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Stalin's Peace Offensive

Many experienced observers have been predicting a Communist "Peace Offensive" for some time. The shallow offer of Joseph Stalin to meet President Truman is one gesture which may be more impressive to the Russian people and their satellites than it is to us. Then there is the current move for non-aggression pacts with the Scandinavian countries which, having a knowledge of the basic strategy underlying Communist and Fascist endeavour to achieve world domination, will, no doubt, be distrustful.

Those in opposition to Communism as presently practised in those countries embracing that faith, are asking them if Stalin peace overtures could be sincere and hold hope for real and permanent peace.

The lessons of the past should provide a guide for the future. Let us then examine the record written in the history of the totalitarian states through the years, modern excerpts from which are the deliberately broken solemn pledges, the perversion of fact, the subversion of authority by criminal methods and the crude vilification of western statesmen, so characteristic of Communist Russia, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, as well as the Kaiser's regime in Germany. All evidence points to the active support of the theories that the end justifies the means, whatever the end, whatever the means.

Twice in the quarter century lying between 1914 and 1939 we were the victims of our own Christian ethics, in that we trusted others to keep agreements and promises as we would have kept them. Twice we suffered the effects of our own weakness, and all humanity suffered with us. Again, the lesson of the past should provide a guide for the future.

Continuous and lasting peace is our most cherished hope and would be humanity's greatest achievement, but in this materialistic world it cannot be attained without payment. What price should we pay? We know that the price can be too high; it will be too high if it mortgages the freedom and well being of future generations. That was the price we paid in 1918. Some observers believe the presently incipient peace overtures are an effort to weaken the determination of the free western powers to remain strong through unity, in order to soften opposition to a forthcoming coup. We believe this to be a valid observation. It is obvious then that our down payment on peace is the cost of remaining strong, strong morally, mentally and in a material sense. The final payment may be war, unless there be a change of heart, and not a change of tune behind the iron curtain. It will take more than even the lifting of the Berlin blockade and the removal of a few minor sources of irritation to convince us that such a change has indeed occurred.

All peoples, all rulers should have learned that the statement that "war is the surgeon's knife which cuts away the gangrene of peace" is fallacious. Some have not assimilated that lesson, and do not believe that the x-rays of human understanding and the therapy of earnest endeavour can diagnose and cure the world's ills. Until they do, we must not relax our vigilance or dissipate our strength. The man, or nation, with the strongest bodyguard is least likely to be held up in a dark street.

Hugh Aird, district pensions advocate from Vancouver, will arrive in the city on the Prince Rupert tomorrow morning from the south. He will discuss pension problems with local veterans while here.

J. C. Hitchcock and A. C. Skipper of the Dominion Fisheries sailed this afternoon on the Camasun for Vancouver on official business.

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HIS FUNERAL AT KITWANGA

Mourners From Many Villages Gather at Kitwanga for Robert Harris Rites

Native people from many villages in the Skeena River district gathered at Kitwanga recently to pay their final tributes of respect to Robert Harris, who died in Prince Rupert and whose funeral took place in his home village. One of the outstanding native leaders of the interior, Mr. Harris was high in the councils of the Eagle Clan in which he was known as Chief Gilawana.

Two bands — the Kitwanga Totem Pole Band and the Skeena Crossing Brass Band — took part in the funeral processions from the home of deceased to St. Paul's Anglican Church where the funeral service took place. Rev. J. Hayhurst, the resident missionary, officiated, assisted by Deacon Walter Douse of Kitwanga, Alfred McDames, lay reader at Skeena Crossing, and Captain R. Thomson of Cedarvale. St. Mark's Church choir from Kitwanga was present and sang the anthem "Rock of Ages" under the direction of Albert Douse.

Following interment, there was the customary funeral feast sponsored by the eldest brother of deceased, Thomas Harris, assisted by the surviving brothers and sisters, the widow and sons and daughters.

Deceased was born at Kitwanga on Christmas Day 1886. He was employed on river boats in the early days of navigation on the Skeena. For ten years he lived at Skeena Crossing where he took an active part in local organizations and where he met the former Irene McDames who became his wife. At the outbreak of war he came to Prince Rupert and worked at the Dry Dock, having made his home in the city since. He was also through the years well known as a worker at Skeena River canneries, last summer having been at Port Edward with Nelson Bros. Fisheries Ltd.

