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Facts and Figures

THE Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that the official cost of living index has reached a new, all-time record.

With all this going on, Canadians faced up to mounting bills in an unusual sort of way. During August they reduced their consumption of cigarettes and beer. Almost like British austerity and all that, but it really wasn't. They simply fobbed off the whole thing with a gesture of near-Gallic insouciance and increased their consumption of cigars! At the same time, the production of liquor showed a marked increase.

August releases of cigarettes totalled 1,384,000, 000 compared with 1,516,000,000 in August 1949. Cigar releases were 16,500,000 compared with 15,400,000. Beer fell to 632,200 barrels from 782,000 in August 1949. Production of new spirits increased to 1,720,000 proof gallons from 1,320,000.

Comment here is really superfluous, but these figures would indicate that, despite record living costs, Canadians don't seem to be denying themselves to any marked degree.

MAKE CHRISTMAS SAFE

ONCE again armed forces are in action trying to protect and uphold the ideal of freedom. Once again the spirit of Christmas will be mocked by the hate and bloodshed of the battlefield.

In many homes the roar of the cannon will make it hard to hear the ringing of the Christmas bells. That is to be deeply regretted, but throughout history the torch of man's dignity and freedom has been held aloft only through the sacrifice of its bearers.

We can do little to prevent such personal tragedies. But we can do a lot to prevent another kind of tragedy which is equally poignant at the Christmas season—and more cruel because it is needless.

We refer to the preventable tragedy of accidents.

It has been shown that accidents rob the nation of more working years than any disease, because accidents strike all age groups, not just those whose productive years are largely behind them.

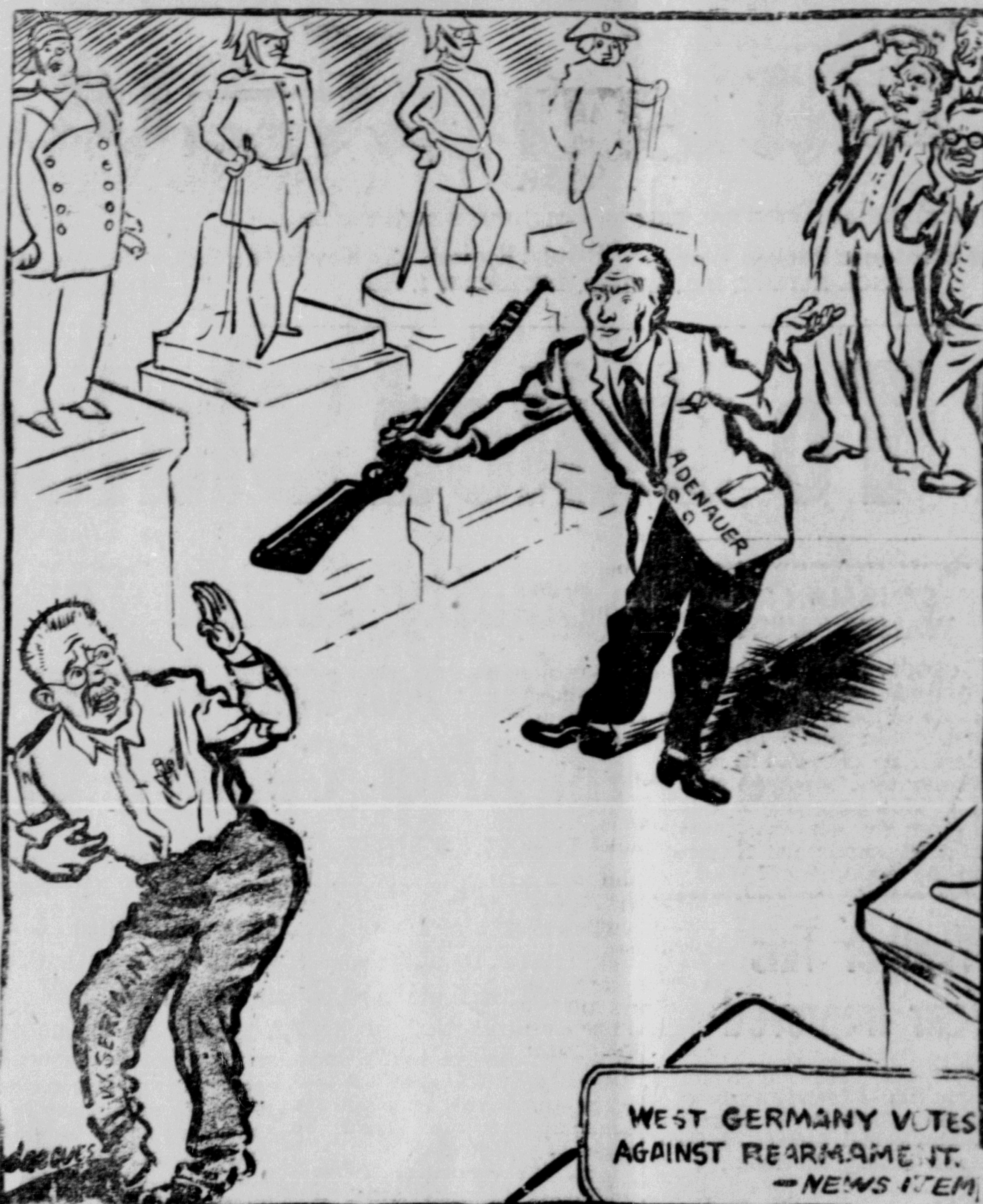
Determination to play it safe can keep the Christmas spirit—and all of us—alive this year.

