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## Better or Worse?

IN the welter of statements and views which are producing such confusion in the average mind these days, it is difficult, indeed, to appraise the world situation. Depending upon how one looks at it, there can be optimism or pessimism.

For instance, President Truman has said that the world is more settled now than in 1946, the previous low point in relations with Russia.

On the other hand, Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, say that things have not been so bad since 1945.

There are at least two ways of looking at world conditions at this moment. One way is focused on the question as to who is winning the "cold war." The other is indicated in the question as to whether the "cold war" can be kept from getting hot.

If preventing this "cold war" from boiling over depended on reaching agreements with the Kremlin by tomorrow, then we should be obliged to set the Truman and Lie estimates in direct contrast and should guess that Mr. Lie was nearer the mark.

But prevention of shooting war has usually depended on the very combination of influences which are now at work. That is, it has depended on the deterrent to war which exists in a fairly well-balanced division of military and political power between the possible contestants. And it has depended on the possibility that negotiation meanwhile can ameliorate the least tolerable grievances which set the contestants against each other.

So the case seems to be that the West is farther than ever from an agreement with Russia, and that is bad. But the West is in better condition to defend itself against aggression, and to maintain itself if necessary through a protracted period of tension, and that is good.

This is true even when the loss of Chinese territory to communism is considered. In World War II the Axis overran vast territories while the democracies were gradually winning on innumerable hidden or semi-hidden fronts.

Something like that may have been happening again during the last four or five years as between the West and the Communist East.

### TRYGVE LIE'S WARNING

THE secretary general of the League of Nations Trygve Lie, on his way to Moscow on his mission of enquiry, used the following grave words in the course of a press interview:

"We are at the cross roads. Now it is proposed to split the world permanently into two camps. That road will harden existing divisions, create new ones, perpetuate and accelerate the armament race, make economic warfare a permanent condition, condemn all the poor and hungry in many parts of the world to remaining poor and hungry, bring the propaganda war and its accompanying hysteria to new depths of intellectual and moral degradation and destroy the chance for agreement on control of atomic energy. There is only one possible end to that road—sooner or later a third world war."

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# Victoria Report

... by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—Hon. A. D. Turnbull is the new baby of the cabinet! He is 46.

He replaces Hon. E. C. Carson of Public Works. Mr. Carson is 56.

It isn't often a man gets into the cabinet before he's 50.

The new Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Turnbull is a quiet, soft-spoken man. He's the M.L.A. for Rossland-Trail. He's a walking example No. 1 of the fickleness of the voters. At a by-election in November of 1948 he was defeated by J. D. Quinn of the C.C.F. Little more than six months later, in June of last year, the same voters turned around and threw Quinn out and put Turnbull in.

Mr. Turnbull shows once again that the spellbinding oratorical types are gone now from government. Mr. Turnbull is a plodder. He'll probably never raise his voice, even in legislative debate. Gone are the days when cabinet ministers made flowery speeches and thumped their desks in so doing. Cabinet ministers nowadays think it undignified to get mad in public. It may be all to the good, but most observers are rather doubtful. The old-timers sigh for the days of "Duff" Pattullo and Harry Perry, Dr. Weir and Dolly Steeves, when legislative debate was real debate indeed. The trend today is towards a businessman's type of government, and politics is much duller as a result.

Premier Johnson, in appointing Mr. Turnbull to the cabinet, continued to walk the political tightrope that's Coalition. The Premier might well have increased the cabinet to 12 but, if the additional minister had been a Conservative, the Liberals would have been mad (Liberals lost out on the Conservatives in House seats) and, if he had been a Liberal, the Conservatives would have been hurt and might have threatened to walk out. If there's one thing the Premier is determined to do it's to preserve Coalition and keep any arguments from getting out into public. Turnbull is a Liberal. George Pearson, whom he replaces, is a Liberal. So there is no change.

It seems strange in Legislative corridors these days without George Pearson. For many years he was a familiar figure entering the Buildings and taking the elevator to his office high up under the dome, with its view of the Inner Harbor and the Buildings' lawns.

Everyone knew Mr. Pearson's resignation was coming. Mr. Pearson, broken in health because he would not spare himself, just couldn't carry on. He had hoped against hope he would be strong enough to finish the job, right on to the end, but it was impossible. Turned 70 last month, he took the course of wisdom. He will now be able to enjoy well-earned leisure for a few years.

It was the most difficult thing George Pearson had to do in his life—making up his mind to get out. To him it seemed so like quitting in the middle of the stream. He wanted to complete his task, but he knew it wouldn't be honest to the government and to the people, let alone to himself.

