to protect their own interests, by getting in the field themselves. Unfortunately, on the part of many, there is still very much of an attitude of "Let George Do It." Those who would take that stand should not be too critical after if George fails to do it. There are serious problems immediately ahead for this city and good talent is needed to meet them. It is time for progressive and forward looking thought and action. The days of merely carrying on are over. Possibly they have lasted too long already.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

MODIFICATION of the city building regulations as now being considered by the council is long since overdue and will be welcomed in building quarters. The present unwieldy and inappropriate regulations have hampered and even prevented the carrying out of reasonable extensions and improvements to existing structures. They have been a factor contributing in no small degree to the present deteriorated condition of many of the older frame buildings, owners having been practically prohibited from spending reasonable amounts in such work because of the extra costs involved in complying with the extraneous requirements of the regulations. Now, if something can also be

done to relieve certain other regulations such as those applying to electric wiring, which are said to come largely within the provincial purview of the fire marshal's department, it will open the way for improvement of many of the older downtown buildings which are now anything but a credit but which might be made much more presentable and comfortable if changes were made in the regulations so as to permit the making of modest improvements.

THE BOY SCOUTS

WITH THE ORGANIZATION of the Prince Rupert Boy Scouts' Association, the way is clear for another means of guidance along worthy lines of boys of the community. The intriguing activity of Scouting starts with the Cub movement which takes the boys at a very young age, carrying them along into the Scouts and through the teens. Scouting principles are high and activities useful and interesting. It is one of the youth activities which develops the proper attitude and training for responsible citizenship.

The movement is worthy of every support and, now that it is launched here again, the hope might well be that full advantage is taken of it and that not only one or two but several large and active groups may be formed.

Sea Cadets have long been an influence for good development of the boys of Prince Rupert. There is also room for a strong Boy Scout organization and the sooner it comes into being and function the better.

According to a survey by the Psychological Corporation in the United States, 85% of the people read one or more newspapers every day. This figure is considerably higher than that for magazines or books, movie attendance or radio listeners.

Tired of Talking to Friends? Why Not Dial Marie in France?

Do you get tired of talking to your wife or gossiping with your friends about town? Then why not try talking with someone in France . . . or Belgium . . . or England? Others have done it at a cost of only about \$15 plus tax.

Just what one would say to a person in France that would be worth \$15 was subject of deep contemplation on the part of a Daily News reporter after a curiosity call at the city telephone office where he learned that such things actually are done. It stirred up visions of high romance. It might go like this:

At the other end of the line a receiver lifts. It is in Marseilles, of course. Marie answers, "allo." You reply, "Hello." Between you and Marie there is 6,000 miles of wire and a moment of expensive silence. You met Marie, maybe, when you were in France some years ago. Talking to her was much easier then.

Behind Marie, probably gleaming over her shoulder, is Marseilles harbor, shining blue under a warm, Mediterranean sun. Romantic spot, but far away. Marie's voice is warm, too, as she asks about the cigarette situation in Canada. You tell her all about it.

Suddenly, you begin to feel a pain in the region of your pocketbook. Geography is wonderful but expensive. Then the operator tells you your time is up. Do you wish to continue? Your pocketbook says "no" and you echo the syllable, gratefully. A bit of a foolish thrill but nothing like the feeling that, say, a Frenchman would get out of talking to his transatlantic relatives, which was probably the story behind the real call. One can only guess. The telephone people do not reveal such things.

However, they do say that in recent weeks they have had one call put through to France, and two to England, Bournemouth, to be exact. Reception, according to Superintendent Bruce Love, has been good on all occasions.

Somebody in Belgium is going to get a real Christmas thrill on December 24, when a Prince Rupert resident puts through a call to that small country on December 24. So far, it is the only transatlantic Christmas call booked ahead.

Calls of this nature have cost from \$15 to \$16 plus tax, which in the case of a call to France,

amounted to 75 cents. Looking the matter over candidly, it seems rather cheap.

The long distance telephone record shows that calls are frequently made to practically every other city on the continent. The telephone staff anticipate a considerable increase in traffic between now and Christmas.

20 YEARS AGO

November 28, 1926

At a dinner given in his honor in the Commodore Cafe, Sir Henry Thornton, C.N.R. president, confirmed the 20 year lease on property which would, he said, be the site of a 140 room hotel here.

Members of the Prince Rupert Players' Club were busy rehearsing for the play "Mrs. Temple's Telegram" which they planned to present two nights in the Westholme Theatre.

Failure of the Board of Trade to provide seats of honor for the mayor and council members at the banquet for Sir Henry Thornton drew a resolution of censure from the aldermen at the "insult."

FORM ECONOMIC SOCIETY GEORGETOWN, British Guiana 1—A group of Georgetown women have formed a political and economic society to educate women in civic and political responsibilities, to run a magazine devoted to better womanhood and to educate the housewives in demanding better class goods from the merchant community.

LETTERBOX

FIREMEN AND FIRST AID Editor, Daily News:

In regard to the issue between the city council and the fire department regarding the requirement for First Aid qualifications. For the enlightenment of those to whom the matter might not be clear, I would like to define briefly the attitude of the Firemen's Association regarding this question.

1. This association recognizes the desirability of all firemen having a knowledge of elementary first aid and this knowledge is part of a fireman's curriculum.

2. This local has six members (three of whom have held industrial certificates in the past) who are anxious to take the course on a basis of extra compensation for the extra effort involved.

3. Delegates from this association are negotiating with the utilities committee to get an agreement of a permanent nature that will serve the interests of all concerned.

JACK FURNESS, delegate, International Association of Firefighters, Local 559.

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