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Is Soviet Sincere?

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL—and the latest developments in the situation of Germany whereby the blockades are being lifted and the Big Four have agreed upon a resumption, after the lapse of a year and a half, of the foreign ministers' council on the settlement of the whole problem could be the basis of great hope.

After such a season of obstructive tactics as have been indulged in by the Soviet and which have brought about the cold war, it is hard to believe that Moscow may not hatch up some new embarrassments to bring about further difficult situations.

It is difficult to believe that Russia is at last willing to be reasonable, although there shall never be a settlement of grave world problems until Russia does choose to be sincerely co-operative in settling differences.

No matter what complex factors and attitudes may bring about a change of Russian heart and conduct, the thing is that there must sooner or later be such a change. Possibly this is the time.

Of course, Germany is not the only phase in the world where Russia has, directly or indirectly, been taking the aggressive and provocative lead in the cold war.

We would like to believe that Russia is not just fooling again. We will know when we see what pose she strikes in the negotiations which follows the lifting of the blockade.

SMASHING THEIR WAY

A SHORT WHILE back the head of the Soviet Cominform addressed the party members on a question of loyalty. It was a strange sort of loyalty that vowed allegiance not to one's own land or one's own people but to a creed pledging to dominate a world. Yet, strange as it was, it met with a ready response. The part of communism abroad was to work and fight for Mother Russia and to be ready when the time arrived to give all assistance to Soviet troops that might come to liberate their land.

Who were the men who pledged their party to such treachery? Their voices were heard, Thorez of France and Togliatti of Italy and lesser known, but not to be outdone, Pollitt of Great Britain, Sharkey of Australia, Larsen of Denmark and Pessi of Finland. They were not offering the support of Russians to Russia. They were saying that Frenchmen and Britishers and Italians and Australians and Danes and Finns, when the moment arrived, would sell their own people to the invader.

Everyone knows what Lenin's teachings were—violent revolution with control of the state seized by party members. Our own Tim Buck has said: "The time is soon coming when communists will smash their way to victory."

And what does victory mean? It means the absolute and complete domination of a world by men who hate God, who hate all forms of religion, who deny all rights of property, all rights of freedom, who hate success that is not their own; who love only ruthless power and who seek to impose it on a world. That is what the "comrades," whether Russian or British or American or French or Canadian, intend for us.

GET DOWN TO ISSUES

THE COUNTRY is to be spared a long election campaign. For that there will be general satisfaction.

There will be less time for making reckless and extravagant campaign promises. There will be less time for mud slinging. Of still more importance, there will be less disturbance to our nation generally. With a general election over quickly, it is to be hoped that Parliament will settle down and tackle the big, vital jobs on which work has been delayed because an election was in the wind.

An unfortunate feature of our political system is the habit of all political parties playing up local and domestic issues at election time. Equally unfortunate is the tendency to thresh over old straw. Voters hear far too much of how some politician or party voted on some measure years ago; not enough upon what stand will actually be taken on important matters pending. —Financial Post.

RICH IN GAME

OSLO (AP)—This city's area of 170 square miles of rugged natural terrain, claims a selection of wild life rivalled by few world capitals. Moose, deer, wild cats, foxes and a whole galaxy of smaller game can be found within a morning's hike from the city's centre.

Prince Rupert Institution

Nancy Hodges Intrigued by Prince Rupert Hotel's Sing

(By Nancy Hodges in "One Woman's Day," Victoria Times)

Like any other community, Prince Rupert is not without its quaint characters. But the only one I met during my day-and-a-half stay there was Sing.

Sing happens to be the general factotum—he thinks!—and elevator boy, porter ,etc., of the Prince Rupert Hotel. But he is also an institution, a guide, a philosopher and friend to all who live there and to all transients who pass through the hotel portals.

He has been in that post for more than 30 years and his age, like so many of his compatriots of his generations, might be anything from 50 to 70.

When I entered the elevator to go up to my room on my arrival, he eyed me critically: "You om holiday?" was his first question. Having explained that it wasn't exactly a holiday and that I was filling a series of speaking engagements, he eyed me again.

Then laughed, and added the somewhat terse comment: "You talkee-talkee up lot, lie all ladies," whereupon I subsided for the time being.

Next he wanted to know how long since I had been in Prince Rupert. When I confessed it was 27 years ago, he assured me solemnly that he remembered me. But as I was not at the hotel on that occasion, I doubt it.