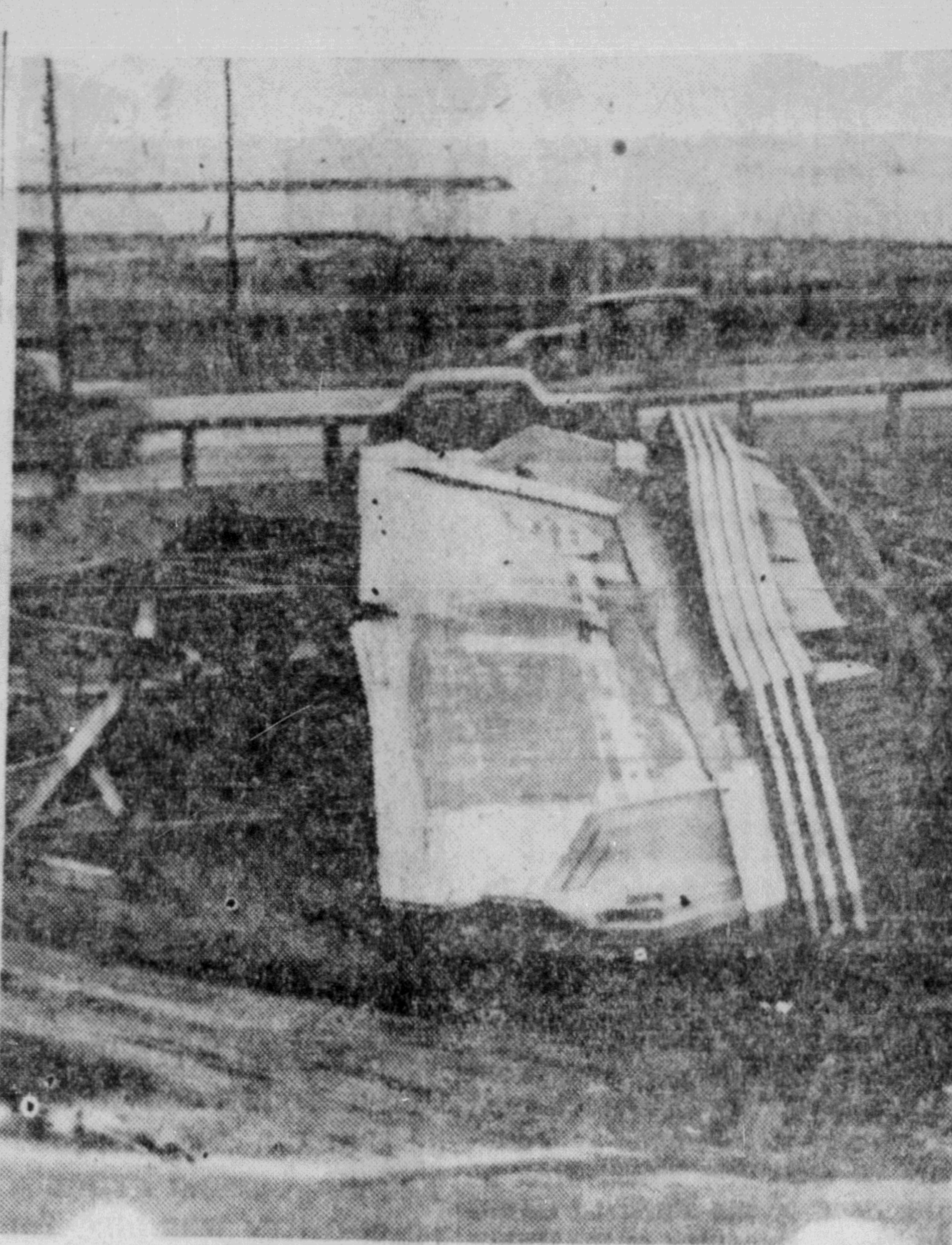
Besides the widow, Mr. Harris is survived by three daughters—Miss Hazel Harris, Mrs. Robert (Lily) Jackson and Miss Molly Harris, all of Prince Rupert and two sons, Roy Harris of Kitwanga and Kenneth Harris who is studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood at the Seminary of Christ the King at New Westminster. Brothers are Thomas Harris and Matthew Harris of Kitwanga and Frank Harris of Hazelton and sisters, Mrs. Edward (Florence) Tait of Kitwanga and Mrs. Alex L. Charlie of Fraser Lake.