In Field For City Council

Third and fourth candidates have entered the field for aldermanic honors at the forthcoming civic election. Nomination papers for James W. Prusky, machinist at the local shipyard, and Michael Wilfrid Henry Krueger, manager chemist, have been filed at the office of the returning officer, City Clerk H. D. Thain. Mr. Prusky's proposer is Andrew Wasund and seconded, Mrs. Doris Dodd. Mr. Krueger is proposed by John McLeod and seconded by A. M. Martinusen. The other aldermanic candi-

HOTEL ARRIVALS

(Prince Rupert)
H. Lynum and Mrs. N. McNabb, Terrace; R. L. Johnstone, K. E. Marsden and J. S. Clarke, Vancouver; G. W. Johnson, North Vancouver; Miss J. Dunne, Port Edward; Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Strimbold and family and Mr. and Mrs. F. Meyer, city; R. M. Bassett, Ketchikan; A. M. Gauthier, Mission.
Dates already officially nominated are Harold S. Whalen and T. Norton Youngs.
Dr. R. G. Large has been re-nominated for the board of school trustees of which he is at present chairman.



As I See It

By ELMORE PHILPOTT

DROVES OF DIAPERS
DR. LOTTA HITSCH-MANOVA of the Unitarian Service Committee writes me that the diapers for the babies of Greece are coming in in droves.

"A diaper and a dollar" is the best idea. The girls in one B.C. Telephone Company exchange tackled up my column on the bare-bottomed babies and rustled around in great style. The address to send the napkins is:

UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
48 Sparks St.
OTTAWA

ONE LADY wants to know why Dr. Lotta prefers napkins that are not white. Soap is scarce in Greece, so the non-white one don't look quite so bad.

Also about the size. They prefer the yard square size because they can use them either for napkins or as bed covers.

ONE IRATE MAN writes me in protest against the diapers for b.b. babies' campaign. He says: "It would be amusing if it were not so tragic to hear you shedding crocodile tears for the

Greek kids. May I remind you that in the Soviet Union, which you love to slander and belittle, there are no children with bare bottoms wrapped in rags? Furthermore, your sympathy sounds out of place when one remembers the admiration you display for the world's champion warmonger, Churchill. It is largely due to this gentleman's activities in Greece that the babies in Greece are in the hopeless situation you refer to."

If my friend cares to refer to many articles I wrote on Greece in 1944 and 1945, and also to broadcasts made over CBC, he will see that I strongly opposed Mr. Churchill's policy in Greece. Both Greece and Korea would have been better off if not a single allied "liberating" soldier—Russian, British or American—had ever gone in at the end of the Second World War. The people in the countries concerned could have done a better housecleaning job for and by themselves.

BUT I WOULD feel myself the lowest form of heel if I would not lift my finger to send a few old babies' diapers to Greece just because I thought Churchill was wrong in 1944 or Stalin wrong in 1946. Churchill in my opinion was wrong in Greece in 1944, but the Communists were also certainly wrong to keep the civil war going for almost all the dreary years since.

