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Two Requirements

A PATHY and the "gimme" frame of mind have been cited by two recent speakers in Prince Rupert as danger signs pointing to defeat of our democratic way of life.

Both speakers are in prominent stations in public life and are in no position to bandy opinions about lightly. They have looked into the subject thoroughly and come forth with considered opinions.

Both have called for an expenditure of initiative and effort to continue progress toward a better life. Both have warned against placing more than minimum demands on government for expenditures of public funds.

These are points well worth considering. They are points on which all can help through instilling into young minds the basic satisfaction of practising thrift and the joy of accomplishment.

SIGN OF DEMOCRACY

NOT so long ago some people were commenting that, although the western nations opposed Communist dictatorship, they were supporting virtual dictatorships in Turkey and Greece.

The Christian Science Monitor observes that there is considerable evidence that the political opposition at least gets to vote in Turkey and that the votes are counted; for it has just thrown out of office in a surprising landslide the government of President Ismet Inonu, who inherited power from Kemal Attaturk and has served three four-year terms in office.

Just a few weeks ago, also, Premier Sophocles Venizelos of Greece, under American pressure, gave way to Gen. Nicholas Plastiras, moderate left-of-centre leader who had won major support of the Greek people at the polls in early March.

In the Turkish elections a large majority of parliamentary seats was won by the Democratic Party, formed only five years ago and headed by Celal Bayar. The choice is said to have turned entirely on internal issues, particularly economic discontent, and does not affect the nation's guarded attitude toward Russia.

The Soviet Government has made much of its "democratic" constitution and of the "people's democracies" it has established in satellite countries.

A pretty good test of whether a country has democratic government is whether its people can change their officials when they want to. Greece and Turkey have shown that they can.

Only when the authorities in the Kremlin are willing to give that opportunity to the people of Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, not to mention Russia itself, will they begin to have a right to us the word "democracy."

RED RIVER PROMISE

IT was natural enough when leaden skies hung over the Red River Valley and an inland sea spread to the horizon instead of the level, fruitful plains to struggle from giving way to despair.

Blessed with bravery and rare fortitude must have been these Manitobans who, watching the reward of a life's labor destroyed or shattered, still hoped for the best and resolved, no matter what, to set an encouraging example and strengthen the hearts of dejected neighbors.

When families, next door to panic, had to flee from home at a few minutes notice; when loved ones were scattered, when anxiety became acute and illness increased, and normal life seemed to have turned suddenly into a cruel and evil dream, how could so many refuse to take for granted that they were ruined? But, perhaps they were not. The relentless Red has at last shown mercy and warm sunshine instead of unclean water is flooding the land from which thousands had been driven.

It is easy enough to lightly say "perhaps not." Nevertheless, when sorrows, confusion and hardships become somewhat modified, and one feels the caress of sunlight rather than the chill of rain-filled clouds, it is less difficult to appraise the true situation, and discover, despite worst misgivings, that the Red River Valley will again be a place of happiness and progress. This, at any rate, will be the prayer of Canada.



As I See It

By ELMORE PHILPOTT
ATOM WEATHER?

A FEW MONTHS AGO in this column I registered my hunch that the atomic explosions had helped to upset our weather. At least one contemptuous gentleman wrote to the paper ridiculing that guess.

He figured that my political comments must be as far off the beam as my atomic hunch.

Well, I was never alone in that hunch — for a few score other millions shared it. At least one laconic Chinese Canadian explained the freak weather with a brevity that put my wordy effort to shame: "Unusual weather, isn't it Mr. ..."

"Atomic blomb" was the terse comment, not meant to be funny.

NOW COMES AT LEAST ONE high authority who agrees. The Toronto Star Weekly for May 13 says editorially:

"The view that the explosion of uranium bombs has caused wind and climatic changes lasting several months over very wide areas is accepted by at least one Canadian meteorological authority. The vagaries of the world's recent weather may be partly explained on that basis."

THE FORCES OF NATURE are in delicate balance at all times. We who live near the Fraser river know very well that we get floods if the spring runoff is too long delayed. The same principle applies all through nature.

Something has happened in

the past few years to upset the weather all over the world. To millions of ordinary folks—and to at least one high Canadian scientist—there is a connection between the freak weather and the atomic explosions.

THE MOST INTERESTING thing about the long drought around New York city was the "demonstration" that it is possible to "seed" with dry ice so as to bring down rain or snow that never would fall otherwise.

But who is to decide where the moisture is to come down and in what quantities?

One county near New York had to get out the snow plows, long after the snow plow season, when the dry ice seeding process brought down several inches of snow in the wrong place.

WE QUEER HUMANS BOASTFULLY calling ourselves "homo sapiens" are surely among the cussedest creatures. We have developed lop-sided.

