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Paying For Government

CHARLES F. KETTERING, American inventor, thinking fundamentally when making out his income returns, said: "One of the things we have to be thankful for is that we don't get as much government as we pay for."

It is difficult for most of us to realize just how much government we do get and still harder to realize how much we pay for it. Some of the things we purchase through our government are obvious while some are obscure. Government builds roads and schools for us. Government hires the policemen and the firemen. Government provides the postal services. Government provides the elections. In all these matters government is our servant. We provide the cash, the government provides the services. Government also provides health services and social services.

Because so much of the money for government is cash we never see, the inclination might be sometimes to think somebody else than ourselves is paying the freight. The truth, of course, is that any Canadian who earns or spends a dollar is contributing to the cost of government. We pay income taxes, real estate, excise taxes, amusement taxes, sales taxes. We pay taxes to federal, provincial and municipal governments. In 1950 we will pay total tribute of about three billion dollars. We will get roads, schools, policemen, social services, hospital treatment etc., as well as controls, bureaux and plenty of red tape.

Yes, as Kettering says, "it may be that one of the things we have to be thankful for is that we do not get as much government as we pay for."

LOOKING FOR A SCAPEGOAT

A disappointed group in the B.C. Tory party is reported getting ready to try and oust the Hon. Herbert Anscomb as leader says Vancouver News Herald.

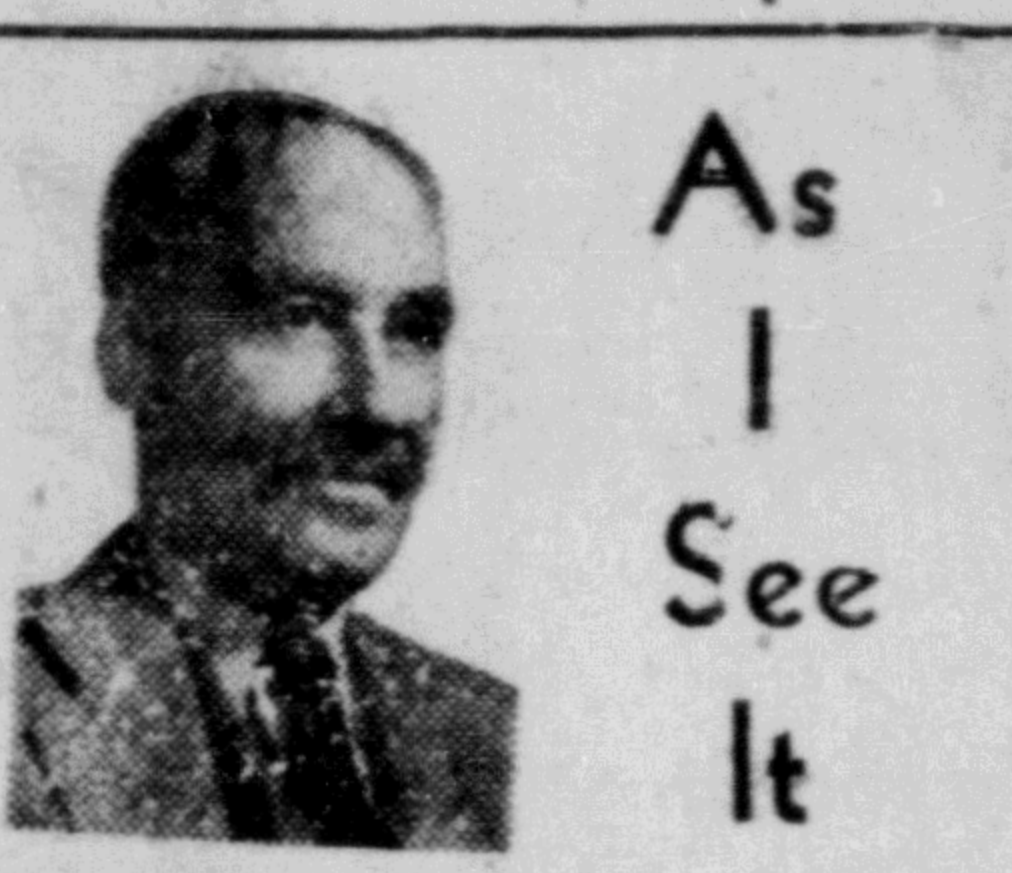
This group feels Mr. Anscomb let the Tories down because he wasn't able to get more Coalition seats than the Liberals.

