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G. A. HUNTER, Managing Editor. H. G. PERRY, Managing Director. MEMBER OF CANADIAN PRESS - AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CANADIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION Am independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and all communities comprising northern and central British Columbia.

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## Waterfront Fire Tragedy

AA OST TRAGICALLY unfortunate aspect of the We waterfront explosion and fire on Friday was that it cost two valuable lives and caused extremely serious and painful injuries to other victims. The incident, on the other hand, had its compensating phase for, had it occurred under circumstances such as at times prevail, it might have swept the waterfront with much more disastrous consequences than the partial destruction of an oil dock and the loss of one fishing vessel.

While the inquest which has been started into the incident may or may not definitely establish the cause of this blast and whether or not the exercise of certain precautions might have averted it, the affair focusses attention on the desirability of the utmost of care on vessels using highly combustible or explosive fuel. It may or may not have been that this was a case of familiarity breeding casual contempt of possible danger but it at least causes reflection along that line which in itself may have good effect. There is, undoubtedly, tendency sometimes to be careless around gasboats although there is nothing brought out, as yet, to indicate such was the case here.

In the Lorna H. incident the city fire department did a good and valiant job with the resources at its command-resources of equipment which, under possible different circumstances, might have been pitifully futile even with the utmost valor and resourcefulness.

If the tragedy of the Lorna H. may have any sequel towards preventing further incidents of the kind, there will have been at least some consolation to the whole sorrwful affair.

#### WAR SEEN SURE

IIOUR ONLY CHANCE to avoid open war with the Soviet Union is to organize the world's free peoples to resist Soviet imperialism . . . Time is running out against us." So warns William C. Bullitt, former Ambassador to Russia and France, in The Reader's Digest for June. The article is condensed from The American Mercury.

Victory in World War II, Bullitt says, brought us the realization that "the aims of Hitler and the Japanese militarists are united in the person of Stalin." With virtually all of eastern Europe already under Soviet control, and the rest of the Continent gravely threatened, the author holds that the "vital concern" of the United States is to prevent Stalin from uniting Europe, Asia, and Africa for a "final assault on the Western Hemisphere."

Appraising our foreign policy since 1941, Bullitt charges it with "ignorant and reckless disregard of the vital interests of the American people . . . One of the most disastrous errors in history was to treat the Soviet Union as a peace-loving democracy instead of as a predatory tyranny bent on world conquest."

In Stalin's tactics today, Bullitt sees a parallel te Hitler's aggressive pre-war moves. "Our position now singularly resembles that of France in 1936." he says. "Ill-informed Frenchmen believed that Hitler never would attack France-just as today stargazers argue that Stalin never intends to harm the United States."

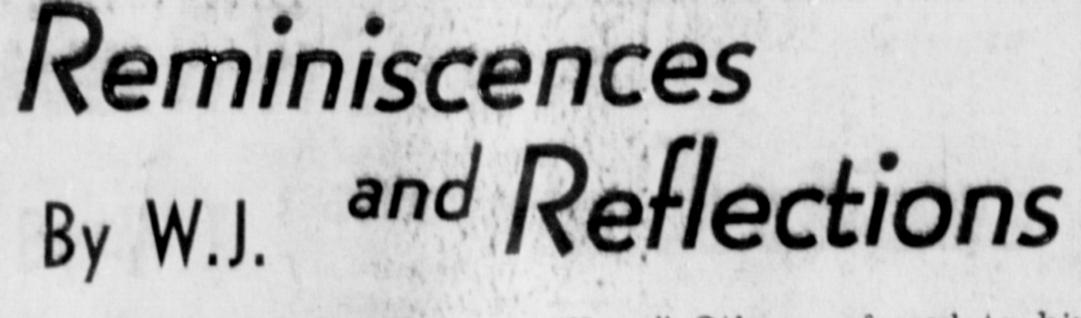
To Greece and Turkey, "where the deadline of disaster is visibly close, President Truman rightly gave first priority." France should be next on the agenda for U.S. support, Bullitt contends, for "control of France by Stalin would mean a Communist Europe." The Communist Party, while not in the majority, is the largest single party in France and already holds the ministries of National Defence, Labor, Health, and Reconstruction. It controls a substantial part of the French air force, and its "well-armed underground military units contain more men than the regular army in france."

Militarily, Bullitt warns, a Stalin - controlled France would put the Soviet air force at Casablanca and Dakar, and in French Caribbean and Canadian islands--close to the Panama Canal and the St. Lawrence River. "England, facing the prospect of Russian rockets, could hope to survive only as a large bomb-torn Malta."

