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# Europe Unsettled

A series of post-war elections, new governments and upsets such as the continent has seldom seen in a 12-month period has kept the political life of Europe in 1946 in ferment with little settled by the end of the year.

Through western Europe there is a fierce ideological clash between the Communists, much stronger than before the war, and middle and right-wing groups—a clash demonstrated as clearly in France as anywhere.

During the year French electors went to the polls five times. First they rejected a proposed new constitution for their country and followed that up by choosing a new provisional government. This government prepared another constitution which was adopted in October, and the first general assembly of the Fourth Republic was elected Nov. 10.

The Communists emerged as the largest party, followed by the Popular Republican Movement, a centre group. The surprise of the general election was the defeat suffered by the Socialists.

Finally France elected the Council of the Republic—the second chamber with the Centrists obtaining a small majority. Now the Socialist, Leon Blum, becomes president-premier protem. Early in 1947 the new parliament meets to strike out on the new political highway, with prospects that it will be rough.

In Germany, democratic political parties were organized during the year in the four occupation zones and local elections took place, with the Social Democrats, a left-wing but non-communist group, leading the way in the British zone and the Christian Democrats, a centre party, in the United States area.

The Russians in their zone sponsored a fusion of the Social Democrats and Communists in a new Communist-dominated Social Unity party. High hopes were held for it by the Communists, but in Berlin municipal elections Social Unity took a beating from the Social Democrats in one of the biggest political surprises of 1946 Europe.

In Austria, where the Communists are very weak, a coalition government worked steadily through 1946 but it is hamstrung by the over-riding Four-Power Control machinery.

Italy rejected the monarchy and a coalition government was formed, with the Christian Democrats the strongest party. There is great political instability as the country awaits the final peace terms.

Greece saw King George II of the Hellenes go back to Athens after a plebiscite favoring his return, but outbursts of violence along the northern frontier, claimed by the administration to be Communist-inspired; failure to broaden the Athens government with the inclusion of middle and moderate left parties; and a Communist boycott of elections and parliament leave the country in a state of jitters.

The situation is unsettled in Belgium, one coalition government going under and another being formed with the Christian Democrats in opposition. King Leopold II remained in exile but the future of his throne is still unsettled.

In the Netherlands' first post-war election, the moderate Catholic Peoples' Party won, with Labor close behind.

Through the Scandinavian countries there is a general trend toward the moderate left.

The Communists in CzechoSlovakia won seats in the largest group of the general election but a coalition government was formed. In Poland the Communists dominate the new government.

Among other countries in the Soviet orbit, Yugo-Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria went Communist but Hungary still retains more western-style democracy in her coalition government than any of the other Balkan nations.

General Franco remains in the saddle in Madrid unaffected by the many verbal broadsides fired at him during the year but still facing crisis due to stand of United Nations.

* * * * *

## Terrace Progresses

ALTHOUGH more directly linked than ever with the city of Prince Rupert, business and administrative centre of the area and railway and highway terminal, the town of Terrace, 96 miles inland and first sizeable community of the central interior, is becoming more self-contained and self-servicing than before. The opening up there of a banking sub-branch, with the prospect that a full-fledged branch will be established as soon as volume of business warrants such expansion, is the latest sign of business progress and a well-justified one, too, since Terrace has become a more important industrial and agricultural centre than it ever was before.

In the way of community enhancement and service, the taking over of the great Army drill hall there as a civic centre at Terrace has been an important negotiation indeed. That the community will be able to maintain it satisfactorily is much to be hoped but it is quite a large undertaking and will require a lot of steady support and good management.

The establishment of a Red Cross outpost hospital for the community, which has long been so woefully in need of hospital facilities, is another most gratifying development and looks like a happy solution of that matter.

Terrace and its people are to be congratulated on their enterprise and spirit and the progress they are making. They are not settling into a postwar slump but are keeping up-to-date in the postwar reconversion.

# LIFE in this Prince Rupert

*by BIDDEE JINKS*

"Mamma! Is there really a Santa Claus?" A very serious, very little girl looked me straight in the eye.

"Why Dear? — why do you ask?" I parried for time. Even after seven years, this was too sudden.

"Because the kids at school say there isn't one. They say Santa never comes at all, it's just your Mummie and Daddy and—"

She stopped. Because she happened to be my baby didn't mean she was really a baby, because the serious little mind behind thos wide eyes would never forget my reply. I must above all, be truthful.

Would it spoil Christmas for you if Santa Claus wasn't exactly like you think? If he didn't come in a red sleigh, wearing a red suit, and with long white whiskers, would it make Christmas feel different for you Dear?"

"No-o!"

"Well then, I'll tell you a little secret. Shildren that say there is no Santa Claus are wrong. I have never seen him and neither have you, because you can't ever see him. You see, he is a spirit that roams over the whole world, particularly at Christmas time. So people give gifts to the ones they love because he gets into their hearts and makes them want to make others very happy —and we parents are most susceptible," I added to myself.

"Oh!" She bounced onto my knee. "Then it is you and Daddy that fill my stocking! And it was you and Daddy that gave me my carriage and my white fur muff!"

"Yes Dear." I watched her almost fearfully. Was she terribly disappointed? Instead, a broad smile circled her small round face.

"And I thought all the time it was just Santa Claus that brought them!" she announced jubilantly.