This thesis, of course, is nonsense; fact that the Tories came out as second fiddle to the Liberals had nothing whatever to do with Mr. Anscomb. It was because this country just didn't want much to do with Toryism. The people emphatically said so in two general elections less than a year ago.

The Conservative party would be well advised to stick to its leaders for a few years on end. Toryism in Canada has been notorious for hiring and firing its chieftains. This policy has brought the party nothing but grief.

This newspaper certainly doesn't support Mr. Anscomb's Tory policies, but in all fairness it would point out there has been nothing wrong with Mr. Anscomb's leadership of the Tory party. He has been forthright and honest in enunciating Tory principles; he doesn't believe our industrial development should be subjugated to the demands of social services and education and bluntly he says so. Nor does he believe his party should hide its old-fashioned ideas with slogans designed to fool the public and trying to make us think the Tories have gone modern.

Gen. George Pearkes and E. Davie Fulton, B.C. members of the House of Commons, are mentioned as possible successors to Mr. Anscomb. Both are estimable politicians, but there's no reason to believe they can pull the Tories out of the political mire in which they're wallowing, any more than Mr. Anscomb can. The B.C. party would do itself harm if it raised a great hullabaloo and kicked Herb. Anscomb out.



As I See It

By ELMORE PHILPOTT

SPANISH BOYS SAIL.

THE TWO SPANISH boy refugees, Angel Parra and Enrigue Montenegro, are now safely on their way to Guatemala. They sailed on May 5 from Montreal aboard the Canadian ship "Avesel." With the help of the Immigration Department, their friends were able to have them signed on as seamen. Hence the expense was less than we originally figured.

The donations sent in, by readers of this column and others, were ample to pay all costs. The boys were given money to buy themselves clothes. Funds have also been sent to responsible parties in Guatemala City to pay modest living expenses of the lads until they can get established in their new homeland.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

It was wonderful the way the people of Canada responded to this case, when they heard about it.

The boys were already on the train, en route for New York and thence back to Spain, before I had a chance to write about it in my regular column and in other papers, including the Toronto Star.

Readers bombarded M.P.'s and cabinet ministers with telegrams, phone calls and letters. The result was that, whereas on the Monday the Department flatly refused to consider reopening the case, on the Tuesday the Prime Minister himself had been persuaded to intervene.

The committee headed by young Henry Hicks of Vancouver did wonderful work, especially in the arranging of the passport to Guatemala.

THERE WAS ONE minor blurb on the otherwise fine record. In a statement to the House of Commons Hon. Walter Harris cast some doubt on the accuracy of the story told by the boys. They claimed to have deserted from such and such a Spanish cruiser, he said. Yet investigation in Spain showed that said cruiser had not been in Barcelona at the time of alleged desertion. Hence, the Minister replied, the boys were faking their stories.

FRIENDS OF THE boys in Vancouver had overwhelming evidence that the boys' stories were true. This evidence included letters written by the boys' mothers in Spain repeatedly mentioning their service in the Spanish navy. These mothers are strangers to each other.

The fact was that the boys deserted after a ceremonial parade in which they were forced to stand stiffly for three hours. One lost his temper when bawled out by a bullying officer.

The indignation of the Franco government's representatives at the refusal of Canada to hand these boys back also tells its own story. If anybody was fibbing, it was not the lads.

I WISH I COULD REPORT SO happily on the case of the two North Korean boys who fled to South Korea, and then came to Vancouver as stowaways.

Friends are willing to guarantee their keep provided they are admitted to Canada as students. The Minister has so far refused to give this permission. Seems a shame to me.

The Spanish boys were victims of a fascist government. The Koreans are refugees from Communist rule, which they claim was intolerable. Seems to me we should turn down no refugee—provided we can admit them without harm to our own people as is surely the case with the Korean students.

Advertise in the Daily News. It's business wise to advertise.