Now he is gone from the Government—after a record it's going to be hard for other cabinet ministers to beat, both in years of service and almost fanatical devotion to duty. He'll carry on as a private M.L.A. for Nanaimo-The Islands, however, and that's fine. His counsel will be needed behind the scenes. His legislative speeches on behalf of the underdog will be good to hear.

George Pearson has never paid much attention to the status quo. He doesn't believe in polite legislative speeches, all sweet mouthings that say nothing. He has always believed in a punchy presentation. He never quibbled. As a result he made political enemies. He did and said what he thought best for the people. Unfortunately for him he always took criticism too personally. It hurt him to think that even for political reasons anyone could doubt his good intentions. He should be told he hasn't an enemy in the world.

In cabinet he was a persistent battler for the little man. When some cabinet minister thought labor was getting too much, that the sick and the old and the underprivileged were being babied, George Pearson went to bat for them. He wouldn't budge. If he thought he was right he stuck to his guns; the others

backed down. If they didn't like his stand they could fire him. George Pearson somehow thought it more important that a lonely old sick person have a hospital bed than it was to put up a new building, a streamlined highway. He is that kind of man—the humanities to him are more important than the trappings of success and prosperity.

## Legion Offers Scholarships

"A minimum of five" scholarships, offered by B. C. Command, Canadian Legion, are available to high school students in the province this year. Preference will be given to children of service men killed in action with children of deceased, disabled or other veterans next in line. Other worthy applicants will also be eligible.

The value of each scholarship is \$200 and a further grant of \$25, arranged through other sources, will be made to each successful candidate on entering U.B.C. this fall. Four of the five scholarships may be used toward taking Grade XIII in an approved school. The fifth is reserved for technical education. In addition to the five scholarships made available through B.C. Command there are two others made possible through grants from branches and their auxiliaries.

Mrs. Hans Koch and Mrs. Frank Clifford of Terrace arrived in the city yesterday by car and left today on their return to the interior.

## Letters to the Editor

### Mr. Kennedy Replies

The Editor, Daily News:

The editorial taken from your paper of the 8th instant dealing with Liquor Board policy, has been forwarded to me. I have read the article very carefully and it is evident to me that this material was not prepared without considerable thought, as you have gone below the surface of this particular matter and considered some very important points dealing with liquor legislation in this province. With this in mind I felt I would like to advance my side of the question for your consideration.

First, I may say that I have never at any time endeavored to mislead the public in connection with my position with the Board—that is that I am the sole member of the Board. As such am quite prepared and willing to accept all criticism dealing with the Board's decisions. However, the Act definitely states that "if there is only one member of the Board, he shall, for all purposes of this Act be deemed to be the Chairman," from which you will judge the Act itself gives this designation.

I am also particularly interested in that portion of the article wherein you object strenuously to making an exception for the city of Vancouver, and ask why this city should be treated differently than any other city in the province. You are of the opinion that I have decided this principle when it is time for the people to take some drastic action. With this statement I have no serious objection. In making an exception of the city of Vancouver, however, I am simply carrying out the principle as laid down by the members of the Legislature in the "Government Liquor Act" wherein they make very definite exceptions for a city in our province having a population of more than 25,000. I think they were most wise in

making this provision, because it would be extremely difficult to meet the various needs with which we have to contend without this protection in our "Government Liquor Act."

Previous to the change in legislation some three years ago this Board had no authority over the hotel proper and legally had no right to even ask the proprietor to change the linen on the beds. The matter was taken up by the Members of the Legislature and they insisted that something be done to provide better hotel accommodation in the province with the result that by legislation the Liquor Control Board was authorized to take charge of the entire situation. I am pleased to report that from that date to the 31st March of this year over \$9,800,000 have been expended by the hotel industry of British Columbia in improving the service not only for our citizens but also for the tourist industry and, with a very few exceptions such as this situation we are dealing with in Prince Rupert, we have had nothing but the highest praise for the work we are accomplishing. Today many of our tourists are visiting the interior of the Province thoroughly enjoying our country where previously they stayed for one or two days in the Coast Cities, where conditions are very crowded and then returned home because we

(Continued on Page 4)

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The proceeds of this Loan will be used by the Government for the redemption of funded debt which has been called for payment on 1st and 15th June, 1950 in the amount of \$744,969,592.50.

The Minister of Finance reserves the right to accept or reject in whole or in part any subscriptions for either maturity or both

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Ottawa, 15th May, 1950.