NEW AIRLINE PILOT HERE

Pilot Bob McGinnis of Canadian Pacific Air Lines arrived in the city Monday afternoon to take over command of the company's Prince Rupert-Sandspit flight, replacing Larry Dakin, who has been on the route for the last nine months. Mr. Dakin will take command of the Vancouver-Sandspit plane. Mr. McGinnis has been flying out of Vancouver, mostly on the Vancouver-Calgary run.



UNDERGROUND HERO HELD IN CANADA ON MURDER CHARGE—Arthur Matthey, Belgian underground hero who fought against the Nazis during the German occupation of Belgium, is in Don Jail in Toronto, Ont., facing a murder charge placed by Belgian authorities. He is charged with killing a man by the name of Arman de Vos in September of 1944. Matthey, who came to Canada in December, 1947, is shown here with his wife and daughter, Ilona, in photo taken before he left Belgium. Living in Stratfordville, Ont., he has been employed at a tobacco factory in Tillsonburg, Ont. Residents in his community are rallying to his support.



SOUTHERN ONTARIO BATTERED BY 80 M.P.H. GALE—There was not a single town in southern Ontario that missed the 80-mile per hour gale that swept through the province, causing damage that might never be fully estimated. This sign beside the Humber River in Toronto, Ont., was smashed by the force of the wind. Thousands of people throughout Ontario lay in their beds and heard the gale. One outstanding feature of the storm was the lack of serious injuries to individuals.

Reminiscences By W.I. and Reflections

A magazine specializing in giving the startling news that industrial problems says the housing difficulty will be with us for at least another 50 years. A few, in Rupert are that old already, look about 75 and how they feel is something else again.

Indians are requesting that Japanese fishermen be denied a return to this coast. Well, the natives were here—and catching halibut and salmon—long before Nippon ever heard of B.C.—and the same goes for all other nationals. Suppose natives from Skeena undertook to engage in commercial fishing along the shores of Japan? There would be "honorable protests."

Here's the latest low-down on the fishing industry. It appears that in England fresh cod and haddock, processed into a pulverized white material, become a perfect substitute for cake icing and chocolate filling. There is not the faintest suggestion of fish. We'd never have the heart to vote against a government like that, even if it does lean a bit against the left.

Chinese New Year Day was observed last week but few appeared to know it. Mythology says that on that day it is possible to stand an egg on end at 7:45 a.m. So far as Prince Rupert is concerned, it is doubtful if anyone was found trying to perform that feat. Instead, there were hundreds breaking a boiled egg or eating a fried egg (with bacon) and solemnly

Possibility of United Nations bases in Norway is giving Soviet Russia an uncomfortable half hour. But, for the sake of argument, how calm and content would Washington be should alien bases ever be discovered on the soil of Canada? Which, of course, "isn't done."

To Attend Session Of Tourist Council

E. T. Applewhite will be Prince Rupert's representative at a meeting of the British Columbia Tourist Council to be held in Vancouver March 3. Transportation and per diem expenses will be paid by the British Columbia Travel Bureau which invited the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce to nominate a delegate. Appointment of Mr. Applewhite was made by the president of the Chamber, G. R. Blackaby, and was confirmed at the monthly meeting last night.

You Saw it in The News.

SNOW SHOVELS ACTIVE AFTER BRIEF BLIZZARD

Snow, wind and low temperature combined last night to give us the heaviest thing to a blizzard that has been experienced all winter but its fury calmed during the night leaving city streets piled with deep drifts, despite a relatively light snowfall.

Snow began falling at 4 p.m. Monday as the wind built up. By 7 p.m. the blow had reached its maximum velocity of 24 miles an hour from the southeast, according to records of the Digby Island weather station. An inch of snow fell overnight according to the official record, something with which snow shovellers may take issue.

Combined with the blizzard, and adding to its unpleasantness, was a temperature of 23 degrees which put an edge on the wind and made the particles of snow sting like ice pellets.

Result was an ardent snow shovelling campaign in all parts of the city this morning. In the downtown district, business places on the south side of the street seemed to be the victims of the largest snow drifts, some of which were two feet deep.

Sixteen miles outside the city a westbound Canadian National Railway freight train became stuck during the evening in drifts ranging from two to six feet in depth for a distance of two miles and had to be dug out by emergency snow fighting equipment. Rotary plow was rushed out to cope with what was one of the most sudden and thickest falls of snow in local railway history. The eastbound train, which left here at 3 p.m., was held up for 1 1/2 hours just outside the city.

The line was reported clear today with tonight's train due on time at 10:45.

SECOND-HAND NAME
The name Australia was first applied to a group of south sea islands.

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