JOHNNY'S Jottings

A letter to the Travel Bureau of British Columbia:

Dear Sir: I am wondering these days if it is possible to publish a travel folder not along quite the same lines as has been done in the past. With the tourist season coming up, I have developed an idea which you may take into serious consideration. In the past, we in B.C. endeavoured to pull the United States tourist into British Columbia to marvel at the magnificence and beauty of this province. This has been all very well. But I think I have a better idea.

It is in reference to education. Do not get me wrong, I do not intend to ask the government to set up schools for U.S. tourists. Although they may need to be educated, that is not our business. And besides, matters of such nature cost too much.

I do mean education, but of a different nature.

For instance, let us tell them that northern B.C. is not tickling the North Pole and that, if they come up here, no department stores sell parkas. Also, we speak English up here, and added expense for an interpreter is not needed.

What about mentioning that when they reach the international border, the grass is still just as green. Anyway, no snow is possible near Vancouver (previous to 1950).

A friend told me to mention that Indians in this territory play basketball, softball, ping pong and pool. They dance to orchestra music and are just as smart as the American tourists.

Print the fact that although we have Doukhobors in southern B.C., our province is very modest. (I cannot preach definitely on this matter as I have not visited the interior of the State Theatre in Vancouver lately.)

This type of information in a travel folder is very important as I have noticed that American tourists are easily fooled. No, you cannot sell them the Lions' Gate Bridge but maybe they will believe you when you tell them that Vancouver is a clean city. They may also be stumped by a statement that New Westminster is not a suburb of Vancouver. This has stumped many people.

And, in the new folder, I would like to have it pointed out that any city in Canada is just as good as Victoria; although this should not be stressed as we are only dealing with British Columbia.

Also, do not hesitate to state that Prince Rupert's graveyard is not overcrowded. Talk of such nature by means of word contact has scared many tourists. Tell them, if you wish, that there is lots of room.

Yours sincerely,

FOR SAW IT IN THE NEWS!

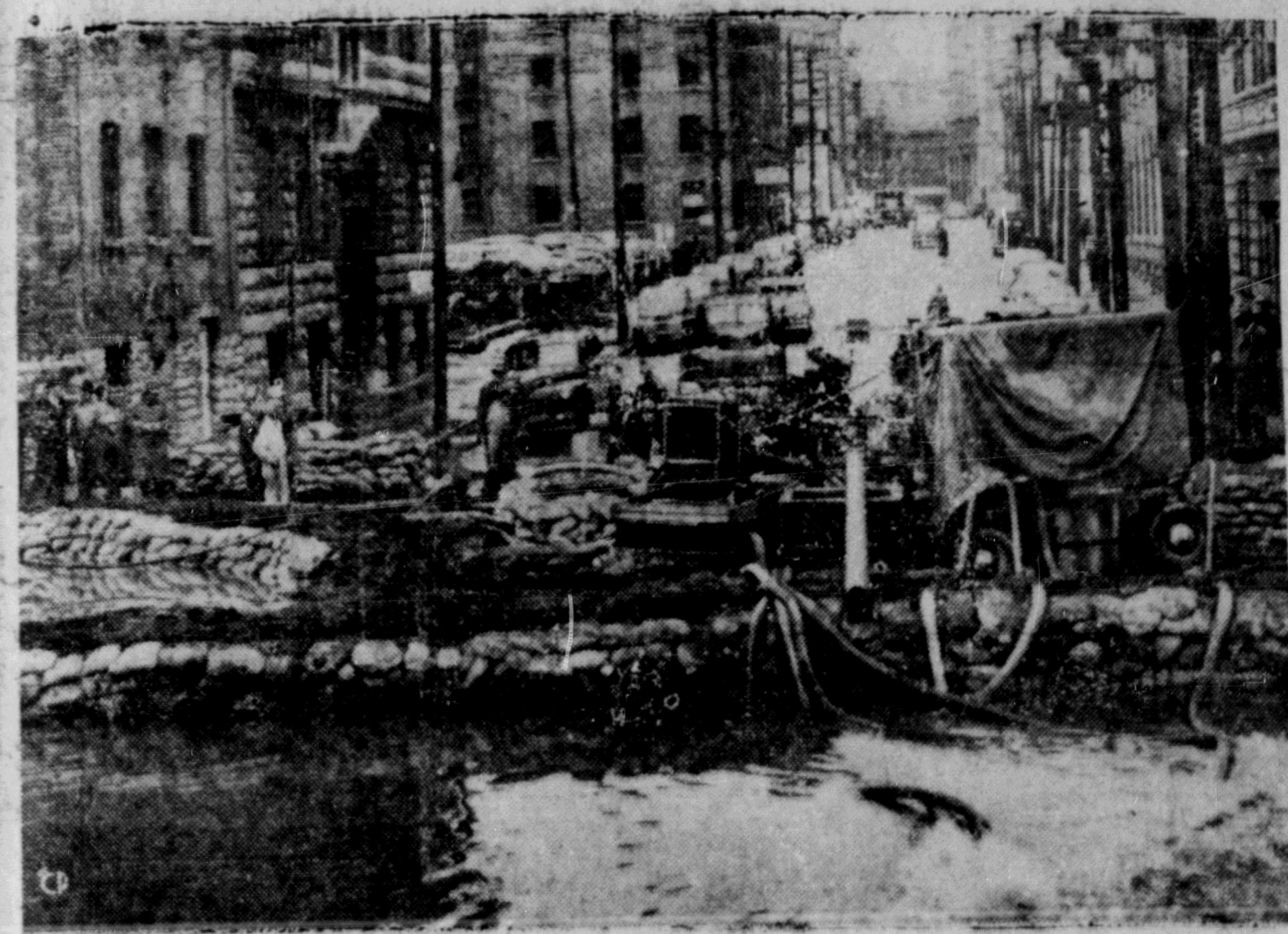
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MAN THE BARRICADES—Red River flood waters fight to crack this rampart at the foot of Lombard Street in downtown Winnipeg. Pumps shown in the foreground are drawing water from a backed-up sewer and tossing it over the barricade. (CP Photo)