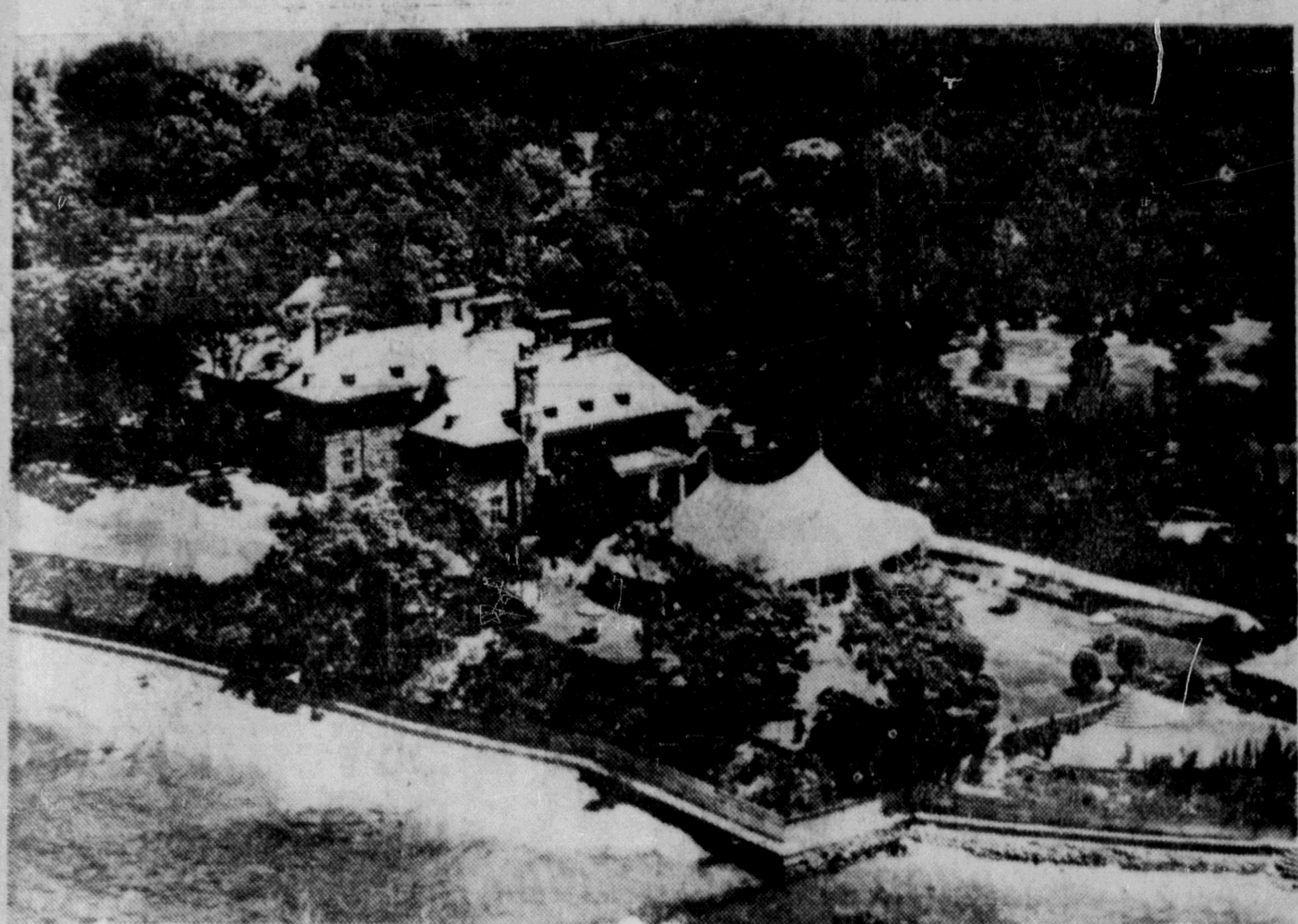
We have devised agencies so powerful that we literally can move mountains in the twinkling of an eye. But up till now we have prostituted our best scientists for mutual destruction.

With the energy and effort we shot away in World War Two we could have given every family on earth a new house to live in—fully paid for, and fully equipped.

According to the Bible, and other holy writ, man was created in the image of God, only a little lower than the angels. But there is no beast, not another creature, as mean and murderous to others of his own species.

Man has law on every level except where the lack of law is most suicidal—to rule on right and wrong between nations.

W. A. Armstrong is chairman of a committee of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce which is making arrangements in connection with the reception of Grant McConachie, president of Canadian Pacific Air Lines, and important party who will visit the city July 1.



WHERE SOVIET'S 71-BED FAMILY RUFFLES GLEN COVERS—Leonid A. Morozov, first secretary to Russia's United Nations' delegation, recently rented this old J. P. Morgan estate in Glen Cove, N.Y., for the use of his "family" this summer. Recently 71 beds were being moved into it, much to the consternation of the local residents who have a restriction limiting each house to one family, to prevent would-be resort owners from purchasing the town's famous estates. It is believed that the estate will be used as a summering place for members of the Soviet delegations and consultates, etc., in the U.S.

James Mitchell, son of Mrs. J. P. Mitchell of this city and long identified with the teaching staff of West Vancouver High School, was seized with a mild heart attack recently when he was at his home for a time. This week he was able to resume his teaching duties.

Miss Beverly Nelson, teller at the local branch of the Bank of Montreal, is spending a three week holiday at her home at Ocean Falls.

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URGES STATEHOOD FOR HAWAII—Oscar Chapman, U.S. secretary of the interior, right, is shown as he urged statehood for Hawaii, and attacked as "nonsense" arguments that the territory should be barred from the union because it is a hotbed of communism. The cabinet member, shown with Gov. Ingram M. Stainback of Hawaii, testified before the Senate interior committee which is considering a bill, passed by the House, to grant statehood to Hawaii. Encircling Chapman's microphone is a Hawaiian "aloha" lei.

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