By the second day, Sing had learned that my advent had something to do with the forthcoming election. And after satisfying himself that my "talkee-talkee" was for that purpose he reminded me that he, too, had a vote.

"Me got vote, all same oller Chinese," he exclaimed. And, to prove it, pointed to the framed license hung upon the elevator wall, setting forth that he, Sing, was duly authorized to control the ups and downs of guests, and said: "Him tellum me got vote. Me vote bime-by!"

Needless to say, I didn't disillusion him or try to explain the difference between an elevator operator's license and the right to vote. I left that to someone more competent to deal with the Oriental - Canadian mind.

By this time he had learned my name and always greeted me with a cheery: "Morning, Missie Holledge! You sleepum good?" No matter how many times I had seen him since my first morning appearance.

Then he would start his barrage of questions. "You come back bime-by, after 'lection?" You gottum Mr. Holledge?" When I assured him that I had a "Mr. Holledge," he wanted to know "why him not come Plince Lupert?"

Having explained the absence of my spouse to his satisfaction, he looked me up and down again, and next took an interest in my "glandchilden." There again, I had to set him right—and felt that I had fallen in his estimation, by not possessing any of that precious commodity.

When his "How long you stay?" elicited the information that it was for only a day and a half, Sing was disturbed. "Why you go? Plince Lupert fine place; lots to do," he assured me. But having accepted the inevitable, he insisted on knowing the exact time at which I would be going down to the boat.

Owing to an evening engagement that was uncertain. But he pinned me down, so I weakly promised to have my bags packed by 8:30. "I catchum then," he warned. And when I appeared half an hour later than the stipulated time, I was greeted with an admonitory "You gottum bags leady?"

So I hurried and "gottum leady." And his final word to me was "Goo-bye, Missie Holledge. You come back bime-by, after 'lection, maybe?"

FOLDING PROTECTION

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LET 'ER BUCK—Little Patrick O'Brien, two-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis O'Brien of Calgary, is determined he's going to grow up to be a real rootin' tootin' cowboy, even if he is a bit awed by his big St. Bernard steed. The three-year old steed, Prince, whose proper name is an imposing Manitou Excelsior the Ninth, is a favorite with children living near his Eau Claire Avenue home in downtown Calgary. He spends hours each day trotting about with youngsters gleefully riding on his special-built western saddle. (CP Photo)

Use Entertainment To Recruit Nurses

LONDON (Reuters) — London hospitals are trying dances as a means of recruiting nurses. Giving a lead in the new campaign, the Bermondsey and Southward hospital management committee in central London has invited local girls to bring their boy friend to a dance run for hospital nurses. "We want the girls to see that nurses have fun in their off-duty and the nurses can mix in the social life of the community," an official said. London hospitals have been short of nursing staffs since the war.

ORIGINATED IN ENGLAND

The turnip was first cultivated in England in 1724.

Ray Reflects . . .
. . . and Reminisces

Prince Rupert is sometimes called isolated. If so, it's the most exposed spot on the map. There are only a railway terminus, a perpetually open 16 miles-long harbor, a scenic highway leading anywhere in Canada and aviation facilities. There's many a town handy to a large metropolis that's more out of the world than this. They are so quiet they even neglect to call down the CBC.

There will be a general election in Nova Scotia June 9, with Nomination Day May 26. That's around apple blossom time. Any campaigner who, say amid the bloom and fragrance of the Annapolis Valley, cannot rise to heights of persuasion compelling enough to charm anyone right off the nearest gravenstein tree had best quit and go home. He's hopeless.

Margarine—reminds one of a girl's name—has come to town and, so far, everything appears perfectly and naturally normal. What's all this vast fuss been about anyway? For months it has been spread all over the front page of your favorite daily. Next thing we shall be eating it—spread all over your daily bread.

Few of the standard bearers in this riding during the past few decades were similar, either in appearance, personality or as public men. But all served well, and left excellent records. There was one, however, with that touch of fervor and exuberance one could not easily forget. There was no possibility of erring in naming the land of his birth. He excelled on stage and platform, and verily, "he had a way with him," had Jim Brady.

The name of Ontario's new premier is Frost. Speaking generally, politics has been known to be, at times, a slippery business. But in his case, a bit of a tumble now and then is perhaps to be expected.

ANIMAL MISNOMERS

The lion has been named king of the beasts and the bald eagle king of the birds; but the real king of the great cats is the tiger, and of the great hawks, the golden eagle.

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