Bullitt urges all possible U.S. aid to leaders of the non-Communist majority of the French Parliament if they should decide to combine in a single party against Communism. A democratic France, he holds, is the surest means of binding the European democracies for their own defense-"which is our defense."

Our help to free states must consist of superior force, the author says, "not merely military and economic but the force of ideas. We have freedom to offer the world. In the field of ideas, freedom is our atomic bomb."

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The only former president of | "Ham." Others referred to him public remarks.

But there was nothing stilted. He did not generalize unduly. He was pleasant, seemed to know what would interest the people of Canada, indulged in timely witticisms and, with a deep chuckle, remarked that on his return home "he hoped to shed the light of his intellect on his fellow countrymen."

That chuckle was almost meledins. It started, suparently, Clad in flowing rubes, Avak, well below his ample waist and heal through prayer, is shown | rich and mellow. It was, in fact,

"THE HEALER" ARRIVES-

on his arrival in New York. He

is enroute to California at the

invitation of Vaughn Arake-

lian, a wine producer whose

son is ill. He was greeted by a

large group of Armenians.

hand and touch his garments.

Classified Advertising Pays!

Prince Rupert. Folks called him son from Victoria, and a morn-

the United States to spend a day as old "I Might State" because in Prince Rupert was the late he had an inborn fondness for William H. Taft and he spoke using that expression from at a luncheon held under the the public platform. He was Welch & Stewart's teamer in conauspices of the Canadian Club portly, below average height, struction days was an experience presided over by the late Judge grey, and was never known to be worth waiting for. So was the F. McB. Young. Mr. Taft had in ill-humor, and was insensible thrill of voyaging back, about come to the coast as one of a to defeat at the polls. Once he 'umpteen times as fast. Hazelton 206 distinguished commission charg- managed to capture 13 ballots was head of navigation. Bucking ed with appraising Grand Trunk but he ust chuckled and remark- the ceaceless force of a powerful Pacific values. This was the ed that a lot of his friends were mountain stream took all any time Canada was wrestling with hars and they would hear from boat had. But going or coming. her railway problem and there him again. And he was right was the spice of adventure. From was much to do. A general elec- for if he knew how it felt to be the deck one could study all tion was pending in the United licked, he not infrequently tasted there was to see of both sides of States, Woodrow Wilson lived the satisfaction of winning. the Skeena—the same today as Building and Repairs of all kinds P. N. Kilborn in the White House and it is Douglas was a natural-born op- then. Peak behind peak, endless easy to realize that Mr. Taft did timist with considerable com- forests, the glint of glacier waternot neglect discretion in his mon sense and alive to oppor- falls so lofty they were phantom tunity. Once during a campaign like, and threads of mist driftmeeting in the Empress Theatre | ing among the crests of the disthe had occasion to make a re- ant ranges. Scenery and risks?

mark concerning dancing.

"Try me." nlump man did exactly that, it human lives. a neat and nimble manner. Ham always said it helped elect him.

Once, when anything seemed possible, three daily newspapers an Armenian who is reputed to welling upward, finally emerged actually existeed in Prince Rupert for a while. Seems incredible! Yet, cross m'heart and take a vow 'twas a fact. First (and When a man "has a way with not exactly wanted) came the him" and likes to run for some Empire which entered into rest sort of office, he is aut to risk at the end of 40 years. Also early being elected. Such a citizen was in the field came the Optimist, many of whom tried to kiss his Hamilton Douglas whose name later to become known as The will be found duly recorded Daily News. And there was yet among the aldermen of early another, fathered by O. H. Nel-

ing sheet at that. It did business on Third Avenue just east of Mc-Bride Street and was called The Journal. It struggled manfully along but fate must have ordained that when two make company, a third is nothing short of being a crowd. And fate decided which would be the crowd in this case.

Fighting one's way up the Skeena River aboard a Foley, Lots of each. Guiding a steamer "Can wou dance, Ham?" in- through Kitselas Canvon, for BOAT CONSTRUCTION ouired someone sitting down in examples, calls for cool head and steady hands. It was there the Mount Royal crashed between And then and there the little frowning walls, and that cost

Classified Advertising Pays!

## EARLY NEWS WELCOME

Local news items, to ensure publication, should be in the office by 10 a.m. Contributors are asked to bear this in mind. Items of social and personal interest are always welcome.

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