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British Parliament Problems

BRITISH PARLIAMENT is to meet again next Tuesday, January 18.

The next ten weeks or so will bear much discussion of fiscal, financial and economic policy generally until Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, opens his second Budget in April. His first, last April, established the policy of disinflation which is still at work. On whatever side of the House they sit, Members of Parliament are examining this very carefully. The considerable surplus that the Chancellor budgeted for may turn out to be markedly diminished by a variety of causes, not all of them within the government's control. And some successful wage claims will be held in the argument to have shown that the stabilization policy could not everywhere be successfully maintained.

In fact, there has been justification, within the limits announced by the government, for most if not all claims granted. Another factor is that the cost of subsidies on food has continued to rise far beyond the limits proposed from time to time. The government's supporters are, at any rate, able to argue that these have been an indispensable instrument in keeping the cost-of-living index steady, and that all of the population, even the poorest, are able to buy their essential foods. Of such necessities there is no rationing by price, and the normal rationing schemes have been able to be kept up.

Much discussion these coming months will centre upon the changes that may come to be needed to harmonize the long-term program of the United Kingdom with those of other countries that share in the Marshall Plan's benefits. These benefits carry great responsibilities with them, and among the chief of these responsibilities is to make the best use of the country's own resources so as to reduce and eventually end their dependence on gifts of United States dollars. The programs that were lately sent to Washington by the Organization for European Economic Co-operation have inevitably been drawn up by the 19 countries, each without the knowledge of what the others were doing.

This month all are examining the report of the others' programs and re-examining their own. They are to tell the organization at the end of the month the first results of their studies. That is the point at which the governments must have their minds made up to face the tasks of leadership involved in making possibly very formidable changes in their programs, in the interests of recovery, of the Marshall Plan countries and of Europe as a whole.

UNFRIENDLY CITY?

A MAN, half dead from the effects of trying to end his life by taking gas, was saved in Vancouver last week. A note, written by him, declared Vancouver to be "the most unfriendly city in the world." An extravagant and undeserved charge, surely, even allowing for the circumstances! The same might be said of any city, anywhere, the size of Vancouver. On the other hand, Prince Rupert is known as a small, new town where about everyone is kindly disposed. Few people are disregarded. They are glad to be able to assist. It is certainly fine to be known as that sort of community and long may it continue. Probably the same could have been said of Vancouver half a century ago. If and when Prince Rupert has a population of a quarter of a million, what then? Doubtless, another Vancouver! Cities change, but human nature doesn't.

STRANGE INCIDENTS

ON OCTOBER 20, in Washington, Marvin Smith, attorney in the Solicitor-General's office, his name mentioned in a spy investigation, hurtled to his death in a circular stair well in the Department of Justice.

Last week, Lawrence Duggan, a former trusted employ of the State Department, jumped, fell (or was thrown) from the fifteenth storey of a New York office building.

On Christmas Day, Sumner Wells, former Under-Secretary of State, who had come to the defence of Duggan, is found half-frozen off a road near his state where he had gone after midnight.

In our world of today, with its tangled webs, its long hands of vengeance, its undergrounds and terrors, strange things happen. What Washington seems to need at the moment, is not further investigations of un-American activities but a super-class detective.

—Ottawa Journal.

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Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.I.

It's so easy to recall that warm, sunny afternoon in '45, when it was officially made known that the war had ended! Prince Rupert told business to be gone and gave way to rejoicing! No more wall of the "alert!" No more extinguishing of lights. No more telegrams and sinking hearts. No more weary waiting and sharp anxieties. Peace! Hardly four years ago. The glad new world. Peace? The bright new world. Been looking it over lately?

Since the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that prohibition of margarine is illegal and always has been, it is not at all strange that people are wondering how many more rules and regulations, in a legal sense, have no right whatever to be on the statute books. In wartime, Canada accepted, without question whatever Ottawa chose to do. The war is supposed to have ended in 1945. There's room for a shake-up to see what's constitutional!

HIGH MASONIC OFFICER HERE

Dr. Benjamin Bailey of Winnipeg, Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar for Canada and Newfoundland, highest order of freemasonry, arrived in the city Wednesday afternoon to pay an official visit to Kincolith Preceptory here. He will remain here until Friday evening when he will leave by train for Edmonton.

Dr. Bailey, a retired dental surgeon of the Manitoba capital, was guest of honor at a dinner given by members of the Preceptory at the Broadway Cafe last night, after which he paid his official visit to the Preceptory at the Masonic Temple.

A visit to the Civic Centre yesterday left Dr. Bailey amazed at the extent of its community services and the spirit which maintains it.

LETTERBOX

SPEEDY POLICE WORK

Editor, Daily News:
On Monday afternoon we had occasion to call the City Police in connection with a shoplifting suspect.

We do not know those responsible but from the time we called the office until the suspect was apprehended was a matter of minutes. We would like to express our appreciation at the speed and dispatch with which the whole case was handled.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the use of your valued space,
JOE SCOTT.

When they are prepared to spend between three and four thousand dollars for uniforms, the members of the Greenville Concert Band in the Naas Valley take their music seriously indeed. An outlay like this contributes to the welfare of their village, and to their own improvement. Far larger sums are thrown away and not by the natives either.

How come, these ominous threats and fresh alarms direct from the storied land of Palestine? Air raids, and explosions, and hatreds and hangings, and diplomatic sleight-of-hand. Well, sentiment aside, there are a couple of pipe lines extending across the Holy Land and reaching the sea at Haifa. The pipes tap oil fields of immense importance in international affairs and within convenient distance. Suppose there was not enough oil with which to light a lamp, nearer than ten thousand miles? How often would names like Beercheba, Jerusalem, Jericho, Lebanon, Negev and Bethlehem flare on the world's front pages?

WATCH THOSE POINTS

MOOSE JAW, Sask. ☉—A bit of the Olde English Pub atmosphere has crept into Moose Jaw in the form of a 48-man darts league. Most of the players are veterans who got acquainted with darts overseas.

YARMOUTH, Isle of Wight, ☉—A heron raided a goldfish pond here and out of 300 fish left one.

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