In that moment I chose my "orchid" of the year—perhaps a lifetime. Never once had I thought a small child might compare "just Santa Claus" and myself and find my stealthy, midnight activities, my gifts, my choice of stockings more desirable than those of the jolly rotund figure who had lived so glowingly in their imagination since cradle days.

But somewhere, the spirit of Saint Nicholas was made glad. When he lived on earth as the man Nicholas, it was his pleasure to make others happy, and to do it secretly. He started this practice early in life and the remainder of his days bore the marks of this early decision. Which, of course, is true of every life. We may not choose so wisely indeed at all, but mature years only register and emphasize the course chartered by a youthful hand.

Saint Nicholas was a wealthy young man who admired the Man, Christ, and the principles of living which he taught to the simple folk, to the needy, to those disheartened. Nicholas read and devoted his life to following the example of the Christ.

One evening as he was returning home he heard weeping within a house he was passing. He stopped to listen and heard a father attempting to comfort his three daughters on the eve of being homeless. The family had lost their livelihood and on the following day would face poverty and disgrace.

Nicholas went home and returned again to the distraught house. Silently he slid a gold bar inside the door and withdrew. Three times on consecutive nights, he made his mysterious visit, and each time he left an identical gift. His happiness in their joy was so great that he continued to secretly give gifts, or slip coins into needy homes.

Nicholas died, and was buried as any other man. But after his death, people began to speak of him as Saint Nicholas. His kind deeds inspired others to give with no thought of reward. The spirit of his love to mankind gradually swept the world and people gave gladly and attributed the gift to Saint Nicholas, or, to Santa Claus.

Finally this exchange of gifts was practiced on the eve of a day held sacred by Saint Nicholas, the day commemorating the birth of Christ, saviour of the world. Because He came in love, Nicholas loved, because He gave with no thought of reward, Nicholas gave.

Although centuries have passed, mankind has not changed. Therefore, there are needy, there are those of a broken heart—and there are those of us who may choose, att his time of year, indeed throughout the year, "to be kind, one unto another."

# LLOYD MORRIS APPRECIATED

**Presentations Made to Popular Local Radio Announcer on Leaving for Vancouver**

Before he sailed Saturday night on the Camosun for Vancouver to which city he has been transferred in the service of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation after having been announcer at station CFPR for several years, no less than three presentations were made to Lloyd Morris as tokens of appreciation of his work here and best wishes for the future. The Junior Chamber of Commerce, of which he had to relinquish the presidency on leaving Prince Rupert, made him the gift of a beautiful framed and colored aerial view of a local scene. Gift from the Prince Rupert Gyro Club, of which he was a popular and active member, was an engraved cigarette lighter. Members of the staff of CFPR made the presentation of a fine pipe.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE "ADMINISTRATION ACT"
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF OLE KORNELIUS OLSEN, DECEASED, INTESTATE

TAKE NOTICE that by Order of His Honour Judge W. E. Fisher, Local Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, I was on the 28th day of November, 1946, appointed Administrator of the Estate of Ole Kornelius Olsen, who died on or about the 10th day of September, 1946. All persons indebted to the said Estate are required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to me forthwith and all persons having claims against the said estate are required to file them with me properly verified on or before the 31st day of December, 1946, failing which distribution will be made having regard only to such claims of which I shall have been notified.

DATED at Prince Rupert, B.C., this 28th day of November, 1946.
GORDON F. FORBES,
Official Administrator,
Prince Rupert, B.C.

## Devon Folk Have Unique Language

EXETER, Devonshire, Eng. (AP) —No one in Devon can explain why farm folk should have a language different from the rest of England that gives stubble land the name of "arrish" and makes thistles into "dashels."

Among birds, the yellow-hammer is the "gladdie," the mistle-thrush a "homescreech" and the wren a "ranny." The sea-trout is a "truff" and a trap never is set but always "tilled" or "teeled." A tree stump is a "mote" and a ewe becomes a "yaw." A bullock suspected of tuberculosis is known as a "steady doer."

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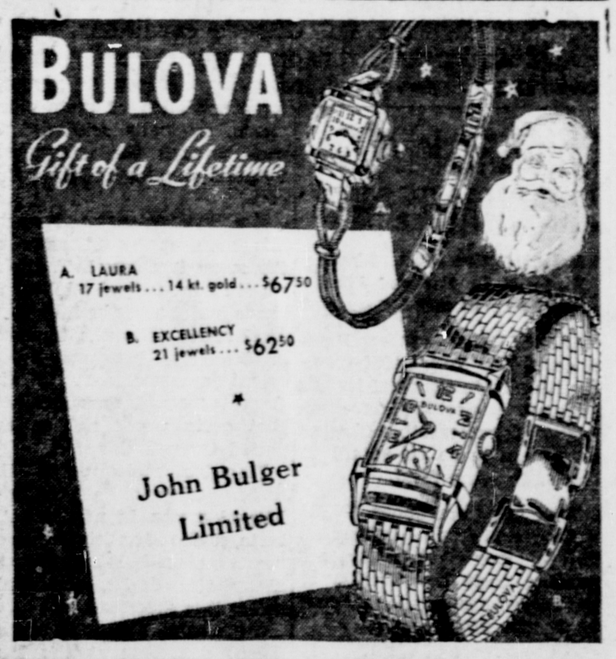

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