Why take it out on the bare-bottomed babies?
WE HAVE no way of knowing if there are babies in Russia who need napkins—as they did when we were sending whole shiploads of such stuff a few years back. (I remember I sent also the finest set of books in my own home—complete set of leather-bound Dickens—when Ukrainians appealed for such like.)
It's harder to be friends now when wicked men order such things as the rank aggression in Korea.
But the time may well come again when there will be mothers of bare-bottomed babies in Russia asking what the bare-bottomed babies in Greece need now—napkins.
If I'm still in circulation in those days I'll be right in there doing my bit for the Russian babies. And I won't be harping back to something that Joe Stalin did wrong ten years before as the excuse for not giving a damn.

P.S.—HATS OFF to the Vancouver women who recently sent one of Fraser Wilson's fine paintings to Russia, as a token that the light of would-be friendship still burns from this side.

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Skating Rink Being Readied

If weather holds cold, there should be skating by Saturday night on the Gyro Ball Park Sixth Avenue and McBride St., following a resumption of grading, cribbing and flood operations which commenced last night under the leadership of W. F. Stone and W. D. Lambie and with the assistance of the city public works and navy departments and HMCS Chatham.

Last night and today sand and earth were being poured around the sides of the rink to bind the cribbing. First flooding was made last night and the fire department hoses were on the job again today.

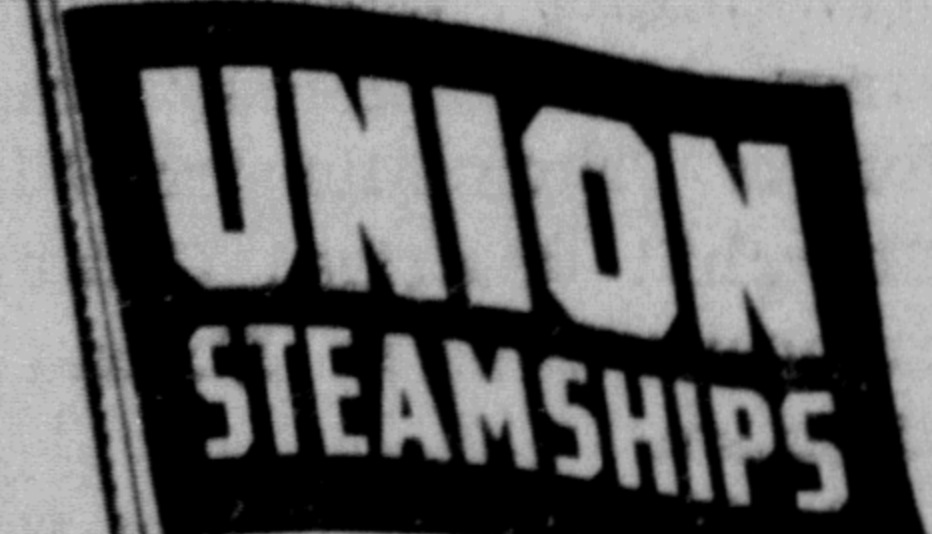
Crews will be out again tonight to put on finishing touches. With the temperature dropping, there has been rapid freezing for the past day or so.

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Girl With 93 Boys In Catholic Group

GIRL WITH 93 BOYS
TORONTO—Abbyann Day, 21, doesn't think it strange that she is the only girl among 93 boys in the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies at St. Michael's College here.

"Every Friday," she says, "there is a tea for the professors and students, and they gratefully escort me into the kitchen, glad to have that burden where they feel it belongs."

A native New Yorker and a graduate cum laude in chemistry and mathematics at Manhattanville College—which she entered at 15—she spends 22 hours a week in class and most of the rest of the time studying.

She is in her second year of a five-year course for her master, licentiate and doctor degrees in philosophy at the institute, only one of its kind in the world. It was formed primarily to study the thought, life and culture of the middle ages.

Her family had come to expect much from its children. One sister is a doctor, two are nurses, a brother is an electrical engineer and a younger brother is studying chemistry at Notre Dame University. Her mother is head of the Modern Research Bureau in New York.

"I have always been interested in writing," Abbyann said in an interview, "and I'm quite sure I don't want to teach. Any research I would do would be on my own, and although I certainly plan to maintain an interest in the work, I don't plan to devote my life to a career."

Mrs. E. W. Becker who has been organizing a Parent-Teacher Association at Burns Lake, returned to the city on last night's train.

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