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"T'LL MARCH WITH YOU IF I MUST..."—by Robert Chambers in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald. (CP PHOTO)

FUTURE IS QUESTION— Serious Problems Shadow Britain's Christmas Joy

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Frank H. King, who covered the Royal visit to Canada in 1939 after heading the London bureau of the Associated Press, now is general executive for AP at Dallas, Texas. Here is his picture of English life on a return visit to see his son, a Rhodes scholar.)

By FRANK H. KING

LONDON (AP)—Christmas, even in late fall, is in the misty air of England. The best Christmas for many a year. One more good one, perhaps, and then a big question mark. Britain's problems are piling high. The year ahead will be critical.

But this year, with Christmas a few weeks away, London's teeming shopping streets can hardly hold the people. Sidewalk artists, pavement musicians and the tail-end of the tourist horde are jostled in the crush while the big red double-deck buses, run almost bumper to bumper ferrying more humanity to the stores.

Oxford Street, long and straight, funnels its crowds through the great curve of Regent Street to smart Piccadilly. The most appetizing sign in London is in Piccadilly, a huge steaming Christmas pudding, with real steam. The gentlemen clerks in a grocery there have survived bombs and social revolution. They still wear formal dress and have courtly manners.

Hear the conversation before a shop window packed with goods as only a London window can be stacked:

"I must buy all my little gifts today, my dear, before everything is sold."
"But it isn't like last year. There's plenty for all, my dear. Isn't it wonderful?"

ON THE SURFACE
It's wonderful on the surface. And after what the British have been through the last 10 years, who would have the heart to tell an eager, early Christmas shopper to go home and look below the surface of her welfare state economy?

"Look below the surface of your own economy in the

ness through rising prices, inflationary trends, strikes and the impact of world problems is the great concern of his Labor government.

His worries and his government's include:
Increased living costs, inflation threats, wildcat or "unofficial" strikes, Labor's precarious parliamentary majority, high-priced rearmament, costly state social services such as the national health plan; housing, food resources and reserves, world markets and increasing world commodity prices.

The bright spot in the picture is the steadiness of devalued sterling in the money markets of the world. Gold reserves of the sterling area have doubled in a year, but all reports that the pound will be revalued upward are denied. Such a step now would mean the loss of benefits which low exchange gives in aiding British exports and putting a brake on imports.

Some time soon the English workers will forget for an hour or so about greyhound and horse racing, his garden patch and the local "pub" to check with a vote on his member in the House of Commons.

From Prime Minister Clement Attlee one gets the impression he will not seek a general election before February at the earliest. This writer lunched with Attlee and American correspondents in London and asked him many questions. Attlee's great sense of responsibility for his share in world affairs is evident and the problems of Russia and China, particularly China, are of great concern. He believes what happens in Korea will help peaceful settlements with Russia.

SHADOW OF WAR
What do the people talk about in England?
Not much about war. Although the shadow is dark, British leaders believe another great war can be avoided. They have universal military training. Their rearmament program has gone as far (Continued on page 7)



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Payment On Sewer Work

The city having received a bill from contractors Mitchell & Currie for \$24,000 in connection with Cow Bay sewer outfall construction, payment of \$11,872.26 was recommended in a report of the board of works at the city council Monday night. Payment will be made to the contractors through city solicitors, Brown & Harvey.

Due to unforeseen construction difficulties, the contractors are in default in completion of the contract which was due October 31. Owing to rock formation difficulties the contractors were given an eight-way extension in the contract.

The motion of the board of works for the payment of \$11,872.26 to Mitchell & Currie was carried with the following terms and conditions:

(a) that the payment is tendered by the city and accepted by the contractors without any prejudice to the city's claim that the contract is presently in default;

(b) that the consent of the bonding company to such payment, without prejudice, is first obtained;

(c) that the city solicitor take any further steps which he may deem requisite to protect the interests of the city.

Upon questioning, from Aid. Glassey, Aid. Casey explained that the bill for \$24,000 received by the city from Mitchell & Currie was for work not yet paid for.

Ald. Casey recommended that the city engineer check all the work up to date.

"Although the profile of the tunnel where the contractors are having difficulty showed only fill, this has been found to be solid rock. We agreed to allow for the rock about, I think, \$12 a yard," Ald. Casey said. "But the city will be protected in every way," he explained to Aid. Glassey who "didn't want to see the city on the spot."

Agreement On Float Operation

The Prince Rupert Aero Club has proposed to the city an agreement covering operation of Seal Cove floats by the club but under actual city jurisdiction.

The Prince Rupert Aero Club shall act as custodians.

The Prince Rupert Aero Club shall invoice and collect rents.

The city will take out insurance.

The Prince Rupert Aero Club will be responsible for repairs and extensions.

A meeting will be held by council with the Club on the matter of the agreement.

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Born at Sea—

Stork Lands On Boat Again

Second Birth Within Recent Days Aboard Fishing Vessel

Storks and ambulance drivers are working overtime. The second baby boy to be born aboard a gillnetter was welcomed into port at Cow Bay by Robert Parks and J. C. (Jock) Ewart of the city fire department with the ambulance at 9:30 Monday night.

The mother, Mrs. Vera Spence, was coming from Port Simpson when the stork again alighted aboard ship. He had recently made a rush trip to the Prince Rupert harbor to the power vessel Cecil W., bringing a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Gus Collins of Port Essington.

The stork's visit to the Spence boat had the new boy's grandmother officiating as midwife. The father and a young girl were also on board. Mr. Spence, who dundled the baby into the ambulance last night, found that, after four children, there is still quite a strain on the father.

Mrs. Spence and son are doing well in Prince Rupert General Hospital.

C.N.R. Express Man Retires

WINNIPEG—Concluding a railway career that carried him from the driver's seat of a horse-drawn express wagon to the office of general superintendent for the Canadian National Express Company, S. E. "Cy" Brennan has retired to private life. Mr. Brennan finished his official work over the week-end and turned over his duties to his successor, R. A. Gordon, formerly superintendent of the Atlantic division.

Mr. Brennan got his first job as a driver on one of the company's express wagons in North Bay in 1905 and worked his way steadily up the ladder until a few years ago was promoted to general superintendent of the western region.

Prior to his retirement Mr. Brennan was presented with a radio photograph and records, with a clock for Mrs. Brennan, by his regional staff. On Saturday he was guest of honor at a gathering of the officers of the region and presented with a purse.

Mr. and Mrs. Brennan will continue to reside in Winnipeg.

COMBINED FESTIVAL
LONDON—Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Nonconformists in Britain combined to hold a Christian Arts Festival this month featured by a display of historic Bibles, contemporary Christian art and religious drama and film.

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