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### Soviet Expansion

**F**UTURE HISTORIANS may count 1948 as the year in which Russia's expansionist foreign policy backfired.

Adding up its western account book, the Kremlin can claim that Czechoslovakia has been clinched to its system and that western economic recovery is being hampered by the millions of dollars diverted to defence.

But in doing so it has fanned fear and hatred of Communism to such a point that the western powers seem prepared to sink their differences in a defensive alliance of great potential strength. Western Union came into being in 1948 and promises to flourish on an ever-expanding scale.

Britain took the lead this year in rallying western Europe to a "get tough" policy with Russia. Blunt burly Foreign Secretary Bevin, who had labored with unusual patience to work in comradeship with Russia, cast aside restraint in January.

The Russians were hostile to the European Recovery Plan, he said in a House of Commons address. They seemed to think "they could wreck or intimidate western Europe by political upsets, economic chaos and even revolutionary methods."

His cry for an alliance against Russian strategy was answered within a few weeks when Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg bound themselves for 50 years to collaborate "in economic, social and cultural matters and for economic self-defence."

The way was left open for other nations to join and by the year-end all is in readiness for the addition of Canada and the United States, and possibly the Scandinavian countries.

Western Union marks a radical departure in British foreign policy, which had striven to keep aloof from Europe, intervening only when the scales of power tipped too heavily in favor of one nation or bloc. Russia's top-heavy position after the war destroyed the old balance of power theory.

Having decided that no immediate agreement with Russia was possible, the western powers have moved to settle the affairs of western Germany on their own. The first step was taken late in 1947 by the fusion of the American and British zones, which affected great savings in administration costs.

The following June, after months of negotiation, the United States and the five Western Union powers reached agreement on the principles on which western Germany might be re-established as an independent nation. The terms were accepted grudgingly by France, which was suspicious of any move to create a powerful Germany.

Bevin told the House of Commons Britain had not abandoned hopes of agreement with Russia over German but it would be impossible until they could reach an understanding that would permit freedom of speech and "real liberty of the person."

Meanwhile there has been a steady increase of friction in Berlin, which is administered by Britain, France, Russia and the United States though lying inside the Russian zone. This was brought to a head when the western powers reorganized the German currency. The Russians tried to prevent circulation of the new money in any part of Berlin, and eventually cut off road and rail transport to the western zones.

Responding quickly and dramatically, Britain and the United States began the now-famous "air lift." Sceptics thought it could be maintained only for a short time, but through summer, fall and winter the aircraft kept up a freight service that carried thousands of tons daily into Berlin.

Simultaneously, at high level conferences in Berlin and Moscow and at the United Nations Assembly in Paris, the western powers strove for settlement of their differences with Russia. They insisted that the blockade of Berlin must be raised before other matters could be discussed.

Commonwealth countries were kept informed of Britain's international plans and a comprehensive exchange of views took place when Dominion's prime ministers or their deputies met in London in October. This conference approved Britain's efforts toward western European unity.

Many voices were raised in Britain and France urging that Western Union be expanded quickly into a European Federation, but the Labor government, while approving in principle, said a long-term program of education was necessary before definite steps could be taken.

On a lesser scale there is agitation for a rapprochement with Spain, but Bevin and other Labor ministers steadfastly refuse to invite Spain to join Western Union while a totalitarian government is in power.

While the East-West struggle in Europe remains the dominant theme of British foreign policy, there are indications Britain may soon have to take part in a unified democratic stand in the Far East, where Communist successes in China alarmed New Zealand and Australia.

Relations with the western world continue on a friendly basis.

Claims of Chile and Argentina for bases in

### THIS AND THAT



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### Haven of Local Pleasure Fleet

(Continued from Page 1)

Varying degrees of hull damage were suffered by many boats as they pitched at their mooring lines at the exposed wharves.

Earl Mah's speedboat sank at her lines after she filled with water over the stern. A small gillnetter at the Cow Bay fishermen's floats suffered a similar experience and rode out the blow with all but he pilot house top and masts under water.

