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### Pacific Defence

IT IS INTERESTING to see at least one of the large eastern newspapers showing appreciation of the defence position on the Pacific even if it is the now died-in-the-wool Tory Globe and Mail of Toronto which takes its cue from recent timely utterances on the situation by Major-General Pearkes of Nanaimo.

"The contribution to the House of Commons debates by Gen. Pearkes was one to awaken and interest all thoughtful Canadians," said the Globe and Mail in an editorial. He spoke about Pacific defence and had two important qualifications for doing so with authority. One is his own military experience which includes service in both World Wars culminating in his appointment as General Officer Commanding in Chief, Pacific Command. The other is that he represents the constituency of Nanaimo, a base on the Pacific shore where a close-up view of Canada's defence preparations in that zone may be obtained.

"According to General Pearkes, Canada is doing very little there. The country, he says, is vulnerable to attack along the whole length of the British Columbia coast. He speaks of a 'gap' in defence extending from the United States border to the Aleutian Islands. Without berating the government or any of its officers, he put forward some definite suggestions.

"At almost any time in the 1920's or 1930's the Canadian people could have learned that their Pacific coast was defenceless without a tremor of apprehension on any score. It is natural and traditional for Canadians to think of that frontier as no more needing bulwarks than the boundary that separates them from the United States. But it takes only a moment's thought to recognize that this carefree and confident attitude is no longer appropriate. The Great Power against whose aggressive policy the Western World is arming is a neighbor of Canada on the west; and for protection against an assault on that side we are now, it seems, depending almost exclusively on our American friends. Not many Canadians will regard this as good enough.

"The program set out by General Pearkes is exactly the sort of question which should be examined by a Parliamentary committee, with the help of defence experts.

"Up till now the government has resisted all proposals to set up this committee. Its view is that such questions as those raised by the Nanaimo member are beyond the scope of members, should be decided by the Defence Minister or the Cabinet on expert advice and their own responsibility, and anyway must be kept secret. But the very fact that General Pearkes could make the speech he made explodes all these objections. To begin with, it is obviously not a secret that our Pacific defences are weak; nor will it be a secret if they are improved. More important than that, General Pearkes has disclosed, by just one example, the shortcomings of the system of giving the Cabinet a free hand and keeping Parliament out of this policy sphere.

"The fact ought surely to be faced that Canadian governments are unaccustomed to the job of building peacetime defences. It would be very easy for a Canadian Defence Minister, anxious though he might be to live up to Canada's new security obligations, to slip back into the old 'economical' way of thinking and neglect a vital responsibility. That there has been just such neglect on our western coast appears to be the point of General Pearkes' speech. What he says emphasizes once again the need for thorough Parliamentary scrutiny of defence policy."

### TALKING OF PRAYER

PRAYER is the greatest force known for grappling with everyday problems and for achieving serenity of soul, declares Norman Vincent Peale, author of "A Guide to Confident Living," in The Reader's Digest for September.

Not only does prayer have the power to calm our minds, Dr. Peale states, in an article condensed from Guidposts, but it can heal heartache and give us clear vision to act for ourselves. "If angry, anxious, vindictive or envious, you cannot think or act wisely. But in prayer your emotions come under control and your intellect penetrates the essence of a problem for the right answer."

Many businessmen use prayer as a reliable aid in their affairs, the author states. A leading department store executive communes with God for 15 minutes each morning. An industrialist, who "uses his car as a chapel," states: "Driving to the plant, I talk over my problems with Him. Instead of desperately expecting a prayer to pull me out of a mess, I condition my mind in advance to make calm and rational decisions."

The value of prayer was demonstrated, Peale says, in a recent sit-down strike at a large automobile plant. Management and unionists had reached an impasse. A union mass meeting, called for mid-afternoon despite the refusal of police to grant a permit, threatened violence and bloodshed. But at a conference preceding the mass meeting a preacher suggested prayer and, "to his astonishment," everyone joined. The resulting decision, a compromise by both sides led to a meeting that was a "completely peaceful affair."

Conversation with God should be a constant habit, Peale urges, not a maddened plea when one is at wit's end. "It is a Father and not a Santa Claus that we must learn to speak to in trust and obedience. The supreme model was given in the Gethsemane prayer: 'Not my will but thine be done.'"

### LETTERBOX

#### CARPENTERS DISAGREE

Editor, Daily News:  
Your editorial of October 5, entitled "Apprenticeship Here," was discussed by the members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners at their last regular meeting and I was instructed to convey to the public the views of our members on this subject.

It would appear from your observations as published that all the blame for Prince Rupert being the least apprentice-conscious town in the province was the sole fault of the boy and his parents. To date our organization has had many inquiries from boys anxious to learn the carpenter trade but we have yet to find any contractor anxious to accept the responsibility of training a boy for a specific number of years under government supervision.

We know the management of the Prince Rupert Drydock and Shipyard have been approached in the last year by the apprenticeship board in an endeavour to have a few apprentices placed in that yard but to date, as far as we know, there are no boys in training in that yard and it is in an ideal position to give the necessary training.

Another drawback to get suitable boys to start training is the regulations set by the government which allows an employer

to pay as low as 25% of a journeyman wage to a boy for the first six (6) months. Organized labor has for years tried to have this wage scale raised with no success. To learn a trade a boy must have tools and encouragement and he certainly will be a long time getting them out of the wage scale set by the government if the employer adheres strictly to it and we know some employers who think it is O.K.

Our members, Mr. Editor, do not agree with your editorial when you state "it is the boys of Prince Rupert and not the businessmen or industrialists of this community that require to be educated."

We maintain not only in Prince Rupert but all over Canada there is more education needed among the businessmen and industrialists than among the boys or their parents.

All responsible parents will endeavour to give their children a better chance in life than they had themselves so Mr. Editor let's carry on the education all around for the good of our Community.

Thanking you,

J. S. BLACK,

Business Agent, Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schild left this afternoon on the Catala on a trip to Vancouver.

### Five Hundred Citizens

(Continued from Page 1)

setting which had been arranged for the presentation under the direction of the Sisters of St Joseph of the living tableaux of five scenes depicting the "Joyful Mysteries" concerned with the Nativity and early life of Christ.

Rev. Father F. Rayner, O.M.I., made an explanation of the use of the Rosary in prayer decades which were recited by Mrs. R. E. Moore, John McDougall, Miss Mary Zogas, Darell Young and Miss Delphine Bialagno in turn as he scenes were presented before a background centred by a statue of the Virgin Mary with a large illuminated cross flanked

by the Rostary in colored lights. The scenes and those taking part were:  
The Annunciation—Maria Brett as the Blessed Virgin, Lorraine Smith as the Angel.  
The Visitation—Maria Brett as the Blessed Virgin, Joyce Smith as Elizabeth.  
The Nativity—Maria Brett, the Blessed Virgin; Lorraine Smith, the Angel; Richard Gable, as Joseph.

The Presentation—Maria Brett, the Blessed Virgin; Richard Gable, Joseph, and Derek Slack as the priest, Simeon.

The Finding in the Temple—Michael Thompson as the Christ Child; Maria Brett, the Blessed Virgin; Richard Gable, as Joseph. Robert Brett took a prominent part in backstage arrangements.



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