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

Down in Nova Scotia, it's commencing to look like pensions for cabinet ministers. We neglected to make any inquiry about means tests.

Press censorship is complete throughout totalitarian zones which cover so much of the world's surface, says Lord Kemsley, British newspaper magnate. Elsewhere, while not complete, it is becoming increasingly severe. Perhaps, if the future letter writer even signs "yours respectfully" it will not be enough to make the haughty fellow unbend.

Speaking on tourist trade, Leo Dolan, head of the Canadian Travel Bureau, urges Canadians to remember that their potential customers from the United States eat the best food in the world. The travel dollar percolates rapidly in Canada. Canadians should use imagination in food and menus. This is all very well and first rate advice. And the thing, above all else, for Canadians not to do, is allow the Stars and Stripes in a dining room or cafe. Our good friends coming from over the border do so to see Canada—not to be reminded of where they have just left.

A good glossary is sometimes a handy object. It can be so convenient in the matter of sales; that is in distinguishing between what is described and what actually is. For example: Owner leaving town—Hopes to retire to Florida on proceeds.

Immediate occupancy—by next Christmas, perhaps.

Priced well below market—been trying to unload for some time.

Place beautifully landscaped—has a tree that looks like a buggy whip.

Some American magazines have evidently had photographers in the Sons of Freedom country, with orders to take pictures, the hotter the better, and to feel, not abashed. Life, for example, prints about half a dozen full page scenes, ranging from complete and partial nudity to court room proceedings, and blazing dwelling houses. One caption touches briefly on "Canada's burst of generosity to Russians" about fifty years ago.

Mr. Attlee has a pretty wit, albeit a bit caustic. Some one asked the Prime Minister if he would read a book called "British Socialism is Destroying British Freedom" should it be sent to him. His answer was to the general effect that the time he can devote to works of fiction is extremely limited.

Five years ago, in Berlin, shortly after the surrender of Nazi leaders, Russia gave a nine hour banquet to allied chiefs. Since then, the world has been more or less in the soup. Some folks are even saying the world has actually gone nuts.

A special meeting of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union was held in the Oddfellows' Hall. An "important matter" was brought up and will be released for publication in the near future. Alex Gordon, business agent with the Vancouver local, attended the meeting.

Pile Sufferers

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