There was a general exodus from Cow Bay and the oil wharves to less exposed spots. Boat owners say the blow was the worst experienced along the waterfront in years. The wind swept in over Metlakatla pass, whipping up the harbor with its full force, smashing at wharves and small craft over a mile-long stretch of waterfront.

Yacht club vessels which left their badly damaged home float sought shelter at various points, many of them heading for the shelter of Seal Cove, which afforded probably the best protection.

No damage was reported from the Fairview Bay floats at the extreme west end of the waterfront, despite lack of an adequate breakwater. Wind direction was such that it could get only a slight sweep at the many boats moored there.

At least a half-dozen cruisers cleared for new moorage spots from the Yacht Club at 3 p.m. when Capt. Charles Currie's C.R.C. put a line over the forward end of the wharf and pulled back into a position where craft on the weeward side

could get free.

For hours prior to that time, Dr. W. S. Kergin's Full Moon had borne the weight of the floats and the vessels which pressed against it from windward. After these boats were towed clear, the float was moved and the exodus began.

Some boats at the Yacht Club were hampered in their movement to shelter by the fact that their engines were under repair and could not provide power. They were towed to shelter.

Floats of the McLean ship-building plant at Seal Cove, where 75 boats and three scows were moored, sustained no damage. It was not even necessary to move any vessels from there. Some of the vessels forced to the central waterfront found moorage there but not all could be taken care of.

Home Oil Distributors Ltd. and British-American Oil Co. floats suffered damage. Imperial and Standard got off lightly. A gillnetter sunk at Home Oil and another gillnetter between Home Oil and Lipsett's.



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British Antarctica led Prime Minister Attlee to declare the British government would not be "cheeked or chivvied out of British territory anywhere in the world" and to dispatch the cruiser Nigeria to those waters. Subsequent suggestion by the United States that the area be placed under international control was rejected by Chile.

Britain has also acted firmly on reports that irresponsible forces in Guatemala are considering the invasion of British Honduras. Warships were sent to Belize and the Guatemalan government was peremptorily informed the colony was under British sovereignty.

### Must Count Votes— Election is Not Decided

By George Ronald  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
WASHINGTON, ©—The United States election—even most of the shouting, as a matter of fact, is over but there'll be official election whispers for another couple of weeks yet.

The traditional anti-climax is part of the complicated electoral college system which many a critic calls not only historic but outdated.

Although Harry S. Truman is safely back in the White House the "real" election still hasn't happened.

It got under way last Monday when the 531 men and women elected to the Senate and the House of Representatives last month met in the various states to cast ballots for "the next president."

#### FOUR OFFICIAL STEPS

But even then the election wasn't over. The four official steps:

1. The governor of each state collects these ballots, and forwards them to the Secretary of State in Washington.

2. The Secretary of State bundles them off to Congress.

3. The Senate and House meet in joint sessions January 6.

4. The presiding officer of the senate opens the ballot box and starts counting.

Only then will the world learn officially—that the majority of the electoral college (the same number of persons as there are Senators and Repres-

entatives) has voted for Truman.

#### SYSTEM UNDER ATTACK

The electoral college system has survived to become as much a part of the American way of life as peanuts, popcorn and the seventh-inning stretch.

In recent years, however, it has been under constant attack; not the "real" election ceremony itself but the provision whereby a state's entire electoral vote goes to the candi-

date who gets a majority of the popular vote in that state.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (Rep.-Mass.) and Representative Ed Gossett (Dem., Tex.) are sponsoring a constitutional amendment to divide a state's electoral votes among the candidates in proportion to their percentage of the state's popular vote.

They argue also that the proportional system would open the possibility of a presidential candidate being elected minority popular vote.

#### POPULAR VOTE PROPOSED

As things stand now, the choice for presidency is made

by the House of Representatives if no candidate receives a majority—266 of the 531 electoral votes. Lodge and Gossett proposed to this possibility, but it is not clear whether they plan to introduce it.

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